

**Minutes of Farningham Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall,
High Street, Farningham at 7.00pm on Wednesday 3rd April 2019**

Present: Cllr. B Burns, Chair
Cllr. P. McGarvey (Vice-Chair and District Councillor)
Cllr. A. McEnroe
Cllr. K. Shanmuganathan

Mrs. J. Gray (Clerk)

1. **Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for absence:**

1. Present were four Parish Councillors which included the Sevenoaks District Councillor P. McGarvey, plus the Clerk, Mrs J. Gray. District Councillor Brian Carrol arrived at 7.40pm.
2. Apologies for absence had been received from the County Councillor, R. Gough plus Parish Councillors, N Hall, C. Salmon and G Williams.

2. **Declarations of Interest:**

The declarations of interest stood as were recorded in the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May 2018; there was nothing new to report.

3. **Minutes of the last Meeting, Matters Arising and Action Points:**

1. The Chair signed the March minutes, which had already been agreed, to confirm they were a true record.
2. The Clerk confirmed that Thames Water had now finished the revetment works by the Horton Kirby Borehole in the field in between the A20 and M20 motorway. The bund had been removed, the area had been grass seeded and the seat moved slightly from its original position. It was agreed it was a big improvement.
3. Cllr McGarvey reported that the planning application no. SE/18/03369/FUL at the Lion Hotel, High Street for the 'Provision of External Bar to wider site associated with the Lion' due to be considered at the Development Control meeting on Thursday 14th March had been withdrawn on the day. He reported in 2006 SDC had refused this application but the decision had been overturned on Appeal by the DOE; Mitchells and Butlers had realised they could continue to use the Outside Bar with the temporary permission granted in 2006. Consequently the site meeting which it was hoped would be held during the morning had not taken place.
4. The Clerk confirmed she had not heard when the site meeting would take place with the Project Manager, Maria Smith at the Lion Hotel. This had been offered by Mitchells and Butlers before the external and internal works commence but was dependent on their planning

permission being obtained. A further planning application had been submitted by Mitchells and Butlers for the removal of the willow trees (CA) and the Clerk agreed to try to ascertain when this was likely to be done.

5. Cllr. Shanmuganathan reported the second local Speedwatch session had taken place on Thursday 7th March in Eynsford. To date no one had been observed speeding.
6. At the last meeting the Clerk agreed to make an application to add a Permissive Footpath to the Definitive Map for Kent. This is the footpath that runs from the High Street, in front of the Lion Hotel to meet up with footpath SD154 just under the A20 bridge (essentially a small section of the Darenth Valley Path). Parishioners had been invited to write to the Clerk or complete a questionnaire stating for how long they had historically been walking this footpath. The Lion's owners, Mitchells and Butlers had submitted a planning application which included replacing the existing bollards along the High Street with a fence and gate which would compromise access. The Clerk had served Notice on Mitchells and Butlers and Highways England, understood to be the other owner of the land under the A20. She had completed the necessary forms, written a supporting letter and delivered 77 completed questionnaires to the Rights of Way Office at Kent County Council.
7. The Clerk confirmed that Sevenoaks District Council would renew the double yellow lines in the High Street around the centre of the village but probably not until May. Also the Clerk's request for some evening visits to the village by parking wardens has been passed to SDC's parking enforcement team.
8. The Clerk had received a response from the owner of Manor Farm Cottage stating that the repair to the wall opposite the Village Hall would take place in the week commencing 1st April 2019.
9. The Clerk would monitor and report back to Councillors when a new seat had been sited in Farningham Woods, as promised by the Countryside Ranger.
10. At the last meeting a resident had written suggesting Farningham Parish Council hold a referendum with parishioners to consider leaving Sevenoaks District and move to Dartford; this was in view of SDC's handling of their Draft Local Plan, and in particular the Pedham Place site but including other matters (such as travellers' sites). Cllr. McGarvey advised it would require a 'Principal Area Boundary Review' to be carried out by Local Government Boundary Commission for England. Under LGBCE's policy both Dartford and Sevenoaks would need to request this review although the initial request could come from FPC. Councillors agreed they were not minded to consider; one major benefit of remaining in Sevenoaks was having rubbish collected weekly (Dartford Borough Council collect bi-weekly). The parishioner hoped to explore if there is a strong will amongst villagers to seek a boundary change.

11. Ferne Haxby, who organises the Dementia Café, confirmed there are currently no Farningham residents using the Café. Farningham residents would continue to be encouraged to use the facility and it was resolved that the agreed donation of £200.00 would still be made in November 2019.
12. The Clerk would contact the resident in Oliver Crescent to check if she was still happy to monitor the play equipment and report any defects.

4. **Correspondence:**

1. It was agreed the invoice from Vic Clarke for renovating the bus shelter be settled; labour and material £350.00. He was currently getting a price for Sundaela sheet for making a noticeboard within the shelter. It was agreed the Clerk ask him to also put Sundaela sheet in the Noticeboard for Parishioners use by Irving's Corner.
2. It was agreed the invoice from Aspen Tree Care for removing the Elder tree compromising the bus shelter for £60.00 be settled.
3. It was agreed the Parish Council would continue its membership of the Kent Association of Local Councils and the invoice for £461.36 plus VAT be settled.
4. It was agreed that Frances Ware would run free Pilates classes on the Oliver Crescent Green on the following dates: Fridays 3rd May, 7th June, 5th July and 1st August.
5. The ROW footpath outside South View and Jaxx House had been reported to the Clerk as being in a poor state. She reported to Kent Highways as is a ROW; Kent Highways had inspected and reported it was an 'unconfirmed' highway would not be classed as 'safety critical' and therefore would not warrant any repairs or making safe. They had done a land registry search and the title absolute under reference K903810 states that since 2006 the area has been maintained by SDC. The Clerk had since spoken to SDC's officer, Ashley Walmsley and he had agreed to refer it to his maintenance team for advice. The Clerk would follow up.
6. It was agreed the Clerk would attend an Audit Workshop in Teynham run by KALC, total cost £54.00 on Saturday 6th April.
7. The fly tip that had been in situ for some time had been removed from the Lion Hotel's grounds.
8. The Clerk had received copy correspondence from Nicky Biddall, Kent ROW Officer to Louise Cane, Graduate Planning Officer regarding planning application ref: SE/18/03342/FUL & SE/18/03343/LBCALT Lion Hotel stating: "Further to my letter of 6th December 2018 I would like to inform the Planning Authority and the applicant that a claim for a Modification Order to be made, has now been received by Kent County Council Public Rights of Way and Access Service, to have the route walked by the public in front of the Lion Hotel added to the definitive map and statement for Kent. Whilst this may not affect the planning decision the applicant should be made aware that should the claim be successful the fencing and

some of the fixed tables and chairs may have to be removed to allow the public access along the line previously walked, which would have an impact on the overall visual arrangement proposed."

10. Angela Dodge, SDC, had written stating they have been notified by Kent County Council (the waste disposal authority) that dog waste must now be mixed with litter to enable it to be disposed of at their facilities. This means they will no longer be able to support the installation and emptying of new designated dog waste bins. They will continue to empty existing dog waste bins separately and will combine the waste with litter prior to disposal. Therefore if Parish Councils decide to add any more bins, they would suggest installing combined litter/dog waste bins so that they will then be able to empty them; this does not mean they will not be charging for the collections. They will continue to invoice on a quarterly basis for the dog bins currently installed. Any newly installed combined litter and dog waste would be charged for on a similar basis.
11. It was agreed the Clerk pass the information on from Seafarers for the 'Please Fly the Red Ensign or Merchant Navy Day' on 3 September to Mrs Meachin.
12. The Clerk reported she had been contacted by Able Community Care offering stickers for parishioners to stick up by front doors stating 'Do Not Knock – No uninvited or unexpected callers'. These are free of charge and the Clerk ordered 60 to be distributed, with the elderly in mind.
13. The Clerk had received copy correspondence from several Maplescombe residents updating the Parish Council on the current situation at Maplebank Poultry Farm; they had been very disappointed that SDC had cancelled enforcement action that was stated to be taking place. One resident had written stating there were excavations going on which were perceived to be a precursor to some kind of development, presumably exempt from planning controls since no planning application had been submitted. Residents had reported they were frustrated as for the last 18 months they had been attempting to bring about a remedy to the problems by repeatedly seeking the help of local Councillors. They had been advised by Councillor McGarvey that there are insufficient resources to deal effectively with planning breaches, a claim which is not reflected in the financial reports in this month's In Shape magazine.

5. **Planning:**

1. The planning applications were considered and it was agreed the Clerk send the following comments to Sevenoaks District Council:

SE/19/00930/AGRNOT Hill Farm, Farningham Hill Road, Kent, DA4 0JR
Extension to existing agricultural building. No Objection

SE/19/00931/ADJ and 19/00418/COU Consultation as a neighbouring authority: Homefield Farm Homefield Road Sutton At Hone Kent DA4 9JA
Use of land for siting of 33 caravans for occupation by seasonal workers during the main season (March to October) and retention of caravans on the land with some limited occupation during the winter months (November to February). No Comment

SE/19/00830/WTCA Ground Control Ltd, Lion Hotel, High Street, Farningham
Proposal Work to Willows. (CA)

2. Planning Decisions:

SE/19/00226/CONVAR Former Barclays Bank, High Street Variation of condition 2 and 3 of application reference 18/02337/FUL for the Change of use from A2 to D1 including external alterations to facilitate solar panels to the rear and a ramp to the front. Erection of a single storey side extension. An addition of a disabled car parking space. GRANTED

6.

Policing:

PCSO Etter reported:

In the last 12 months five burglaries had been reported in Farningham; some local burglaries were related to car fobs are being cloned remotely from outside people's homes. There had been a large increase in the number of fake phone calls, from scammers pertaining to be HMRC, the Metropolitan Police or BT. She reminded all to be vigilant and never to give out any bank details following a cold call.

7.

District Councillor:

Cllr McGarvey reported:

1. He had identified a gap in Enforcement and public perception and communication with the public had been poor. SDC had taken this on board and appointed a new Senior Enforcement Officer, Steve Whitehead, whose prime focus was on the backlog of the more complicated cases some of which were local.
2. At the Special meeting of SDC's Full Council for the Proposed Submission Version of the Local Plan at SDC on 26th March the Pedham Place site still stood as a 'broad location for growth' although Cllr McGarvey was one of the three SDC members who voted against its inclusion. The field that holds the Boot Fairs by Pedham Place had been sold but the new owner was not known.

8. **Highways, Footpaths & Street Lighting:**

1. The Clerk had reported to Fire UK the fire hydrant on the field side at the end of Sparepenny Lane, is completely covered in ivy.
2. Cllr McEnroe reported she had been monitoring the gully on the corner of Button Street for flooding since it had been jetted last June. She had taken a photo showing water lying on the road which the Clerk asked her to forward so it could be passed on to Kent Highways.
3. Cllr McEnroe asked if the data had been reported from the recent speed checks near Button Street on Farningham Hill. Councillors confirmed that that there had been a 20mph difference in the speeds going up and down the hill which was surprising.
4. Amy Stewart, Highways Steward, had confirmed that Kent Highways have raised a job to repair the fence that has had temporary orange plastic fencing in situ for over a year; there was no idea on timescale yet.

9. **Open Spaces:**

The Clerk had reopened Irving's Corner. Darenth Valley Garden Services have been informed and been invited to cut the grass.

10. **Friends of Farningham:**

Cllr Salmon reported that the last session, Thursday 28th March five volunteers had transformed the front of the village hall and cleared branches from the river by the cattle screen resulting in four bags of weeds.

11. **Reports from Representatives on other bodies:**

Cllr McEnroe reported the School Safety Campaign were due for their quarterly meet.

12. **Finance:**

1. It was resolved to settle the following:

	Removal of Elder Tree	
Aspen Tree Services	compromising Bus Shelter	£60.00
	Bus Shelter renovation: labour	
Vic Clarke	and materials	£350.00
Kent Association of Local Councils	Membership 2019/20	£553.53

2. It was agreed that payments to British Telecom and Eon Energy would be paid by direct debit for the financial year 2019 to 2020.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

The next meeting of Farningham Parish Council is at 7.45 on Wednesday 8th May 2019.

Signed **Wednesday 8th May 2019**