

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham held at the Village Hall, High Street, Farningham on Wednesday 2nd October 2019 at 7.45pm

Present:

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

Mrs. J. Gray (Clerk)

68. Chairman's Welcome, Apologies for absence:

1. The Chair welcomed four Parish Councillors which included the District Councillor P. McGarvey and the Clerk.
2. Apologies had been received from the County Councillor, R. Gough, District Cllr. B. Carroll and Parish Cllrs. C. Salmon and K. Shanmuganathan.

69. 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

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

It was agreed Cllr. Bourne, would write the report for Trident.

1. The Chair signed the minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2019, which had already been agreed, to confirm they were a true record.
2. The Clerk had not received news 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 asked Mark Gallant to inform if they spot any Himalayan Balsam in the Farningham stretch of river; Mark Gallant reported the Lion Hotel seem to be managing their side of the river adequately at present and had removed the willows although they have still to remove the weeds on the river bank.
3. Thames Water had undertaken the repair to the High Street footpath near South Hall and Potager; the Clerk had reported back to that the Parish Council felt it was unsatisfactory. The Clerk had asked for replacement of one slab that was cracked and repair the sinking cover. The Clerk had met a Supervisor on site who had accepted the work needed to be redone.
4. The Clerk reported she had instructed Beray Builders to replace the Green Oak post on the village sign. They advised they would remove the sign in the first instance and confirm to the Clerk when done. The new post will need to be chamfered and a date inscribed before reinstallation. She had asked the company to liaise with Mick Gilman over the installation of a metal collar to protect its base. Mick Gilman had indicated the cost would be £80 to £100 for the collar.
5. The Clerk had met Prime One, a lighting contractor at Column no. 42 which needs replacing. Their quote was £840.00 including the UKPN charge for electricity reconnection. The Clerk was asked to question whether this was the total cost and if it included traffic management.
6. The Clerk was asked to write to Jeremy Clark, Parking Engineer at Sevenoaks District Council, to request traffic wardens patrol the High Street early early mornings and evenings due to illegal parking.
7. The Clerk was asked to follow up with the High Street resident regarding a 'dog bone' marking.

8. The Clerk had been trying to set up a meeting with Samantha Pelling at Mitchells and Butlers to discuss allowing residents to park in the Lion's car park and would persist.
9. The High Street/A225 Eynsford Road/White Post Hill/A20 junction had temporary four way traffic lights installed without notice and works were being carried out by Thames Water. This had resulted in long queues particularly on the A20 (which had been queuing to King's roundabout) and Eynsford Road. The Clerk was asked to complain to Kent Highways that no notice had been given and also to commend the operative who manually operated the lights on the last couple of days. The traffic lights had been removed earlier in the day. The Clerk asked Kent Highways for better signage on the A20 which had been provided, but remained in situ, whereas all the other signage has been removed.
10. The Chair offered to look at the KALC Resilience template with a view to adopting as a Council policy.
11. The Clerk had written to Jamie Riches at Thames Water who had agreed to visit the Horton Kirby Borehole site on 10 September. She had not received his findings regarding the untidiness of the site, but would follow up.
12. The Chair agreed to review the draft Accessibility policy circulated by KALC with a view to adopting.
13. The Chair reported that EIS would not be hosting Parish Council websites from late 2020. The Clerk would look at local Parish Council websites with a view to changing to a new provider as soon as possible.

71. Correspondence:

1. Neill Coppin, the Bridge Engineer at Kent County Council, had written in response to the Clerk's query requesting permission to install a plaque on the bridge to replicate the engraved stones. He advised unfortunately they do not hold any information relating to the engraved stones but he would, subject to necessary consents being gained, relating to the listed nature of the structure, not be adverse to a separate plaque being attached to the parapet. The plaque would need to be in keeping with the structure, the fixing method must ensure no damage is caused to the structure and the plaque would be removable if required. The Clerk had obtained a copy of the History Society's publication on the Bridges of Eynsford and Farningham. A full transcript of the wording on the engraved stones is replicated in the publication.
2. The residents who gifted two benches in Irving's Corner had removed them for chemical stripping of varnish; unfortunately it had left both benches with bleach streaks. They have decided to replace the benches with new ones and propose applying a dark oak preserve on the old benches to cover the streak marks and use them to replace the remaining two benches which are in a poor condition. The Clerk has thanked the family for their generosity and asked if any help is required in installing the four benches.
3. The Government has recently launched a Consultation paper on mobile phone masts and coverage, seeking to obtain feedback on potential to amend existing planning regulations and upgrade existing sites; this was with a view to improving mobile phone coverage across the country. It was agreed Cllr. Bourne would respond on behalf of FPC, but as the Consultation is open to everyone, those in Farningham who have poor coverage should be encouraged to respond.
4. Sevenoaks District Council had organised a Planning Training session on Wednesday 20 November. The Clerk was asked to confirm the attendees: Cllrs Burns, Bourne, Hirons and Shanmuganathan.
5. Reece Evans, North West Kent Countryside Partnership (NWKCP) had written stating they currently have a project funded to plant native trees within the Darent Valley and in particular, hedgerows. It was agreed to try to promote to residents within the parish.

72. Planning;

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

SE/19/02585/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 No Objection

SE/19/02697/FUL The Chequers Public House Temporary change of use of ground floor of premises from public house to additional residential accommodation for a period of 5 years. No Objection, but to state a Condition should be imposed that on site parking should be utilised *

2. Planning Decisions:

SE/19/02253/FUL Land west of the Mount, Sparepenny Lane Use of the coach house as a self-contained dwelling. GRANTED

3. Notice of Tree applications:

SE/19/02514/WTCA 2 London Road Eucalyptus - reduce crown overall by approx 3 metres GRANTED

SE/19/02554/WTCA 1 Tollgate Yard, High Street Scots Pine (T1) – fell. Since then a Tree Preservation Order No. 12 2019 has been issued at Tollgate Yard.

SE/19/02115/WTCA 4 Old Parsonage Mews, High Street Works to various trees It was noted an Objection had been lodged. The Clerk had contacted the Tree Officer for information. He had granted permission in respect of the application but issued a Tree Preservation Order on trees on the site.

SE/20/01597/WTCA Pinehurst, High Street Proposal Trim an Oak tree by 50%

73. Highways, Footpaths and Street Lighting:

1. Geoff Bineham of Kent Highways had responded to the Clerk with details of the road traffic accident on the A20 near Auntie Carol's kennels on 24th September: Police attended and reported a vehicle was seen off the carriageway, however on arrival the vehicle was being recovered. There are no further details as to the circumstances of how this vehicle left the road, it was a single vehicle incident with no injuries reported.

2. Kent Highways have confirmed they had an outstanding reactive job in the system for five gullies on the A20 between the King's roundabout and the A225 junction to be emptied, cleansed and the pipework jetted through to the outfall, due to be attended to before 3rd October.

3. Mike Payton of Kent Highways had written to offer parishes a one tonne bag of salt / sand mix delivered that can be used on the public highways during the winter months.

4. Geoff Bineham, Kent Highways, had written to the Clerk following collection of traffic count data at two locations in Beesfield Lane. He asks if the Parish Council would support the 30mph speed limit being extended closer to Donkey Lane. This was agreed and the Clerk was asked to inform him.

5. The Clerk was asked to contact a former Parish Councillor living in Button Street to ask if the flooding was still prevalent at the junction with the A20. The drains there had been jetted previously in May.

6. The Clerk was asked for the white road markings 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 at the junction of Button Street with the A20 more regularly on safety grounds; the first had been agreed, but they were investigating the second location.

8. The Clerk to find out from the Rights of Way Officer, Nicky Biddall, if there are plans to improve the damaged footpath in Oliver Crescent.

74. Reports from representatives on other bodies:

1. Cllr McGarvey reported the Rev. Gary Owen had now taken up his new post in Devon and therefore the process to appoint a new rector for the parishes of Eynsford, Farningham and Lullingstone could commence. It was however a lengthy process and unlikely a new rector will be in post before next July.
2. The Chair and Cllr McGarvey had attended a meeting of the Darent Valley Consortium on 25th September in Eynsford Village Hall. The Clerk was asked to circulate the original letter sent to Rick Bayne at the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership suggesting a list of works as part of the Landscape Partnership's scheme.
3. Cllr McGarvey circulated a leaflet promoting the Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership designed to bring together six stations: Swanley, Eynsford, Shoreham, Otford, Bat and Ball and Sevenoaks. A community art project had been launched.

75. Finance:

1. Following the completion of the annual review from PKF Littlejohn, the auditors, the documents had been signed and returned:
A completion letter, a Notice of Conclusion of Audit template and fee invoice totalling £300.00 plus VAT.
2. It was agreed the Clerk would purchase a robust paper shredding machine.

Members resolved to authorise the Schedule of Payments for October 2019:

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	£741.40
Mrs J Gray	Parish Council Expenses	£30.00
	Use of House (£20) Mobile Phone contribution (£10)	
Lothlorien Landscapes	Grass cutting and maintenance in churchyard	£294.00
Mrs J Gray	Six monthly mileage claim	£83.90
PKF Littlejohn	Annual Audit of Accounts	£360.00

Signed **Wednesday 6th November 2019**

The meeting closed at 10.05pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th November 2019.

** SE/19/02697/FUL The Chequers Public House Temporary change of use of ground floor of premises from public house to additional residential accommodation for a period of 5 years. "No Objection, but to state a Condition should be imposed that on site parking should be utilised"*

Post Meeting Note: The comment above was further discussed at an Extraordinary meeting held on Thursday 31st October and the comment changed to Objection. See Minutes of that meeting.