

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham held at Shand Hall, High Street, Farningham on Wednesday 9th October 2024 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Daryl Burns (Chair), Andie Fitzsimons and Kevin McGeough. Sevenoaks District Councillors Laurence Ball and Alan White (SDC) and Kent County Councillor Rough Gough (in part).

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

1. Apologies for absence.

Cllrs Mark Keith, Philip McGarvey, and Carol Salmon.

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. Welcome and update from new Beat Officer PC Caleb Guest.

PC Guest was not present for the meeting.

6. Trident.

To be completed by Cllr Fitzsimons. **Action Cllr Fitzsimons.**

Members resolved to discuss the agenda in the following order:

8. Report from District Councillors.

Cllr Ball reported that he met with the Enforcement Team to discuss poor performance further explaining that cases can take a long time to progress and many items are confidential. However, the team has not been working effectively. The team has advised that there should soon be a new system that will keep interested parties updated throughout each case.

Cllr White reported that SDC have started to distribute the new recycling bags for life. The bags can hold the equivalent of three of the clear recycling sacks and householders are encouraged to write their property details on the bag. SDC believe the bags, alongside recent improvements at Dunbrik Waste Transfer Station, will help the council improve recycling rates for the district. The bags can be replaced if they are lost or damaged.

Cllr Gough arrived.

7. Report from the County Councillor.

Cllr Gough reported that highways officers had visited Till Avenue in August and discussions around double yellow lines or moving the metal rail were ongoing, however taking longer than expected. A member of public suggested bollards to help prevent parking which Cllr Gough would also feedback to the team.

Cllr Gough reported that the installation of speed cameras, countdown signs and improved lighting on the A20 is expected early to mid-November however, the work is only planned for the 40mph zone between the bottom of Gorse Hill and Kings roundabout. Members advised that cameras were also expected in the 40mph zone from Kings roundabout to the top of London Road and, to date, no plans have been shared with the Parish Council. Cllr Gough advised that he would request a Teams call between the Parish Council and Highways team as soon as possible. A Stage 3 Audit will conclude this part of the project which will include feedback from Farningham Parish Council.

Cllr Gough advised that improved signage will be installed where the A225 joins the A20, one of two hot spots for illegal righthand turns. Once installed, Highways can demonstrate that all engineering solutions have been considered with regards to the righthand turns, and Part 6 Powers can be implemented to allow fines to be issued on moving traffic offences. Illegal righthand turns from White Post Hill, the second hot spot for such activity, are not currently being considered. Members queried why this solution has not been discussed for White Post Hill.

Cllr Gough left the meeting.

9. 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.

One member of the public attended to observe the meeting. The second member of the public was interested in parking along Till Avenue and queries were covered under agenda point 7.

One member of the public left the meeting.

10. Approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 11th September 2024.

The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting on 11th September 2024.

11. Clerks report.

The Clerk reported that Nigel Rowe, Community Engagement Officer (West), can visit Farningham at 10am on Wednesday 27th November 2024 for the annual HIP review and that details of the meeting will be circulated to all Members.

The Clerk read an email from Cllr Hogarth to update Members on air quality monitoring at Farningham Hill:

We are currently in the process of decommissioning our fixed air quality monitoring stations within the district, the aim then is to purchase new moveable monitoring equipment which we can use throughout the district and target the higher air pollution known areas, or areas of concern. However, we are continuing to monitor NO₂ using diffusion tubes throughout the district. A diffusion tube has been installed at Farningham Hill, analysis of this has since 2016 seen a decrease in NO₂ air pollution. Overall, the District has seen a decrease in air pollution recorded.

We are currently working on ensuring the 2024 Annual Status Report for air quality is accessible to enable this to be published on our website. Previous reports can be found at [Air quality reports | Sevenoaks District Council](#).

Laura Webb, our Environmental Health Manager is our Air Quality lead and would be happy to advise further as necessary.

Members asked for a copy of the data Cllr Hogarth had on death rates across the district and where it had originated. **Action: Cllr White.**

Members asked the Clerk to confirm when the new mobile air quality devices are due to be delivered and to request that one is placed on Farningham Hill as soon as they become available. Members also asked the Clerk to contact National Highways to enquire about air quality monitoring at Junctions 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the M25, and to ask for the data if it is available. **Action: Clerk.**

12. Planning.

12.1 Planning log circulated by the Clerk on 4th October 2024.

Noted.

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

12.2.1 Reference: 24/02442/HOUSE

Reference: 24/02400/MMA

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

Proposal: Minor Material Amendment 22/02599/FUL - amendments to site layout, additional PV arrays and removal of a section of the new access track.

Comments by: 11th October 2024 - No comment.

Reference: 24/02442/HOUSE

Site: Hill View Maplescombe Lane Farningham Kent DA4 0JY

Proposal: Demolish existing garage and side extension, replace with part single-storey and part two-storey side extension with balcony and roof lights. New bay window to front and juliet balcony to rear. Raise roof height to create habitable rooms in roof space with rooflights. Solar panels. Demolish and replace front porch. Alterations to fenestration. Changes to landscaping.

Comments by: 17th October 2024 - No comment.

Reference: 24/02288/MMA

Site: Amendment to 24/00604/HOUSE to alter the height and add a skylight to the garage.

Proposal: Ambleside Eynsford Road Farningham Kent DA4 0BQ

Comments by: 24th October 2024 - No comment.

12.3 To note applications replied to under the Clerks delegated power.

12.3.1 Reference: 24/02102/HOUSE

Site: 21 Oliver Crescent Farningham Kent DA4 0BE.

Proposal: Erection of a garden annexe.

Comments by: 30th September 2024 - Objection.

12.4 To note applications submitted but not requiring comments:

12.4.1 Reference: 24/02617/WTPO

Site: Coach House Rear Of The Mount Sparepenny Lane Farningham Kent DA4 0JH

Proposal: T.1 Large horse chestnut tree - Remove one secondary branch overhanging the driveway, to provide clearance of approx 4.5m above ground level.

Noted.

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

Covered under agenda point 8.

12.6 Sevenoaks District Council Local Plan 2040.

Cllr McGeough reported that Farningham Parish Council had submitted a response to the National Planning Policy Framework consultation that closed on the 24th September 2024 and that he had also spoken at SDCs Development and Conservation Committee on the same day. The outcome of the NPPF

consultation is expected early 2025 which will delay progress on SDCs Local Plan by up to a year.

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

Cllr McGeough reported that Stage 1 of the scope of works is underway with the inception and stakeholder meetings with Tibbalds already taking place. Tibbalds have adjusted the programme of works slightly. Stage 1 and 2 remain the same with only the timeframes moving to later in the year to account for the NPPF Consultation and over the summer. Stage 3 will be determined once we know SDCs next steps and time frames.

12.8 To discuss and agree a joint Neighbourhood Plan with Eynsford Parish Council.

Members agreed to continue exploring a joint Neighbourhood Plan with Eynsford Parish Council and to start engaging with residents in the Parish Council newsletter and Trident magazine. Members asked the Clerk to start working on a Terms of Reference to be adopted for a steering group. **Action: Clerk.**

12.9 To discuss and agree if a blanket TPO should be requested for the Mount Woods as well as an extension to the boundary of the conservation area.

Members requested that the Clerk to contact the Woodlands Trust to ask if and how woodlands can be protected if they are not within a conservation area or no tree protection orders in place. **Action: Clerk.**

13. Finance Items for noting and decision.

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

The items payable were approved and signed.

13.2 Flexed budget September 2024.

Noted.

13.3 To discuss and resolve if Farningham Parish Council want to work towards a joint Community Warden Sponsorship with other local Parish Councils.

Members advised that there was not enough information to be able to decide and, as such, asked the Clerk to confirm meeting dates with other Parish Councils that are also interested. **Action: Clerk.**

14. Highways including

14.1 To review and agree the Highways Improvement Plan.

Deferred to the next meeting.

15. Friends of Farningham.

Members noted that Saturday 5th October was the last work party for 2024. Friends of Farningham had helped support the Millfield Trust and also worked at the churchyard. All Members thanked the team for their hard work throughout the summer months.

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

None.

The meeting closed at

Date of next meeting Wednesday 13th November 2024.

Requests for the next agenda due by 31st October 2024.

Items Paid

**Farningham Parish Council
PAYMENTS LIST**

Voucher	Date	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
79	09/09/2024	Telephone and Broadband charges	Talk Mobile	S	4.12	0.83	4.95
37	11/09/2024	Clerk's salary	Miss H Penney	X	1,075.08		1,075.08
74	13/09/2024	Bank charges	Handelsbanken	X	9.70		9.70
77	17/09/2024	Pension contribution	Nest Pensions	X	97.53		97.53
78	18/09/2024	Electricity supply	npower	L	287.02	14.35	301.37
75	19/09/2024	Audit fee	Mazars	S	315.00	63.00	378.00
80	19/09/2024	Printing	Miss H Penney	X	5.00		5.00
81	19/09/2024	Hall Hire	Miss H Penney	X	19.00		19.00
68	19/09/2024	Payroll services	DM Payroll Services	X	90.00		90.00
70	19/09/2024	Tax/NI	HM Revenue and Customs	X	65.83		65.83
71	19/09/2024	Tax/NI	HM Revenue and Customs	X	65.63		65.63
86	27/09/2024	Christmas	Battery Station	S	38.42	7.68	46.10
73	30/09/2024	Acrobat	Adobe Acrobat	S	16.64	3.33	19.97
			Total		2,096.17	89.19	2,178.16

Receipts

**Farningham Parish Council
RECEIPTS LIST**

Voucher	Code	Date	Bank	Description	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
15	Precept received from SDC	30/09/2024	FPC Current Account (HB)	Precept received from SDC	X	24,380.00		24,380.00
16	Bank Interest	30/09/2024	FPC Deposit (HB)	Bank Interest	X	14.40		14.40
				Total		24,394.40		24,394.40

Items Payable

**Farningham Parish Council
PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST**

Voucher	Date	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
87	01/10/2024	Land Registry fee	Land Registry	X	6.00		6.00
88	02/10/2024	Christmas	Aldi	S	41.85	8.37	50.22
89	02/10/2024	Street Lighting maintenance contract	Streetlights	S	995.88	199.18	1,195.06
95	09/10/2024	Telephone and Broadband charges	Talk Mobile	S	4.12	0.83	4.95
96	09/10/2024	Printing	Miss H Penney	X	5.00		5.00
82	09/10/2024	Hall Hire	Miss H Penney	X	45.00		45.00
							50.00
83	09/10/2024	Amenity Area Maintenance	Lothlorien Landscapes	S	80.00	16.00	96.00
84	09/10/2024	Churchyard maintenance	Lothlorien Landscapes	S	300.00	60.00	360.00
98	09/10/2024	Churchyard maintenance	Lothlorien Landscapes	S	300.00	60.00	360.00
99	09/10/2024	Amenity Area Maintenance	Lothlorien Landscapes	S	80.00	16.00	96.00
							912.00
90	09/10/2024	Acrobat	Adobe Acrobat	S	16.64	3.33	19.97
91	09/10/2024	Bank charges	Handelsbanken	X			
94	09/10/2024	Electricity supply	npower	L	308.46	15.42	323.88
92	09/10/2024	Tax/NI	HMRC	X	65.63		65.63
93	09/10/2024	Pension contribution	Nest Pensions	X	97.53		97.53
85	14/10/2024	Live Drive	Live Drive	S	64.08	12.82	76.90
76	23/10/2024	Clerk's salary	Miss H Penney	X	1,075.08		1,075.08
97	09/10/2024	Donation	Poppy Wreath	X	20.00		20.00
			Total		3,505.27	391.95	3,897.22