

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham held virtually on the 'Zoom' platform on Wednesday 5 May 2021 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs Liz Bourne (Chair), Daryl Burns, Philip McGarvey (District Councillor), Latif Oztosun, Sam Pointer, Carol Salmon and Krish Shanmuganathan

Apologies: None

In attendance: Cllr Roger Gough (County Councillor) (in part), Amanda Barlow (Clerk) and 4 members of the public (in part)

Members agreed to take the public forum and the report from the County Councillor at the beginning of the meeting to allow the visitors to attend other meetings.

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.

Tommy Whittingham, Route Manager, M25 London Orbital (East)

The Parish Council meeting commenced with comments from Mr Whittingham who had been asked by Simon Jones to contact the Parish Council to discuss the proposals around the M25 Junction 3. Mr Whittingham initially gave Members some background information on the role of Highways England.

Highways England completed a study 2 years ago looking into the congestion at Junction 3 on the M25 and have draft plans for ways to improve the junction. However, he advised that there is no funding available at the moment to carry out any works on the area..

Mr Whittingham offered to send the draft plans to the Clerk and Members thanked Mr Whittingham for his attending the meeting.

Eynsford Parish Council

Cllr Haxyby of Eynsford Parish Council attended the meeting along with the Eynsford Parish Council Clerk to discuss their Parish Council's idea to have a fete and an evening event to celebrate the end of the pandemic and outstanding work done by people in the community. The date of the event is 4 June 2022 to coincide with Her Majesty, The Queen's Jubilee. Eynsford PC thought it would be good idea to include Farningham . The Eynsford Clerk advised that a music festival is planned for the evening and Eynsford Parish Council has put £6,000 towards the event. They hope to have a joint Eynsford and Farningham event and that FPC would contribute financially. They invited FPC Members to join the planning working party. The proposed locations are Castle Mount for the daytime, and Harrow Meadow for evening event.

4. To receive report (verbal) from the County Councillor

Cllr Gough commented as follows:

- Road Diversion Signs – Cllr Gough has spoken to Gary Fittall regarding the signs, they are usually owned by the contractors. If the signs have not been removed, the local inspector checks and the contractor will receive a fine. However, if they are large diversion signs then Highways England is probably responsible for them. Cllr Gough agreed to make further enquiries.
- Farningham Woods – Cllr Gough advised that to change the route of a byway you have to demonstrate that the route is not needed or in use. He suggested that surveillance might help and that there may be the potential to close the route under a traffic regulation using powers to preserve the nature of the area. Members confirmed that they would like Cllr Gough to investigate further these options.
- Speed Survey – Cllr Gough advised that he had not the results of the survey.
- Beesfield Lane – bollards – Cllr Gough advised that he has referred the items to Mike Peyton.

Members wished Cllr Gough well in the upcoming elections.

1. Annual General Meeting:

1.1 To elect the Parish Council Chairman (and sign the Declaration of Acceptance)

Cllr Burns nominated Cllr Bourne and Cllr Salmon seconded the nomination.

Cllr Bourne was unanimously elected as Chair of Farningham Parish Council.

1.2 To elect the Vice-Chairman (and sign the Declaration of Acceptance)

Cllr Burns was unanimously elected as Vice Chair of Farningham Parish Council

1.3 To elect the Planning Member

Cllr Oztosun was elected as the Planning Member

1.4 To elect the Finance Member

Cllr McGarvey was elected as the Finance Member.

It was agreed that the Declaration of Acceptance should be signed by the Chair and Vice Chair at the first face to face Council meeting.

2. To receive apologies and reasons for absence

None.

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

Cllr McGarvey advised that his wife was now the Rector of the Benefice of Eynsford with Farningham and Lullingstone.

5. To receive report (verbal) from the District Councillor

Cllr McGarvey advised that there was nothing report other than the all District Council and Committee meetings will be returning to physical meetings following recent legislation. **With regard to Farningham Parish Council meetings Members agreed to have a zoom Planning meeting on 2 June 2021 and the Full Council meeting will be 23 June 2021.**

6. 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

Members resolved to discuss Agenda Items 12.6 and 12 in confidence.

8. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings on:

8.1 7 April 2021

Members resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting on 7 April 2021.

8.2 21 April 2021

Members resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting on 21 April 2021.

9. To take Matters arising from the Minutes where these are not covered under the subject headings below

The outstanding matters were all covered by items on the Agenda.

10. To consider the following planning applications requiring comments and note the updated planning log:

10.1 Planning Log

Noted.

10.2 Sevenoaks District Council Delegated Decisions

Noted.

10.3 Planning Correspondence

Noted.

11. Finance Items for noting and decision

11.1. Items paid and payable

Members resolved to agree the items paid and payable as at Appendix A.

11.2 21/22 Budget at 5 May 2021

Noted.

12. Items for decision and allocation of resources if necessary

12.1 To discuss and agree next actions with regard to Farningham Village Hall and Market Meadow

Cllr Bourne informed Members that the Clerk has received advice from KALC with regard to the legal position regarding the Parish Council, Farningham Village Hall and Market Meadow. Cllr Burns advised that the Farningham Village Hall Management Committee are also looking at seeking legal advice, although this is believed to be solely in connection with their ownership of Market Meadow.

Cllr Bourne reminded Members that there is the potential for confusion over the obligations and liabilities accepted under the 1938 Deed and that these, as confirmed by KALC, could have financial implications. Members decided not to consider taking legal advice at this stage. **Members resolved to pay £750 towards the buildings' insurance for the Farningham Village Hall. (Action: Clerk).**

12.2 To discuss and agree next actions with regard to the newsletter

Members resolved to agree to spend up to £400 on printing and delivery of the newsletter. (Action: Clerk)

12.3 To discuss and agree next actions with regard to the disposal of the Parish computer

Members resolved to spend £65 to carry out the disposal of the Parish computer. (Action: Cllr Bourne)

Members resolved to extend the meeting.

12.4 To discuss and agree next actions with regard to a Farningham Day in 2021

Members agreed that Cllrs Oztosun, and Salmon would work together to see if a Farningham Day in September 2021 would be a feasible idea.

12.5 To discuss and agree next actions with regard to post Covid village event with Eynsford Parish Council in 2022

Members agreed that the Parish Council were initially interested in the event and that Cllrs Oztosun and Burns would join the working party and the Council would then agree funds for the event if appropriate.

12.6 To discuss and agree next actions with regard to the Chequers Public House

Members agreed that the Clerk should write to Sevenoaks District Council. (Action: Clerk)

13 Items for report/noting

13.1 Correspondence

13.1.1 General Correspondence

Noted.

13.1.2 Kent Police March Newsletter

Noted

13.1.3 Sevenoaks District Council - Release of *Torymus sinensis* at Farningham Woods Nature Reserve

Noted. Clerk to ask SDC if the release had yet happened, and if not, to be advised of the date

13.1.4 Highways England

Mr Whittingham attended the meeting and spoke during the public forum.

13.1.5 Remote Meetings update from KALC

This matter was discussed under the Agenda Item 5.0.

13.1.6 Pilates

Noted. Members agreed that the Parish Council has no objection to pilates on the green.

13.1.7 Letter from Buckingham Palace

Noted.

13.2 Dates for meetings 2021

The dates were discussed under Agenda Item 5.0 and the amended dates are at Appendix C.

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

There are 3 boxes of signed minutes which need to be moved and stored.

Members discussed the two notice boards in the Parish and agreed to look at options. Cllr Salmon to obtain costings

15 Date of next meeting Wednesday 2 June 2021 at 7pm via zoom for Planning and Wednesday 23 June at 7pm, venue to be confirmed.

Appendix A

Items Paid and Payable

	Net	Vat	Total
1. J Symonds Contracting (barrier fence at Farningham Woods)	£1,950.00	£390.00	£2,340.00
2. Clerk's Salary	£732.95	N/A	£732.95
3. Clerk's Expenses (as below)	£74.17	N/A	£74.17
4. Shirley Computer Services (SCS)	£144.00	£28.80	£172.80
Acrobat Pro DC	£15.17		
Mobile phone May	£59.00		
(contract ends 8 May 2021 reduces then to £19 per month).			

Appendix B

Farningham Parish Council Correspondence List

21 to 29 April 2021

1. KALC - FW: NATIONAL CSSC Green Message - NCTPHQ UK Protect Bulletin - 8 Apr 2021
2. FW: NATIONAL CSSC Green Message - NCTPHQ UK Protect Bulletin - 8 Apr 2021
3. SDC - Covid-19 ASB Action & Country Code Plan.docx
4. KALC - Microsoft – Ransomware
5. KALC - Scam letters impersonating Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
6. SDC - FW: Restart Grant
7. Community Connectors

For the latest update on the Covid19 pandemic visit:

Appendix C
Farningham Parish Council

Dates of Parish Council meetings on Wednesdays in 2021:

Meetings commence at 7.45pm start if in the Village Hall or at 7.00pm if via 'Zoom' link

Wednesday 13 January

Wednesday 3 February

Wednesday 3 March

Wednesday 7 April

**Wednesday 5 May
(Annual Parish Meeting)**

Wednesday 17 February

Wednesday 17 March

Wednesday 21 April

Wednesday 19 May

Wednesday 2 June

Wednesday 7 July

Wednesday 4 August

Wednesday 1 September

Wednesday 6 October

Wednesday 3 November

Wednesday 1 December

Wednesday 23 June

Wednesday 21 July

Wednesday 18 August

Wednesday 15 September

Wednesday 20 October

Wednesday 17 November

Wednesday 15 December

The dates for meetings listed in red will only be held if business warrants it, for example if the Parish Council needs to discuss a planning application in order to meet a deadline set by Sevenoaks District Council