

Farningham Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham held at Shand Hall, High Street, Farningham on Wednesday 24th September 2025 at 7pm.

Cllr Burns advised that she would need to leave the meeting at 7:00pm due to a prior commitment. It was agreed that Cllr McGeough would assume the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

1. Attendees and apologies for absence.

Present: Farningham Parish Council (FPC) Cllrs Kevin McGeough (Chair), Liz Bourne, Daryl Burns (in part), Andie Fitzsimons, Philip McGarvey, Carol Salmon (in part) and Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) Cllr Alan White.

In attendance: 15 members of the public and Helen Penney (Clerk).

Apologies: SDC Cllr Ball.

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

None.

3. 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 Admission to Meetings Act 1960.

None.

4. A Public Open Session. Members of the public will be welcome to address the Parish Council with any local concerns they have. Please note that each speaker will be allocated a maximum of three minutes and at the discretion of the Chair.

The Clerk advised that Steve Clarke, Associate Planner at Graham Simpkin Planning, had contacted the Council prior to the meeting to request a speaking slot in support of his client and planning application 25/02399/FUL, relating to The Chequers Inn, High Street, Farningham, Kent DA4 0DT. Mr Clarke was permitted to speak for three minutes.

Cllr McGeough then invited comments from residents in attendance regarding planning application 25/02399/FUL. Some residents spoke in objection to the application, while others spoke in support.

5. Planning.

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

5.1.1 Reference: 25/02399/FUL

Site: The Chequers Inn High Street Farningham Kent DA4 0DT

Proposal: Change of use from a mixed use residential and public house to residential (Class C3)

Comments by: 19th September 2025

Members of the Council discussed the application and voted as follows: one in support, four against and one abstention.

It was resolved to object to the application primarily on the grounds that the property is registered as an Asset of Community Value.

Cllrs Burns and Salmon left the meeting with 11 members of the public.

6. To note recent information release regarding Sevenoaks District Council Local Plan and discuss next steps.

Cllr McGeough advised that Regulation 18 is expected to start 23rd October 2025 and run until 11th December 2025 with a pop-up event expected locally, date to be confirmed.

Farningham Parish Council will work with Crockenhill and Eynsford Parish Councils using the evidence from Tibbalds to let people know the strongest reasons to object to development at Pedham Place and the Stadium and Petham Court.

7. To note updates on the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr McGeough advised that the Steering Group has had an inception meeting with Tibbalds.

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

Cllr McGarvey advised that he would be unable to attend the SDC Development Committee meeting on 25th September 2025 to object to planning application 25/02117/PIP, Land North West of Charton Manor, Gorse Hill, Farningham, Kent. Cllr McGeough confirmed that he was attending.

Cllr McGarvey also advised that the PPC is planning to deliver a copy of The Trident to every household in Eynsford, Farningham and Lullingstone in November and asked if this could be coordinated with the Parish Council's newsletter to assist with distribution. It was noted that the Parish Council's newsletter cannot be delayed as it needs to be delivered at the start of the Regulation 18 consultation as previously agreed by the Parish Council. However, councillors and residents can assist with deliveries during November.

The meeting finished at 19:20

Date of next meeting Wednesday 8th October, 7pm.

