

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham held at Shand Hall, High Street, Farningham on Wednesday 12th January 2022 at 7pm.

Present: Cllr L Bourne (Chair), Cllr D Burns, Cllr P McGarvey (District Councillor), Cllr K Shanmuganathan , Cllr L Oztosun, Cllr C Salmon.

1. Chair's Welcome, Apologies for Absence:

The Chair welcomed six Parish Councillors which included the Sevenoaks District Councillor Philip McGarvey and one member of the public. Kent County Councillor Roger Gough joined the meeting at 7.15pm. Apologies were received from Cllr S Pointer.

2. Declarations of Interest:

The declarations of interest stood as previously recorded at May 2021 and Councillors were asked to inform the Clerk should there be any changes.

3. To receive report (verbal) from the County Councillor:

3.1 Cllr Gough asked how the 20mph informal public consultation was proceeding and was told the estimated cost to FPC of £5,000 was included in information given to parishioners. Cllr Gough will outline the requirements for a formal consultation, should it be decided to take this course. FPC would like minimal signage with more use of 20 roundels on the road surface than signs on roadside poles.

3.2 Cllr Gough will follow up our request to check that the number of 40mph signs on the A20 is sufficient and he advised that if residents wish to have sound barriers erected to cut down the traffic noise from the A20 Farningham Hill that such a request should be submitted via the KCC website.

3.3 A review of the Highways Improvement Plan would also be undertaken with priority given to the 20mph village proposal, widening of the pavement over the bridge in the High Street and various London Road traffic issue while a solution is still sought to the difficulties for pedestrians crossing A225 Eynsford Road.

4. To receive report (verbal) from the District Councillor:

Cllr McGarvey advised SDC Cabinet has agreed to hold a six-month pilot trial of a Sunday Market in Swanley.

5. Confidential Agenda Items

One items was considered confidential and Councillors discussed.

6. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

7. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Last meeting:

It was agreed the Chair could sign the minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2020 and all matters arising were included in later Agenda items.

8. Matters arising

8.1 Cllr Burns agreed to write the Trident report and in the absence of a Clerk, Cllr Salmon will produce draft minutes.

Action: Cllr Burns and Cllr Salmon

9. Consider the following planning applications requiring comments and note the updated planning log:

a) Appeal against Enforcement Notice - Without planning permission, change of use of the land and associated buildings for the storage of vehicles (B8), motor vehicle repairs and motor vehicle spraying . Maplescombe Farm, Maplescombe Lane, Farningham, DA4 0JY.

Decision: Noted.

b) Ref SE/21/04078/HOUSE 12 Button Street, Swanley, Kent BR8 8DY

Proposal: Proposed first floor extension.

Decision: No objection.

c) Ref SE/21/04170/HOUSE 2 Till Avenue, Farningham, DA4 0BH. Proposal: Removal of existing conservatory and construction of single storey rear extension.

Decision: No objection.

d) Ref: 21/04210/MMA Meadowside, Beesfield Lane, Farningham, DA4 0BZ.

Minor material amendment to 20/03576/FUL.

Decision: Object.

Reason for objection. The application/amendment is a lot more than “minor” and thus should be subject to a full planning application. Original application 23/3576/FUL approved by SDC included a single storey bungalow, but this has become 2 storey, which would not have been approved if originally applied for, so a retrospective application should also be refused. Reasons for objection include: Increased bulk (including adding master bedroom, with en suite facilities); increasing the habitable floor area of the house by approximately 59sq metres at first floor level and introducing two large dormer windows and three Velux windows into what was a bungalow. The extra windows; including windows upstairs, overlooking a neighbour’s dwelling and garden - even if obscured-glazed (or higher off the floor) add to the perception of overlooking the neighbouring much smaller bungalow. Expansion into bungalow roof space. Exterior finish (which was not detailed in the original application) of bungalow is oppressive (dark blue/grey) which in its elevated position also adds to the sense of

overbearing on the neighbours. Some special allowance had been made for the medical situation of the first applicant, but she has now sold up and moved away.

The updated planning log was noted.

10. Finance:

10.1 Cllr McGarvey was thanked for preparing a draft budget for 2022/23 and after approval the requested precept was set at £47,430.00. This is an increase of 0.99% and is necessary because of infrastructure projects planned and/or required.

10.2 The Council's insurance policy was due for renewal and Cllr Bourne provided information on the quotations provided. It was agreed that the renewal fee would not exceed £1,267.29 and the Chair would make the decision. It has been a long and involved process and the Chair was thanked for her hard work.

Action: Chair

Extension of time: As the meeting had been running for over two hours, The Chair asked for an extension of time and this was agreed.

11. Items for decision and allocation of resources if necessary:

11.1 Cllr Shanmuganathan to contact parishioners who have responded to the informal 20mph consultation and a paper will be drafted of responses and circulated.

Action: Cllr Shanmuganathan

11.2 Cllr Pointer yet to report on his negotiations with Speedwatch over the location of the proposed speed indicator devices.

Action: Cllr Pointer

11.3 Cllr Pointer had sent apologies and London Road would be an Agenda item at the next meeting.

11.4 Cllr Salmon met with SDC representatives about the erection of a set of goalposts on the green in Oliver Crescent. The Playing Fields Association will be consulted and quotes obtained.

Action: Cllr Salmon

11.4 Wealden Oak has not followed up their quotation for removal of a tree in the grounds of the Village Hall. Cllr Burns will contact them and if necessary Farningham-based Aspen Tree Care will be asked to quote.

Action: Cllr Burns

11.5 Cllr Pointer has contacted the Notice Board Company (provider of the new board) and spoken to Lothlorien Landscapes over installation and removal of the old boards. The Kent Walk map of Farningham board will be fitted with new posts and moved sideways to accommodate the new notice board.

Action: Cllr Pointer

11.6 Cllr Burns and Cllr Salmon agreed to continue as Parish Council representatives on the Village Hall Committee.

11.7 Farningham Village Hall is unavailable on the original date of 6 April for the Parish Annual Meeting and proposed dates are now 29 April or 27 May. The Chair to book with FVH Booking Sec.

Action: Chair

11.8 The Council's postal address will be Farningham Parish Council, P.O. Box 543, Farningham, Dartford DA1 9UT. Cllr Burns is providing the collection point but this will be transferred to the new Clerk. The telephone has yet to be transferred from the previous Clerk and we will carry on paying Mrs Barlow £16 per month until the technical issues can be resolved. Councillors agreed to reimburse Cllr Burns £198.00 for 6 month PO box rental and £16 to Mrs Barlow for mobile phone.

Action: Cllr Burns/Cllr McGarvey

11.9 Cllr Salmon received the FPC files from Mrs Barlow and these will be stored in the loft at the Village Hall, along with the archives presently held by Cllr Shanmangunathan.

Action: Cllr Salmon/Cll Shanmangunathan

11.10 It was decided not to nominate anyone for the KALC community award.

11.11 Cllr Burns advised payment of £360 from the Ted Saxton account needed to be made for emergency lighting work and £475 plus VAT for additional emergency door openers. Councillors approved the payment.

11.12 There has been no improvement on the eyesore that is the fire ruins of Farningham Oak in the High Street and Cllr Oztosun will contact the SDC Conservation Officer.

Action: Cllr Oztosun

12. Celebrations/events:

12.1 Organisers of the Eynsford-Farningham joint village celebration on Saturday, 4th June are concerned Farningham residents are unaware they must register in advance for the evening function because entry is by wrist band only. FPC will put notices on the website and boards and registration is by email info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org. Cllr Oztosun agreed to condense the wording sent from EPC to fit future newsletter and website/noticeboard.

Action: Cll Oztosun

12.2 Cllr Salmon advised that the lights from the Christmas tree had been collected but a number were found not to be working. Surviving lights will be stored in the loft

at the Village Hall. FPC will book the Village Hall for Friday, 2nd December as this will provide a better gathering point for the switching on of the Christmas lights.

Action: Cllr Salmon

12.3 . Air Quality: A draft report is being discussed by SDC and Councillors emphasised the need to see some action taken. Cllr McGarvey said that the SDC Cabinet was due to report and subsequently he advised that the Draft Air Quality Action Plan would go for public consultation.

12.4 Action List Update:

a) Cllr Oztosun advised the burger van in the A20 lorry layby (below Button Street junction) is now being treated as abandoned and will be removed by SDC. Having visited the site, Cllr Oztosun believes the litter bins are inadequate and more action is needed to clean up the area. He will follow this up and will also enquire again of KCC, who expanded the site, if provision can be made for toilets.

Action: Cllr Oztosun

b) Cllr Oztosun will locate the broken Darent Valley Path signpost on the edge of The Lion Lawn and seek repairs to this and the damaged directional boards at the same location and at the end of Sparepenny Lane.

Action: Cllr Oztosun

13. Urgent business

13.1 It was reported there had been an increase in the amount of dog fouling on the pavements in recent days. We will again put out a plea in Trident asking dog owners to be more responsible.

13.2 The Chair advised on the KALC training courses available for Councillors and it was agreed Cllrs Bourne and Oztosun would attend the planning session.

The meeting closed at 10pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, 2nd February 2022 at 7pm at the Shand Hall.

Signed:

Date:

Future dates for meetings:

All meetings to be held at 7pm at Shand Hall:

Wednesday 2 March 2022

Wednesday 6 April 2022

Wednesday 4 May 2022

Wednesday 1 June 2022

Wednesday 6 July 2022

Wednesday 7 September 2022

Wednesday 5 October 2022

Wednesday 2 November 2022

Wednesday 7 December 2022