



FARNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL - Clerk to the Council: Helen Penney.
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Farningham Parish Council met on Wednesday 7th December 2022 at Shand Hall, Farningham. Present were 6 Parish Councillors, including Philip McGarvey SDC District Councillor and our Clerk, Helen Penney. There were also 2 visitors in attendance.

Cattle Screen

The three wooden gates hanging across the river from the Cattle Screen are due to be replaced in the coming months. The centre one had become irreparable with the outer two deteriorating so it was decided to replace them all in one go.

Farningham Hill Stables

The Parish Council are aware that a number of local residents are concerned about what appears to be an unauthorised development and we are in discussion with SDC regarding this. The development is on the north side of the A20, on the left as you come down the hill from M25, opposite Auntie Carols.

2023-24 Budget

We spent time making small amendments to the budget for the next financial year and this will be finalised at the January FPC meeting. We are trying to ensure that if there is any rise in our Council Tax precept, it is as small as possible.

Environment Agency

The EA are currently in the River Darent working their way towards Farningham. The annual weed cut essentially cuts over 50% of the full channel width at summer water levels. The banks will not be cut/managed except for access reasons. Such timings and regime are chosen to balance flood risk management with limiting ecological impact. They should reach us within the next 2 weeks of our meeting which means by the time you read this they will be on their way towards Dartford!

Himalayan Balsam

There are plans by the North West Kent Countryside Partnership team to undertake clearance of this invasive and destructive weed in July 2023. Once the date is confirmed we can let you know and the team are more than happy to have volunteers helping them with the removal.

Tree Survey

We have received the results of the Tree Survey undertaken recently. There is only one tree which is in need of some major work with recommendations for small scale works and tidying. FPC have agreed to have the work undertaken.

Christmas Tree

A big thank you to all those who came along to the lighting of the Christmas Tree and Carol singing in Farningham Village Hall/Market Meadow, around 120 people attended. This year we had enough Mulled Wine, most people remembered their mugs and the weather was kind. A huge THANK YOU to the wonderful NEW FOLLY SINGERS for their rendition of favourite Carols. We have already booked for next year as this event is enjoyed by all.

Salt Bins

Just a reminder that the yellow Salt Bins contain salt which must only be used for public areas, roads and footpaths and not be used on private properties.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th January at 7.00pm in the Shand Hall.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year – although by the time you get to read this it will probably all be over, so hope you enjoyed the festivities!

Daryl Burns
Vice-Chair FPC