

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham held at Shand Hall, High Street, Farningham on Wednesday 12th February 2025 at 7pm.

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

In attendance: two members of the public (in part) and Helen Penney (Clerk).

- 1. Apologies for absence.**
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.**
Cllr Salmon.

Members resolved to complete the agenda in the following order.

- 7. Report from District Councillors.**
Cllr White reported that PC Caleb Guest has returned to his duties. PC Guest has advised that burglaries have been reported in Farningham but there is some confusion and it should be reported as Horton Kirby where several incidents of outbuildings being broken into have taken place. Cllr White urged victims to report all incidents to the Police with photographic evidence and to keep him informed so that he can support ongoing investigations. Statistics are showing that whilst crime rates are dropping, antisocial behavior is increasing in the ward.

The Clerk advised that PC Caleb intends to attend Farningham's Annual Parish meeting on the 28th March 2025 and the full Parish Council meeting on 9th April 2025.
- 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 attended the meeting. One to share information regarding the Chequers Inn, High Street, Farningham, and the second with an interest on the 414 bus route request.

One member of the public left the meeting.

Cllr Gough arrived at the meeting.

6. Report from the County Councillor.

Cllr Gough advised that KCC should have spoken to Arriva regarding the 414-bus route request and that he will ask for an update.

The second member of public left the meeting.

Cllr Gough reported that the Highways Improvement Plan is being progressed with the team and that the recent accident the Clerk had highlighted had not been reported to the Police. Members advised that since the average speed cameras had been installed last year there had been a positive reduction in speed on the areas covered by the cameras, however a negative impact on the stretch of A20 from Kings roundabout to Swanley. Cllr Gough confirmed that he would raise with Highways and request speed data for further investigation.

Cllr Gough reported that the No Righthand Turn signage at the A225/A20 junction should be installed on 5th March 2025. Once the signs are in place, telematic data can be analysed and, if righthand turns are still occurring, enforcement solutions can be considered and operational by summer 2025.

Cllr Gough reported that Highways engineers are aware of the missing hatching on the A20 and it will be reinstated.

Cllr Gough reported that KCC have their budget meeting the following day on Thursday 13th February 2025 and that he and fellow KCC and Medway Councillors had been very disappointed by Kent not being selected as one of the areas for fast-track devolution.

Cllr Gough left the meeting.

9. Approve as a correct record, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on the 8th January 2025.

The minutes from the 8th January 2025 were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

10. Clerks report.

Cllr Ball is hosting an afternoon tea on Tuesday 8th April 2025, 2:30 pm at Rowhill Grange.

SDC have confirmed the next Community Infrastructure Levy spending board. The deadline for applications is the 24th March 2025 however, Farningham Parish Council does not currently have any suitable projects for the scheme.

Mike Payton, Sevenoaks Highways Manager for KCC, would like to visit town and parish councils over the coming months and that she will confirm details as soon as possible. **Action: Clerk.**

11. Planning.

11.1 Planning log circulated by the Clerk on 7th February 2025.

Members noted the log.

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 Planning applications responded to under delegated authority:

11.3.1 Reference: 24/03197/HOUSE

Site: 21 Oliver Crescent Farningham Kent DA4 0BE

Proposal: Erection of a detached residential annex to provide ancillary living accommodation.

Comments by: 6 February 2025, no comment

11.3.2 Reference: 24/02525/OUT

Site: Mercure Brands Hatch Hotel London Road West Kingsdown Kent DA3 8PE

Proposal: Outline application for the erection of an ancillary building associated with the existing hotel, with some matters reserved.

Comments by: 4 February 2025, No comment

11.3.3 Reference: 24/02400/MMA

Site: Land North West Of Horton Wood Canada Farm Road South Darenth Kent

Proposal: Amended Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation received.

Comments by: 11th February 2025, No comment

11.3 Planning applications to note, but not for comment:

11.3.1 Reference: 25/00101/WTCA

Site: South Hall High Street Farningham Kent DA4 0DE

Proposal: Sycamore tree - prune branches back by approx. 3m

11.3.2 Reference: 25/00079/WTCA

Site: The Glass House Farningham Mill High Street Farningham Kent DA4 0DG

Proposal: 3 x Conifer tree topping to reduce height. 3 x Sycamore reducing trees in height and spread back to previous cuts. 2 x Small tree to remove between 1-2 meters to shape.

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

Cllr Salmon advised that scaffolding has been removed from Catahoula Fields but the site has been left in an unsatisfactory state. Members requested that the Clerk contact the enforcement team at SDC. **Action: Clerk.**

11.5 To discuss and note updates to on-going work with Tibbalds and SDCs Local Plan to include correspondence from CPRE.

Cllr McGeough reported that Crockenhill, Eynsford and Farningham Parish Councils have had an update call with Tibbalds to discuss the work to date and next steps. Tibbalds will complete the drafted work that can be used to support Regulation 18 in the autumn.

Members noted the recent Local Plan timetable published by SDC and to expect Regulation 18 October/November 2025.

Members noted correspondence from CPRE.

11.6 To note updates on the Neighbourhood Plan.

Members noted the dates for SDCs consultation to designate Eynsford and Farningham parishes as a single Neighbourhood Area as being Friday 14 February to Friday 28 March 2025. If designated, the parishes will be able to prepare a joint Neighbourhood Plan.

11.7 To note recent updates on Devolution, Local Government Reorganisation and May elections and to agree whether to nominate additional assets of community value.

Covered under agenda point 6.

Members resolved to not nominate any additional assets of community value in addition to those already listed with SDC.

12. Finance Items for noting and decision.

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

The items payable was approved and signed.

12.2 Flexed budget January 2025.

Noted.

12.3 Insurance renewal.

Members noted the renewal with Clear Councils.

12.4 To approve a quote for bus stop repairs.

Members resolved for Beray to complete the work. **Action: Clerk.**

13. To consider and agree upon a request for road markings at the entrance to the Village Hall Car Park.

Members resolved for Cllr Burns to raise with the Committee at the next Village Hall Committee meeting. **Action: Cllr Burns.**

14. Christmas event, Saturday 6th December 2025.

Members confirmed the date and requested that the Clerk arrange the event to be the same as previous years. **Action: Clerk.**

15. Vacancy for Ropers Charity Nominative Trustee.

Cllr Salmon proposed Stephanie Clarke for the vacancy. Stephanie Clarke was approved by Members to fill the role. **Action: Clerk.**

16. Friends of Farningham.

Members noted that the new Friends of Farningham season will meet monthly from 5th April 2025 requesting that the Clerk help advertise the group. **Action: Clerk.**

17. Annual parish meeting, Friday 28th March 2025, Farningham Village Hall.

Members noted the groups who have confirmed their attendance. Cllr McGarvey agreed to read the Chairs report in the Chairs absence and Members noted that they can arrive from 6pm to help set up for the event opening at 6:30pm.

18. To discuss correspondence from Farningham Cricket Club and confirm if Members would like to attend a site visit.

Members noted the correspondence. Cllr Fitzsimons and the Clerk confirmed that they could visit site. **Action: Cllr Fitzsimons and Clerk.**

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

Cllr McGarvey reported that the South East Rivers Trust has submitted a planning application to SDC create a new river channel and fish pools on land next to Furlongs Farm. Although the development is in Eynsford it is an important and interesting development for the management of the River Darent.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 12th March, 7pm.

Requests from Councillors for the next agenda due by 28th February 2025.

Items Paid

Farningham Parish Council PAYMENTS LIST

Voucher	Date	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
143	15/01/2025	Bank charges	Handelsbanken	X	15.60		15.60
149	16/01/2025	Printing	Miss H Penney	X	5.00		5.00
148	16/01/2025	Phone & Broadband charges	Talk Mobile	S	4.12	0.83	4.95
150	16/01/2025	Hall Hire	Farningham Village Hall	X	45.00		45.00
145	16/01/2025	Tax/NI	HM Revenue and Customs	X	211.62		211.62
140	16/01/2025	Training Course	SLCC	X	450.00		450.00
141	20/01/2025	Planning Consultant	Tibbalds	S	6,123.29	1,224.66	7,347.95
147	20/01/2025	Electricity supply	npower	L	400.25	20.01	420.26
144	23/01/2025	Clerk's salary	Miss H Penney	X	1,104.72		1,104.72
146	27/01/2025	Pension contribution	Nest Pensions	X	101.46		101.46
142	29/01/2025	Acrobat	Adobe Acrobat	S	16.64	3.33	19.97
			Total		8,477.70	1,248.83	9,726.53

Items Payable

Farningham Parish Council PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

Voucher	Method	Date	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
168	Cheque	06/02/2025	Land Registry	Miss H Penney	X	7.00		7.00
164	BACs	12/02/2025	Printing	Miss H Penney	X	5.00		5.00
154	BACs	12/02/2025	Notice Board	Lothlorien Landscapes	S	90.00	18.00	108.00
155	BACs	12/02/2025	Bench	Lothlorien Landscapes	S	765.80	153.16	918.96
156	BACs	12/02/2025	Christmas	Lothlorien Landscapes	S	810.00	162.00	972.00
153	BACs	12/02/2025	Amenity Area Maintenance	Lothlorien Landscapes	S	160.00	32.00	192.00
152	BACs	12/02/2025	Churchyard maintenance	Lothlorien Landscapes	S	600.00	120.00	720.00
								2,910.96
166	BACs	12/02/2025	Insurance Renewal	Clear Councils	X	2,430.80		2,430.80
151	BACs	12/02/2025	DONATION	Friends of Farningham	X	68.55		68.55
165	BACs	12/02/2025	Street Light Repair	Streetlights	S	41.25	8.25	49.50
169	BACs	12/02/2025	DONATION	CPRE	X	60.00		60.00
160	BACs	12/02/2025	Tax/NI	HM Revenue and Customs	X	83.96		83.96
163	DD	12/02/2025	Phone & Broadband charges	Talk Mobile	S	4.12	0.83	4.95
157	DD	12/02/2025	Acrobat	Adobe Acrobat	S	16.64	3.33	19.97
158	SO	12/02/2025	Bank charges	Handelsbanken	X			
162	SO	12/02/2025	Electricity supply	npower	L			
159	SO	12/02/2025	Clerk's salary	Miss H Penney	X	1,104.72		1,104.72
161	SO	12/02/2025	Pension contribution	Nest Pensions	X	101.46		101.46
167	Card	06/02/2025	Land Registry	Land Registry	X	14.00		14.00
Total						6,363.30	497.57	6,860.87