

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham, held at Shand Hall, High Street, Farningham on Wednesday 6th December 2023 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Daryl Burns (Chairman), Mike Cook (Vice Chair), Philip McGarvey, Krishna Shanmuganathan, Alan White (Sevenoaks County Councillor) and Roger Gough (Kent County Council, in part).

In attendance: 16 members of the public, in part, and Helen Penney (Clerk)

1. Apologies and reasons for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted for Cllrs Fitzsimons and Salmon.

2. To consider, and approve if appropriate, which agenda items are 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.

3. To fill any vacancies left unfilled at the election by reason of insufficient nominations via co-option

Cllrs accepted a nomination from Kevin McGeough who was voted in by co-option to fill the vacant Councillor position. The Clerk will provide Cllr McGeough with the necessary forms and inform Sevenoaks District Council. **Action: Clerk.**

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

None.

Members agreed to discuss the agenda in the following order:

6. Report from the District Councillor

Cllr White reported that the Local Plan for Sevenoaks District Council opened on the 23rd November until the 11th January 2024 and that he and Cllr Ball were encouraging everyone to submit comments before the deadline. Cllr White reported that SDC had added a 'pop-up' session to take place in Farningham Village Hall on Thursday 4th January 2024, 4:30 to 7:30pm.

7. 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.

Cllr Burns established that all members of the public had attended the meeting specifically to discuss the Sevenoaks District Council Local Plan, after which a lengthy discussion followed.

Roger Gough arrived at 19:35

5. Report from the County Councillor

Cllr Gough reported that KCC is taking particular interest in Sevenoaks District Council Local Plan and that departments consulted at KCC should all return their comments and suggestions on the plan, including the Highways Team.

Cllr Gough reported that following the Highways Improvement Plan meeting with Nigel Rowe on the 22nd November 2023, the issue of drivers making illegal right hand turns at several junctions along the A20 has been reported by Nigel to officers at KCC. Cllr Gough confirmed that the whole of the A20 through Farningham is being considered by the A20 working group, they are not only confined to the 40mph zones. Cllr Gough also confirmed that the Clerk can join the online meeting on the 21st December 2023, 2pm.

19:44 Cllr Gough left the meeting

12.3 Sevenoaks District Council Local Plan

Councillors agreed to hold a poll that showed unanimously that all members of the public in attendance objected to the proposed plans at Pedham Place.

Members agreed that Farningham Parish Council objects to all of the development proposed at Pedham Place as part of the Local Plan.

Members asked Cllr White to request from SDC that they provide further information and clarity on all of the steps that must be taken as part of the Local Plan, including after the consultation has closed.

Action: Cllr White.

Cllr Shanmuganathan agreed to share the comments that Farningham Parish Council submitted for the previous Local Plan with the Clerk, other Cllrs and representatives from the "Save Bees not Wasps" group **Action: Cllr Shanmuganathan.**

Members agreed to hold a Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 20th December. **Action: Clerk.**

Cllr McGeough agreed to draft comments to be circulated to Councillors before the 20th December, to be discussed and agreed at the meeting on the 20th December. **Action: Cllr McGeough.**

Members agreed to meet with neighbouring Parish Councils to discuss the proposal and proceed with a joined-up approach. The Clerk will reply to Eynsford Parish Council to confirm. **Action: Clerk.**

14 members of the public left the meeting.

Two members of the public stayed to discuss the exit from Horton Way and then left the meeting.

8. If necessary, a report on breaches of General Data Protection Regulations

None

9. Approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings on 8th November 2023

The Minutes from the Parish Council meeting on the 8th November 2023 were approved and signed.

10. Trident

To be completed by Cllr McGarvey. **Action: Cllr McGarvey.**

11. Clerks report

The Clerk reported that:

- The appeal for Farningham Hill Stables has been withdrawn.
- The defibrillator at the cricket club pavilion has been moved to the Pied Bull and that the Circuit database has been updated.
- St Johns Ambulance have not renewed their contract with Brands Hatch.

12. Planning

12.1 Planning log circulated by the Clerk on 1st December 2023.

Members noted the log.

12.2 Enforcement requests with SDC

Members requested that Farningham Oak be added to list of enforcement requests and for the Clerk to request an update from SDC. **Action: Clerk.**

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

12.4.1 Reference: 23/03420/KCCRG3

Site: The Teardrop Centre London Road Farningham Kent BR8 8TS

Proposal: Replacement of the demolished dilapidated salt barn with a new 'Eurodome' salt barn.

Comments by: 22nd December 2023

No comment.

12.4.2 Reference: 23/03266/FUL

Site: No 56 And The Old Smithy 58 High Street Farningham Kent DA4 0DB

Proposal: Conversion of building from A1 (workshop/retail) to C3(dwelling) with associated extensions, roof lights and dormers and proposed new garage to 56.

Comments by: 22nd December 2023

Deferred to the 20th December 2023.

12.5 Ratification of Planning Applications received but not needing further action or comment

Reference: 23/03291/LDCPR

Site: Far Folly Calfstock Lane Farningham Dartford Kent DA4 9JH

Proposal: Convert existing attached garage into living accommodation.

Noted

13. Finance Items for noting and decision

13.1 To approve items payable and note items paid and receipts

The Clerk reported that the deposit to hire Farningham Village Hall is not necessary and this was removed from the items payable. The remaining items payable were agreed for processing and items paid and receipts noted.

13.2 Flexed budget November 2023

Members requested that the Clerk start to keep a record of work being carried out on each street light and that the report for the annual inspection is received or chased as necessary. **Action: Clerk.**

Members noted the rest of the report.

13.3 Donation to The Space

Members discussed that they require more information before being able to make a donation to 'The Space'. Cllr McGarvey agreed that he would visit to ask further questions on the Business Plan and long-term stability. **Action: Cllr McGarvey.**

13.4 Outstanding Poppy Wreath payments

Members noted that historically, the Parish Council has not been paying for the Wreath to be supplied but rather making the payment as part of the donation to the Royal British Legion. Cllr McGarvey advised that he would try to contact the supplier for clarification and to confirm how they can be reimbursed. **Action: Cllr McGarvey.**

13.5 Increase to Shand Hall hire

Members noted the increase to Shand Hall hire.

14. Highways including

14.1 Correspondence from Farningham resident

Members note the correspondence.

14.2 Outcome of the Highways Improvement Plan meeting, and to agree list of A20 priorities ahead of the A20 Working Group, Thursday 21st December, 2-3pm via Microsoft Teams

Members noted that the meeting had occurred and that more would be known following the A20 working group meeting on the 21st December 2023.

14.3 A20 Crash data

Members noted the information.

14.4 Parking enforcement on the High Street and out-dated restrictions

Members agreed for the Chair and Clerk to prepare an informal consultation to remove the outdated parking restrictions in place from the Chequers Public House to The Cottage, High Street, after which a request can be submitted to SDC if residents are in favour of the restriction being lifted. **Action: Chair and the Clerk.**

15. Measures to try and prevent the public from climbing on the cattle screen

Members agreed that no suitable measures are available to prevent the public from climbing on the cattle screen.

16. New Beat Officer

Members noted that that Beat Officer for Farningham is now PC 30625 Mathew O'CALLAGHAN.

17. KALC Community Awards Scheme

Members noted the scheme.

18. Kent Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2024-2034: Consultation information

Members noted the consultation and agreed for the Clerk to share with residents. **Action: Clerk.**

The Chair requested an extension that was granted.

19. Hire of thermal imaging camera from Sevenoaks District Council

Members noted that the thermal imaging camera is available to hire from SDC.

20. Youth Funding Update

Members noted the update.

21. Items to circulate to parishioners

Items identified during the meeting and anything urgent. **Action: Clerk.**

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

None.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 20th December 2023

Items Paid

1 December 2023 (2023-2024)

**Farningham Parish Council
PAYMENTS LIST**

Voucher	Date	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
101	16/11/2023	Street Light Repair	Streetlights	S	1,410.00	282.00	1,692.00
102	16/11/2023	Street Light Repair	Streetlights	S	1,016.25	203.25	1,219.50
103	16/11/2023	Street Lighting contract	Streetlights	S	995.88	199.18	1,195.06
108	15/11/2023	Computer expenditure	Norton	X	69.99		69.99
111	16/11/2023	Amenity Area Maintenance	Lothlorien Landscapes	S	160.00	32.00	192.00
112	16/11/2023	Churchyard maintenance	Lothlorien Landscapes	S	590.00	118.00	708.00
113	16/11/2023	Acrobat	Miss H Penney	S	16.64	3.33	19.97
114	14/11/2023	Bank charges	Handelsbanken	X	12.75		12.75
115	23/11/2023	Clerk's salary	Miss H Penney	X	1,030.60		1,030.60
116	21/11/2023	Pension contribution	Nest Pensions	X	91.68		91.68
117	20/11/2023	Electricity supply	npower	L	324.91	16.25	341.16
118	16/11/2023	Telephone & Broadband charges	Miss H Penney	S	4.12	0.83	4.95
119	16/11/2023	Printing	Miss H Penney	X	5.00		5.00
120	16/11/2023	Tax/NI	HMRC	X	9.33		9.33
121	16/11/2023	Cattle screen grids	Jason Smith	X	2,990.00		2,990.00
122	16/11/2023	DONATION	Anthony Roper School	X	200.00		200.00
123	16/11/2023	DONATION	Citizens Advice in N&W Kent	X	200.00		200.00
124	16/11/2023	DONATION	Ellenor	X	250.00		250.00
125	16/11/2023	DONATION	FELHS	X	150.00		150.00
126	16/11/2023	DONATION	Kent Air Ambulance	X	150.00		150.00
127	16/11/2023	DONATION	Swanley Food Bank	X	200.00		200.00
128	16/11/2023	DONATION	West Kingsdown Food Bank	X	200.00		200.00
129	16/11/2023	DONATION	We Are Beams	X	150.00		150.00
130	16/11/2023	DONATION	Anthony Roper Pre-school	X	150.00		150.00
131	16/11/2023	DONATION	Trident	X	60.00		60.00
			Total		10,437.15	854.84	11,291.99

Receipts

**Farningham Parish Council
RECEIPTS LIST**

Voucher	Code	Date	Bank	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
17	Anonymous Donation	15/11/2023	FPC Current Account (HB)	Anonymous Donation	Farningham Parish Council	X	141.00		141.00
18	Bank Interest	30/11/2023	FPC Deposit (HB)	Bank Interest	Farningham Parish Council	X	15.30		15.30
						Total	156.30		156.30

Items Payable

1 December 2023 (2023-2024)

Farningham Parish Council PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

Voucher	Code	Date	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
106	Hall Hire	06/12/2023	Hall Hire	Farningham Village Hall	X	36.25		36.25
107	Hall Hire	06/12/2023	Security deposit VH hire	Farningham Village Hall	X	250.00		250.00
133	Bank charges	06/12/2023	Bank charges	Handelsbanken	X			
134	Clerk's salary (net)	06/12/2023	Clerk's salary	Miss H Penney	X	1,405.41		1,405.41
135	Salary On Costs (Tax, NI etc)	06/12/2023	Tax/NI	HMRC	X	315.59		315.59
136	Pension (PC & Clerk's contributions)	06/12/2023	Pension contribution	Nest Pensions	X	144.33		144.33
137	Electricity Charges	06/12/2023	Electricity supply	npower	L			
140	Donations to Voluntary Organisations	06/12/2023	DONATION	DRIPs	X	20.00		20.00
141	Donations to Voluntary Organisations	06/12/2023	DONATION	Friends of Farningham	X	67.35		67.35
142	Hall Hire	06/12/2023	Shand Hall Hire	FPC	X			
132	Computer	06/12/2023	Acrobat	Miss H Penney	S	16.64	3.33	19.97
138	Telephone /Broadband	06/12/2023	Phone & Broadband charges	Miss H Penney	S	4.12	0.83	4.95
139	Postage/Stationery/Print	06/12/2023	Printing	Miss H Penney	X	5.00		5.00
						25.76	4.16	29.92
					Total	2,264.69	4.16	2,268.85