

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham held at the Village Hall, High Street, Farningham on Wednesday 8th January 2020 at 7.45pm

Present: Cllr. D. Burns (Chair)
Cllr. L. Bourne
Cllr. R. Hirons
Cllr. P. McGarvey (District Councillor)
Cllr. C. Salmon
Cllr. K. Shanmuganathan
Mrs. J. Gray (Clerk)

103. Chairman's Welcome, Apologies for absence:

1. The Chair welcomed five Parish Councillors which included the District Councillor P. McGarvey, the Clerk and four members of the public.
2. Apologies had been received from the District Cllr. B. Carroll and Cllr. G. Williams.

104. Declaration of Interests:

The declarations of interest stood as previously recorded in May 2019. Councillors were asked to inform the Clerk should they have any changes.

105. Public Lighting:

J C Electrical Limited, a lighting contractor, had been invited to give a presentation as the lighting maintenance contract expires at the end of March. It was agreed the Clerk send them the terms of the current Contract so that they can compete on a like for like basis. The company can also install CCTV and provide monitoring.

106. County Councillor:

1. A resident of White Post Hill had written to the Clerk regarding the flooding of drains and the footpath covered with mud beside the A20; the Clerk would forward the correspondence and photographs for him to take up with Kent Highways.
2. The recent traffic surveys undertaken in Sparepenny Lane meant that the speeds could be reduced to 40mph and he would find out the costs to do that. The Parish Council could then decide whether (in conjunction with Eynsford Parish Council) to institute any changes.
3. Jobs had been raised for investigative digs with cameras in respect of the on-going flooding issues in Eynsford Road at South Hall Close and at the A20/Button Street junction; gullies had already been cleansed.
4. Kent County Council would be looking to bring in a 4% increase in their precept with 2% of this to cover general expenditure and 2% devoted to social care and they were consulting on a five year plan.

107. Public Participation:

A resident reported:

1. There had been five large fly tips in Donkey Lane recently and asked for CCTV to be reinstalled; the Clerk would contact Sevenoaks District Council.
2. Following a meeting with a Kent Highways Officer he had been successful in getting the speed limit in Beesfield Lane further extended to 25 metres before Donkey Lane.

3. The '5 ton' lorry signs installed some years ago in Beesfield Lane were outdated and unnecessary and he asked for them to be removed.

108. Matters Arising and Confirmation of the Minutes of the last Meeting;

1. It was agreed Cllr. Salmon, would write the report for Trident.
2. The Chair signed the minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2019, which had already been agreed, to confirm they were a true record.
3. Cllr Shanmuganathan, Graham Collins and the Clerk would be meeting Samantha Pelling from Mitchells and Butlers at The Lion to discuss residents parking in their top car park, following collection of the questionnaires distributed in December.
4. The Clerk had reported to Environmental Health (Sevenoaks District/Dartford Borough Council) that the owners of Bridge Cottage had a recent issue with their drains and asked them to investigate. Thames Water had been called out; there had been a severe blockage, which looked like an accumulation of fat and had been partially cleared. Environmental Health had confirmed it was not their responsibility and so the Clerk had contacted Kent Highways; she was asked to follow up.
5. The Clerk was asked to follow up on the delivery of sand bags for the Mill Estate and the Manor House by Sevenoaks District Council.

109. Correspondence:

1. The Clerk had obtained a price for Councillors to consider removing the dog waste bins. It was agreed it would be pertinent to purchase and install three new litter bins, positions to be agreed but to suggest one at the end of Sparepenny Lane, and a second near the Chequers, High Street. The third site to be advised. The Clerk was asked to contact Sevenoaks District Council to ask for a site meeting to discuss the positioning.
2. The Clerk had received an invitation from Otford Parish Council for the Chair to attend a re-enactment of Field of the Cloth of Gold event on the Palace Field in Otford to commemorate the 500th Anniversary on Saturday 6th June 2020 and she had booked a place.
3. The Clerk had met with three companies to tender for tree work in Irving's Corner: Reducing two large field maples by 30-35%, reducing one large silver birch tree by 30-35% and remove 2-3 lower limbs on each overhanging Ash trees that are overhanging the fence line. Two quotations had been received to date and it was agreed to accept the cheaper quotation from SL Treecare. The Clerk was asked to obtain the necessary permission from the Tree Officer, with whom she had been in contact.
4. Halstead Green Belt Future Group had issued an invitation for an 'Important Green Belt Manifesto' meeting on 28 January 2020 at 7:30pm at Halstead Village Hall. Cllr Bourne confirmed she would attend.
5. It was agreed to settle the invoice from Prime One Maintenance for the installation of new column no 42 in Eynsford Road on 22nd December, totalling £700.00 plus VAT.
6. KALC had issued an invitation for Accessibility and Health and Wellbeing workshops; the Clerk indicated her intention to attend.
7. The Clerk was asked to circulate the Asset Register.

110. Planning;

1. It was agreed the following comments be sent regarding planning applications received from Sevenoaks District Council:

SE/19/03228/CONVAR Acer House Practice, High Street Minor material amendment to 19/00226/CONVAR

OBJECTION: Farningham Parish Councillors want soft landscaping at the front of the Practice and trust the existing tree will not be compromised.

SE/19/03459/HOUSE Shelton, 54 Beesfield Lane Demolition of existing garage and extensions. Erect single storey side extension, first floor front extension, porch and associated roof alterations SUPPORT

SE/19/03406/HOUSE The Mount, Sparepenny Lane Removal of existing lean-to conservatory, and replacement with a new conservatory / orangery, on the rear elevation together with a single storey rear extension SUPPORT

SE/19/03456/FUL Hill Farm, Farningham Hill Road Siting of 9 caravans for occupation by seasonal agricultural workers (01 March until 1st November annually) and subsequent winter storage in the same location.
NO COMMENT

SE/19/03091/HOUSE 1 Coldharbour Farm London Road Proposed part demolition of existing outbuilding, two storey rear extension and internal alterations SUPPORT

SE/19/ 19/03400/HOUSE and 19/03401/LBCALT Manor House, High Street Upgrading of existing outbuilding to facilitate raising of the roof, alterations to fenestrations SUPPORT

NOTE: Cllr Shanmuganathan left the room for the discussion of the planning application at the Manor House and recused himself from all the discussion.

2. Planning Decisions:

SE/19/02666/HOUSE and 19/02667/LBCALT Old Parsonage House High Street Demolition of studio. Extension to gym/pool and raising the roof GRANTED

SE/19/03001/HOUSE 40 London Road Farningham Demolition of detached garage and shed & erection of single garage building GRANTED

111. District Councillor:

Cllr McGarvey reported the Local Plan has been rejected by the government's Planning Inspectorate on the grounds of lack of consultation with other local authorities. SDC disagreed and has refused to withdraw the Plan.

112. Highways, Footpaths and Street Lighting:

1. It was noted the deep mud in places on the footpath beside the A20 between the A225 junction and King's Roundabout had been satisfactorily removed.

2. Cllr McGarvey confirmed the verge at the junction of Donkey Lane with the A20 London Road has had a deeper cut and vision is now much improved.

3. Cllr Salmon advised the damaged footpath outside Jaxx House in Oliver Crescent had been satisfactorily repaired and the item could be removed from the Action Point list.

113. Extension of Time:

The Chair asked for an extension of time after 10pm and this was agreed.

114. Website, FaceBook and Twitter:

It was agreed that planning items for discussion would not be publicised other than on the Agendas and Correspondence Lists.

115. Representatives on other bodies:

The Clerk had contacted Mrs McEnroe to ask for updates on the School Safety Campaign; apparently they had not met for some time.

116. Finance:

1. Cllr. McGarvey was thanked for preparing a draft budget for 2020/2021 and the Clerk was asked to request a precept of £46,754.00. The precept increase will be kept to just under 1% per household. The total 2020/21 budget was agreed at £67,646.

2. The Council's insurance policy was due for renewal; Cllr Bourne offered to assist the Clerk in reviewing the sums insured.

3. Members resolved to authorise the Schedule of Payments for January:

Kent County Council	Pension contributions (PC: £360.57 Clerk: £56.66)	£417.23
Eon	Electricity charges	£191.72
British Telecom	Telephone and Broadband	£47.83
HMRC	Tax and NI	£231.62
Mrs J Gray	Clerk's Salary	£741.14
Mrs J Gray	Parish Council Expenses Use of House (£20) Mobile Phone contribution (£10)	£30.00
SLCC	Annual Membership fee	£161.00
Prime One Maintenance	Replacement of column no 42 in Eynsford Rd	£840.00
Sevenoaks District Council	Emptying dog waste bins	£123.12

Signed **Wednesday 5th February 2020**

The meeting closed at 10.17 pm. The next meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham will be held at 7.45 pm. on Wednesday 5th February 2020.