



FARNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL - Clerk to the Council: Mrs J.C. Gray,
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Farningham Parish Council met on Wednesday 3rd April 2019 for their monthly meeting. Present were 4 Parish Councillors, including District Cllr P McGarvey, the Clerk, Jane Gray and Ann Etter our PCSO.

Elections

There would have been an election for Parish Council on 2nd May, but only 4 candidates were nominated for the 7 places - so these 4 are now “deemed elected” automatically, and 3 places remain open for co-options. However, District Council elections will still take place on 2nd May and voting will be in Farningham Village Hall for our residents. (There are 4 candidates for the 2 Sevenoaks District Council seats – so you will have 2 votes.)

PCSO Report

PCSO Etter reported that in the last 12 months five burglaries had been reported in Farningham. She was aware of instances where car fobs are being cloned remotely from outside people’s homes in order to steal the car and she recommended using signal blocking key cases to keep them safe, these are easily available and not expensive. She also said you could store your car keys inside the microwave as this would also block any signals, however could be a bit of a disaster if you didn’t remove them before using it – personally the key case sounds a bit of a better idea!

She also reported a large rise in the number of fake phone calls, pertaining to be from the likes of HMRC, the Metropolitan Police or BT, to name but a few. The caller is telling people a variety of stories; tax is owed and unless paid immediately the person will be arrested the following day, the Met Police call is telling people their bank card has been compromised and they will help sort it out with the bank, however they would need your card details in order to put a stop on it and the BT one again is telling you that unless you make payment immediately your internet connection will be discontinued. **BE VIGILANT**, don’t give out bank and card details over the phone via a cold call.

Friends of Farningham

FoF are still doing a fantastic job around the village and again are making a real difference. Thanks to all those already taking part and if you would like to don a yellow jacket and get involved They meet again soon – dates on Noticeboard - feel free to turn up and get involved.

Irving Corner is now open again after its winter closure. The grass has been cut and the area tidied up by FoF

Speedwatch

Two Speedwatch sessions have taken place, one in Farningham and one in Eynsford. If you would like to join the team please contact either Farningham or Eynsford Parish Council Clerks and they can pass on your details to the co-ordinator.

SDC Enforcement Team

Cllr McGarvey reported that a new Senior Enforcement Officer, Steve Whitehead, has been appointed at SDC and is starting to make inroads into the backlog of cases, a number of which involve our local area.

Right of Way

We would like to thank the 77 people who completed the questionnaire for Kent ROW team showing evidence that the path along the side of the river, ending at the Lion Hotel in the High Street, has been in use for many years. We await confirmation when this can be added to the Definitive Map.

A20 Footpath

It’s great to see the major improvement made to the footpath along the A20 between Eynsford Road and Kings Roundabout, it has been cleared back to its original width, a big thank you to Kent Highways.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Parish Council meeting ended and the Annual Parish Meeting took place. We were joined by representatives of local bodies, members of the public, District Cllr B Carroll and County Cllr R Gough. Our thanks to all those who submitted reports and gave summaries of the year’s activities for their particular organisation.

It was sad and a shock to learn the next day that an old friend of Farningham and previous Parish Councillor & Chairman Malcolm Gale had passed away during the night. Malcolm had always been heavily involved: on the Parish Council; Farningham Woods; the FPC website; Village Hall; BHF (the British Heart Foundation); the Cattle Screen (and Malcolm was responsible for its restoration and HLF funding) and of course Calfstock Lane. What a legacy!

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be one week later than usual (due to the elections) and will be held on **WEDNESDAY 8TH MAY** at 7.45pm in Farningham Village Hall. Public participation at 9pm or come along for the whole meeting and see what we are up to. And if you sit too close to the front, you might be co-opted!

Daryl Burns
Chair - Farningham Parish Council