

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham held at Shand Hall, High Street, Farningham on Wednesday 11th December 2024 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Daryl Burns (Chair), Andie Fitzsimons, Philip McGarvey, Kevin McGeough and Carol Salmon. Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) Cllr Alan White and Kent County Council (KCC) Cllr Roger Gough.

In attendance: four members of the public and Helen Penney (Clerk).

1. Apologies for absence.

Cllr Keith and SDC Cllr Ball.

2. Co-option.

None.

3. Declarations of personal, prejudicial and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda and updates to members' register of interests.

None.

4. To consider, and approve if appropriate, agenda items sufficiently confidential as to warrant exclusion of members of the press and public under the provisions of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

None.

5. Trident.

To be completed by Cllr Salmon and to rotate the report between councillors from the New Year. **Action: Cllr Salmon.**

6. Report from the County Councillor.

Cllr Gough reported that the A20 safety project is fully operational and righthand turns from the A225 and White Post Hill are still being discussed, as well as double yellow lines at Till Avenue. Cllr Gough confirmed that he would chase the hatching that has still not been replaced following the A20 resurfacing work over the summer.

Cllr Gough encouraged residents to apply for the "Just Missing Out Scheme" that has been designed to support Kent pensioners in need of help with significantly rising living costs through the winter. Open until 21st December 2024, if successful, a household will receive vouchers to the value of £200 which can be redeemed for food, energy, or both, depending on an individual's most pressing need.

Cllr Burns read a letter from a resident requesting an extension to the 414 bus route. Cllr Gough requested that the Clerk forward a copy so that he can raise the service with the appropriate officer at KCC and Arriva. **Action: Clerk.**

7. Report from the District Councillor.

Cllr White reported that the latest In Shape magazine from SDC is currently being delivered to each household across the district and encouraged everyone to participate in the waste survey closing on Saturday 8th February 2025.

Cllr White reported that he has contacted Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott regarding the very high turnover of Beat Officers for the ward, adding that Horton Kirby and South Darenth are experiencing an influx of antisocial behavior regarding quad bikes in the villages.

8. A Public Open Session. Members of the public will be welcome to address the Parish Council with any local concerns they have. Please note this item will be limited in time at the discretion of the Chairman.

Two members of the public were in attendance to observe the meeting. The remaining two members of the public had attended with a specific interest in the Bull Stores following the recent community asset nomination.

9. Approve as a correct record, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on the 13th November 2024 and 4th December 2024.

The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting on 13th November 2024. The minutes of the meeting on the 4th December 2024 were deferred to the next meeting.

10. Clerks report.

The Clerk advised that the community asset nomination for The Bull Stores had been unsuccessful as the site falls outside of the definition of a community asset as set out in Section 88 of the Localism Act 2011. Members noted the information and resolved not to appeal the decision.

The Clerk reported that during the annual review, KCC highways agreed to investigate all three priorities on the Highways Improvement Plan and progress if possible.

The Clerk reported that all Councillors were invited to The Space Christmas celebration on Wednesday 18th December and advised annual leave dates over the Christmas and New Year period.

11. Planning.

11.1 Planning log circulated by the Clerk on 6th December 2024.

Noted.

11.2 Planning Applications. To consider any planning applications and to include any received by the Clerk after the agenda has been served to Councillors.

None.

11.3 Updates on enforcement cases and to highlight new activities or sites causing concern.

Members noted that appeal reference APP/G2245/W/24/3345553, at Catahoula Fields for the change of use and temporary (period of 2 years from October 2023) part covered external storage facility with hardstanding for vehicular access and two containers was dismissed by the Inspectorate on 5th December 2024.

Members noted that appeal reference APP/G2245/A/24/3337438, at Maplebank Poultry Farm for the proposed refurbishment / replacement of redundant farm building, to provide a new B8 (storage and distribution) facility to complement the existing (approved) B8 (storage and distribution) use of the site was dismissed by the Inspectorate on 2nd December 2024.

11.4 To discuss and note updates to on-going work with Tibbalds and neighbouring Parish Councils.

After discussing the options proposed by Tibbalds, Members resolved to opt for option 2 and send the evidence base and objections as a response to Regulation 18 which is expected summer/autumn 2025. Members also resolved to consider inviting SDC to discuss their recent evidence base documents and findings with the evidence work from Tibbalds to encourage dialogue and share updates.

Members also noted that following the recent consultation, the new National Planning Policy Framework was due to be published on 12th December 2024.

11.5 Neighbourhood Plan.

The Clerk advised that the additional information highlighted at the previous meeting is still to be added to the Terms of Reference and Eynsford Parish Council may be able to produce a map to identify the area to which the application relates. Once the map and statement to explain why this area is considered to be appropriate has been approved by both Parish Councils, the map and statement can be sent to SDC to process and progress to the 6 week consultation.

12. Finance Items for noting and decision.

12.1 To approve items payable and note items paid and receipts.

Members ratified the quote provided by SDC for £380.00 to remove fly tipping from Farningham Woods car park, that had been agreed at the extraordinary meeting on Wednesday 4th December 2024. Members asked if bollards to reduce the width of the road can be considered to prevent fly tipping however, access is required for farm and woodland machinery and waste vehicles.

The items payable was approved and signed and items paid and receipts noted.

12.2 Flexed budget November 2024.

Noted.

12.3 .gov.uk domain and emails and agree website and email format.

Members resolved to proceed with Hugo Fox and the following formats:

Website - www.farninghampc.gov.uk

Clerks email - clerk@farninghampc.gov.uk

Councillor emails - cllr.surname@farninghampc.gov.uk.

13. KALC Community Awards Scheme 2025.

Members noted the scheme and resolved to advertise for nominations in the Trident.

14. To agree a date and format for the Annual Parish meeting 2025.

Members resolved to hold the Annual Parish meeting on Friday 7th March 2025, 6:30pm to 8pm, and requested that the Clerk book the Village Hall, invite organisations to participate with a stall and that up to £200 could be spent on refreshments. The Clerk advised that a Chairs report will still be required and, following the event, minutes produced as a record of the meeting. **Action: Clerk.**

15. To note 2025/26 Parish Council meeting dates.

Members noted the dates, listed below:

Wednesday 9th April 2025

Wednesday 14th May 2025

Wednesday 11th June 2025

Wednesday 9th July 2025

Wednesday 10th September 2025

Wednesday 8th October 2025

Wednesday 12th November 2025

Wednesday 10th December 2025

Wednesday 14th January 2026

Wednesday 11th February 2026

Wednesday 11th March 2026

16. Kent Police, Sevenoaks District Newsletter.

Members noted the newsletter.

17. Urgent Business that occurs and requires attention before the next meeting may be reported at the Chairman's discretion.

The Chair reported that, at the latest Village Hall Committee meeting, attendees queried the Parish Council having an office in the village. The suggestion was discussed at the committee meeting where the Chair explained that it is not possible due to no office space in the village and being outside of agreements within the Clerks contract.

The Chair reported that the Axstane Players would like to support a carols and mulled wine event, if another is organized for Christmas 2025.

The Chair reported that requests had been made on changes to the 414 bus route, which has already been covered under agenda point 6.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 8th January 2024, 7pm.

Requests from Councillors for the next agenda due by 30th December 2024

Items Paid

**Farningham Parish Council
PAYMENTS LIST**

Vouche	Code	Date	Supplier	Net	VAT Type	VAT	Net	Total
109	Telephone /Broadband	11/11/2024	Talk Mobile	4.12	S	0.83		4.95
112	Computer	14/11/2024	Norton	64.99	X			64.99
104	Bank charges	14/11/2024	Handelsbanken	14.00	X			14.00
113	Christmas Decorations	19/11/2024	Aldi	33.48	S	6.70		40.18
108	Electricity Charges	19/11/2024	npower	329.88	L	16.49		346.37
110	Postage/Stationery/Print	21/11/2024	Miss H Penney	5.00	X			5.00
114	Postage/Stationery/Print	21/11/2024	The Works	15.00	X			15.00
101	Projects	21/11/2024	Miss H Penney	7.00	X			7.00
100	Hall Hire	21/11/2024	FPC	20.00	X			20.00
106	Salary On Costs (Tax, NI etc)	21/11/2024	HMRC	65.83	X			65.83
115	Clerk's salary (net)	22/11/2024	Miss H Penney	237.71	X			237.71
105	Clerk's salary (net)	25/11/2024	Miss H Penney	1,075.08	X			1,075.08
107	Pension (PC & Clerk's contributions)	28/11/2024	Nest Pensions	128.97	X			128.97
103	Computer	29/11/2024	Adobe Acrobat	16.64	S	3.33		19.97

Total	2,017.70		27.35		2,045.05
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Receipts

**Farningham Parish Council
RECEIPTS LIST**

Vouche	Code	Date	Bank	Description	Supplier	Net	VAT Type	VAT	Total
22	Credits	25/11/2024	FPC Current Account (HB)	Office stationery	Helen Penney	3.00	X		3.00
					Total	3.00			3.00

Items Payable

Farningham Parish Council PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

Vouch	Method	Date	Description	Supplier	Net	VAT Type	VAT	Total
111	BACs	11/12/2024	Printing	ColourFactory Kent Ltd	156.00	X		156.00
124	BACs	19/12/2024	Shand Hall Hire	FPCC	20.00	X		20.00
119	BACs	19/12/2024	Tax/NI	HM Revenue and Customs	83.96	X		83.96
139	BACs	19/12/2024	Fly Tipping	Sevenoaks District Council	380.00	X		380.00
127	BACs	19/12/2024	DONATION	Citizens Advice in North & West Kent	200.00	X		200.00
126	BACs	19/12/2024	DONATION	Anthony Roper School	200.00	X		200.00
129	BACs	19/12/2024	DONATION	Trident	60.00	X		60.00
128	BACs	19/12/2024	DONATION	Darent River Preservation Society	20.00	X		20.00
131	BACs	19/12/2024	DONATION	FELHS	150.00	X		150.00
130	BACs	19/12/2024	DONATION	Ellenor	300.00	X		300.00
133	BACs	19/12/2024	DONATION	Swanley Food Bank	200.00	X		200.00
132	BACs	19/12/2024	DONATION	Kent Air Ambulance	300.00	X		300.00
135	BACs	19/12/2024	DONATION	We Are Beams	150.00	X		150.00
134	BACs	19/12/2024	DONATION	West Kingsdown Food Bank	200.00	X		200.00
137	BACs	19/12/2024	DONATION	The Space	300.00	X		300.00
136	BACs	19/12/2024	DONATION	Anthony Roper Pre-school	150.00	X		150.00
138	BACs	19/12/2024	DONATION	Royal British Legion	50.00	X		50.00
125	BACs	19/12/2024	Travel expenses	Miss H Penney	3.15	X		3.15
123	BACs	19/12/2024	Printing	Miss H Penney	5.00	X		5.00
								8.15
122	DD	19/12/2024	Phone & Broadband charges	Talk Mobile	4.12	S	0.83	4.95
116	DD	19/12/2024	Acrobat	Adobe Acrobat	16.64	S	3.33	19.97
117	SO	19/12/2024	Bank charges	Handelsbanken		X		
118	SO	19/12/2024	Clerk's salary	Miss H Penney	1,104.72	X		1,104.72
120	SO	19/12/2024	Pension contribution	Nest Pensions	101.46	X		101.46
121	SO	19/12/2024	Electricity supply	npower	378.27	L	18.91	397.18
				Total	4,533.32		23.07	4,556.39

Invoice c

Clerks fr