

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham held at the Village Hall,  
High Street, Farningham on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7.45pm**

Present: Cllr. D. Burns (Chair)  
Cllr. L. Bourne  
Cllr. R. Hirons  
Cllr. P. McGarvey (District Councillor)  
Cllr. C. Salmon  
Cllr. G. Williams

Mrs. J. Gray (Clerk)

**79. Chairman's Welcome, Apologies for absence:**

1. The Chair welcomed five Parish Councillors which included the District Councillor P. McGarvey, the Clerk and one member of the public. The County Councillor, Roger Gough arrived at 8.05pm.
2. Apologies had been received from Cllr. K. Shanmuganathan.

**80. 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

**81. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> October and the Extraordinary meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019, which had already been agreed, to confirm they were a true record.
3. The Clerk had not received news as to when the river Darent walk through was being undertaken by the Darent team (DRIPS, Environment Agency, South East Rivers Trust and North West Kent Countryside Partnership.) The Clerk had informed Mark Gallant there are five Himalayan Balsam plants in the Farningham stretch of river and asked for advice regarding the weeds creeping across the river from both sides by the Lion Hotel.
4. The Clerk had met a Thames Water Supervisor outside Potager and South Hall following FPC's complaint that slabs that were too small had been used in two places for reinstatement works making a patchwork effect and the new cover was sinking. He had agreed the works needed to be redone. The Clerk had received a communication just before the meeting that the Supervisor the Clerk had met had left the organisation and his replacement deemed the work was satisfactory along with Highway Authority. The Clerk was asked to follow up.
5. Beray Builders had replaced the Green Oak post on the Millennium village sign and a metal collar made by Mick Gillman had been installed. Councillors agreed they had made a good and neat job of it and agreed their invoice for £1570.00 plus VAT be settled. The Clerk was asked to thank Mick Gillman for making the collar; he had promised to give it an occasional polish.
6. The Clerk had asked Prime One, a lighting contractor to replace Column no. 42 for the sum of £840.00 which included the UKPN charge for electricity reconnection following receipt of two good reviews of the company. The Clerk had invited them to come to the December meeting to make a presentation.
7. The Clerk had asked to write to Jeremy Clark, Parking Engineer at Sevenoaks District Council, to request traffic wardens patrol the High Street early mornings and evenings owing to illegal parking. Apparently they have visited on several occasions and some Councillors and the Clerk had witnessed tickets being issued.
8. The Clerk had set up a meeting with Samantha Pelling at Mitchells and Butlers to discuss allowing residents to park in the Lion's car park but unfortunately she had not shown up to meet Cllr McGarvey. She had given a new date of Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 11am. It was suggested registration numbers be offered to the Lion of residents who wish to park overnight; currently the Lion had agreed they could park from 9pm to 11am.

9. The Clerk had complained to Thames Water about the four way temporary lights installed on 26<sup>th</sup> September at High Street/A225 Eynsford Road/White Post Hill/A20 junction as they were installed without notice. This had resulted in long traffic queues particularly on the A20 (which had been queuing back to King's roundabout) and on Eynsford Road. A member of the public advised this was to replace a valve and it was not emergency work. Following complaints to Kent Highways, Thames Water installed an operative to manually operate the traffic lights on the last couple of days which had helped. It was agreed it was worth registering a complaint in the hope Thames Water would not undertake to do similar works without notice in the future.
10. The Clerk was asked to liaise with Eynsford Parish Council regarding a possible Joint Resilience policy. It was suggested a list of potential scenarios be drawn up as well as a list of names of who to call on, plus a list of provisions such as salt bags/sand bags and where they are stored. The Clerk would mention when circulating the Monthly Report. Once a template had been agreed if could be adopted as a Council policy.
11. The Clerk had written to Jamie Riches at Thames Water who had visited the Horton Kirby Borehole site on 10 September. He had not agreed that the site was very untidy but promised to report back on the situation within a few months as plants/weeds were dying back.
12. The Chair agreed to review the draft Accessibility policy circulated by KALC with a view to adopting. She had spoken to Eynsford and Horton Kirby and South Darenth Parish Council who had not got this Policy. The Clerk agreed to follow up.
13. The Clerk now had confirmation from EIS they would not be hosting free Parish Council websites from late 2020. The Clerk had arranged to visit Horton Kirby and South Darenth Parish Council the following day to look at their 'Hugo Fox' website. Mr C Bourne had been invited to attend the meeting too. It had been agreed to change to a new provider as soon as practicable. Mr Bourne had offered to set up and run Twitter for the Parish Council in conjunction with Cllr Williams who operates the FaceBook page so that items can be seen on both platforms.

## **82. County Councillor:**

The County Councillor, Roger Gough reported:

1. Kent Highways had taken steps to alleviate the flooding at Eynsford Road service road by building kerbs and cleansing but the problem had still not been solved and they had narrowed it down to the drainage around South Hall Close as the overflow does not connect to the drains. A resolution would continue to be pursued.
2. Following a report from the Clerk he had arranged for pot holes to be addressed in Button Street.
3. The Scratchers Lane/A20 junction improvements agreed had been delayed but it was hoped these would start in the New Year.
4. Kent County Council are currently consulting on a proposal to expand Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys by increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 210 to 300 places and establishing a satellite school on the Wildernesse site in Sevenoaks from September 2021.
5. Kent Highways were consulting on reducing the speed limit in Beesfield Lane.
6. Following a request by Eynsford Parish Council he was investigating putting an extra light along the A225 Eynsford Road between the two villages and along the Mill Field section.
7. The Chair asked if he could continue to investigate improving safety along the A20 Gorse Hill, Main Road and London Road by reinstating white lines and cats' eyes.
8. Flooding was still occurring at the Button Street/A20 junction despite a jet wash and Kent Highways were investigating.

## **83. Correspondence:**

1. It was agreed the Clerk respond to the Secretary of the Parochial Church Council confirming the Parish Council will fund the grass cutting and maintenance of the churchyard for 2020, the contractor being Lothlorien.
2. The Clerk was asked to write to thank the Haughey family for providing two new benches for Irving's Corner. The residents had also kindly offered to renovate two existing benches.
3. The Clerk confirmed that the table within the play equipment on the Oliver Crescent green had been repaired by Sevenoaks District Council officers and was back in situ.

4. The Clerk had received notice from Kent County Council that they had launched a budget consultation for Parish Councils, residents, businesses and other organisations giving an opportunity to have their say on spending priorities and Council Tax proposals for 2020/21. The Chair suggested Councillors complete the questionnaire and the Clerk would mention in the Monthly report circulated to parishioners.
5. The Clerk had received correspondence and telephone calls from Gary Burns of Serenity Parks who had recently developed a site in West Kingsdown. He is interested in developing the Maplebank Poultry Farm site in Maplescombe Lane with "Park" homes for those aged over 55. The Clerk had circulated the information but Councillors resolved more information was required regarding traffic movements and infrastructure improvements planned before any comments could be offered.
6. The Clerk had been in touch with the Recycling Officer at Sevenoaks District Council following the Vice-Chair's request for recycling bins to be provided in the High Street. The advice given was that the only bins they can provide are the very large bins, like those on the A225 Shoreham Road, beyond Eynsford Station. The Recycling Officer suggested these are close enough for parishioners to use, along with the KCC Recycling Centre near Pedham Place.
7. The Clerk was asked to respond to the Farningham and Eynsford History Society the donation agreed was £150.00.
8. Steve Whitehead, Enforcement Officer at Sevenoaks District Council had written with an update on the 'triangle' site in Franks Lane, Horton Kirby. He reported some of the breaches had been immunised by the passage of time and they are considering the best way to push forward with the breaches which remain enforceable.

These broadly fell into three categories

1. Untidy Land
2. Use of land for business purposes
3. Breach of Tree Preservation Orders.

#### **84. Planning;**

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

SE/19/02777/HOUSE Toya, White Post Hill Proposed ground floor part rear extension to incorporate a first floor rear extension, part ground floor front extension, basement store room with extended raised patio, roof extension comprising a raising of ridge height with attic rooms, removal and erection of new chimney, Juliet and new balcony and alterations to fenestration.

OBJECTION: Overdevelopment of the site and a large increase in bulk. Ridge height is of concern.

SE/19/02666/HOUSE and 02667/LBCALT Old Parsonage House, High Street Demolition of studio. Extension to gym/pool and raising the roof with alterations and addition of roof lights. Alterations to fenestration. NO OBJECTION

SE/19/02351/LBCALT Maplescombe Farm House, Maplescombe Lane Internal alterations at ground and first floor including removal of modern fabric. Alterations to fenestration to include addition of new window and enlargement of windows on North, West and South Elevation. Proposed new landscaping and alterations to the main vehicular access. APPLICATION WITHDRAWN

2. Planning Decisions:

SE/19/02274/FUL 17 London Road Conversion of existing dwelling into two self-contained flats with associated parking GRANTED

SE/19/02520/HOUSE Maples, High Street Erection of a double garage block. Landscaping works. GRANTED

### 3. Notice of Appeal:

SE/19/01241/FUL Hazeri, Button Street An Appeal has been lodged with the Secretary of State in respect of planning application for the demolition of existing buildings, removal of caravan and erection of a detached bungalow including associated change of use of land from mixed residential (Use Class C3) and commercial kennels (sui generis) to residential (Use Class C3) under reference no. APP/G2245/W/19/3236750.

### 85. District Councillor:

Cllr McGarvey reported:

Sevenoaks District Council were very disappointed by the decision of the Government Inspector to suspend the Local Plan Hearings, thereby cancelling the last two weeks sessions in November at which the Pedham Place proposals were to be heard. Further updates will be posted on the council's website and a definitive statement due on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

### 86. Public Participation:

The member of the public present reported it was difficult entering the High Street from his property, South Barn, opposite the Church. The Clerk was asked to contact Sevenoaks District Council to ask them to consider extending the double yellow lines.

### 87. Highways, Footpaths and Street Lighting:

1. The Clerk had been in touch with Geoff Bineham of Kent Highways to ask for details of three traffic accidents during October on the A20 in Farningham:

- i. 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019 Accident on A20 near Donkey Lane – Ambulance attended. Roads blocked for hours in the evening
- ii. W/b 28<sup>th</sup> October near Button Street
- iii. Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November at Scratchers Lane.

2. Kent Highways had jetted the gullies on the A20 between the King's roundabout and the A225 junction in early October but it was noted the lowest lying gully had been covered with leaves potentially blocking it. The Clerk would report.

3. The Clerk had arranged for a one tonne bag of salt / sand mix to be delivered to Charton Manor Farm that can be used on the public highways during the winter months.

4. The Clerk was asked to write to Kent Highways to confirm the Parish Council's support for the 30mph speed limit being extended closer to Donkey Lane.

5. The Clerk had logged on the Highways Portal the white road markings need to be renewed at the Eynsford Road junction with the A20 and down the A20 itself.

7. The Clerk had asked Kent Highways to cut the grass at the junction of Eglantine Lane with the A20, and Rebecca Morgan had responded that it gets cut 3 times per annum and has been extended down further to improve visibility. She had suggested it is added to our Highway Improvement Plan asking for cuts more regularly on safety grounds. She reported at the junction of Button Street with the A20 the central reservation is on our High Speed Road programme which is attended once per annum. She visited the site and at present the vegetation isn't causing a major concern for visibility. However she is in the process of raising works just for a small section of the central reservation but will need to check when this can be done due to issues with permits.

8. The Clerk was asked to report that the footpath beside the A20 between King's Roundabout and the A225 junction is very muddy and needs cleansing.

### 88. Reports from representatives on other bodies:

Cllr Salmon reported the Friends of Farningham had done a sterling job during 2019. They are a small group of volunteers and she would like thanks extended to all who attended a bi-monthly meetings and worked so hard to keep our village neat and tidy. She suggested all parishioners could be encouraged to look after the pavement

areas in front of their properties, i.e. cutting back any hedge to make the pavement fully accessible and cleaning up leaves etc.

#### **89. AOB:**

Councillors were very sorry to learn of the fire at Farningham Oak in the early hours of 6<sup>th</sup> November and the appropriate concern had been noted on social media. The Clerk was asked to follow up on the reopening of the Cinder Path in due course.

#### **90. Finance:**

Members resolved to authorise the Schedule of Payments for

Kent County Council	Pension contributions	£417.23
	( PC: £360.57 Clerk: £56.66)	
British Telecom	Telephone and Broadband	£47.83
HMRC	Tax and NI	
Mrs J Gray	Clerk's Salary	£741.14
Mrs J Gray	Parish Council Expenses	£30.00
	Use of House (£20) Mobile Phone contribution (£10)	
Lothlorien Landscapes	Grass cutting and maintenance in the churchyard	£294.00
Streetlights	Second annual maintenance payment 2019-2020	£1484.08
Kent County Supplies	A4 copy paper	£21.04
CPRE	Annual subscription	£36.00
Beray Builders	Village Sign Installation	£1884.00
Darenth Valley Garden	Amenity Area maintenance 2019	£525.00

The following grants to voluntary organisations were agreed:

Ellenor (hospice at Northfleet)	£250.00
North West Kent Volunteer Centre	£100.00
Citizen's Advice Bureau (Sevenoaks/Swanley)	£150.00
Kent Air Ambulance	£150.00
Dementia Café (last given May 2018)	£50.00
Farningham and Eynsford Local History Society	£150.00
EFL Trident	£60.00
Swanley and District Food Bank	£150.00
Royal British Legion (for Remembrance Wreath)	£50.00
DRIPS	£20.00
Total of the above grants	£1130.00

**Signed .....** **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

The meeting closed at 10.20pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 7.45pm.