

FARNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL - Clerk to the Council: Mrs A. Barlow.

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Farningham Parish Council met via a video link on Wednesday, 3rd March 201, and present were seven parish councillors (including Sevenoaks District Councillor Philip McGarvey), Kent County Councillor Roger Gough and the Clerk Amanda Barlow.

Our perfect storm:

In respect of bin collections missed because of the snow and ice in February, Sevenoaks District Council management now accepts that its lines of communication failed to reach enough residents quickly enough, or were confusing, so SDC will use additional channels (including emailing Parish Clerks) if this happens again. The problem was magnified by KCC having closed the Waste Transfer Station at Dunbrik two weeks earlier (to continue making repairs after last year's fire) and a bin lorry breaking down in mid-round in South Darent. Although the snow made a few roads impassable on just the first day, ice made the pavements dangerous for a few more days. The "catch-up" mountain to shift the next week was therefore double that of normal and compounded by SDC lorries having to dump their loads further away. If this ever happens again residents could help with resulting pressure on space in the lorries by holding back their recycling. Having said all that, we sincerely thank the staff for their tremendous efforts in doing an otherwise thankless task. It is also worth noting that, as well as the SDC website's information on refuse collection, the Farningham Parish Council website has a question and answer segment containing such information and details on such issues is disseminated on Facebook and Twitter by FPC for those wishing to access via those routes.

Friends of Farningham:

Government pandemic guidelines permitting, we will start our bi-monthly meetings on Saturday, 1st May – 10am at the village hall. We plan to then meet every third Wednesday and first Saturday in the month up until October. We have in past years cleared weeds and leaves from various places around the village and organised litter-picks alongside the river and in various roads. Our clear-ups have made a difference and been a rewarding experience. We have a circulation list of FoF members and these will be contacted. Details will also be sent to those on our Parish Council circulation list - sign up for this on our Website – and we would, as ever, welcome new members and any suggestions for projects within the village. We meet for about an hour and all that is needed to take part are a pair of gloves, tools you may use in your own garden, and strong shoes. Further details are available from the Clerk or Cllr Carol Salmon, carolsalmon46@gmail.com or phone 01322 860983.

Annual Parish Council Meeting:

Unfortunately we will not be holding an Annual Parish Meeting (for reports to/from the public and societies) this year but we will still have our annual Parish Council Meeting (for election of Chairman etc) on Wednesday, May 5th. Further details are available from the Clerk.

Traffic updates from Kent County Council:

Cllr Gough said the traffic count in the High Street would begin on 20 March. Although this might sound rather counter-intuitive, KCC will allow us to have a 20mph limit if the average speed limit taken by the speed tests is less than 26mph. So, as ever, please try to drive carefully in the village, particularly over the speed test strips! The results will be available in mid-April and then the issue will be debated, along with the feasibility of our other suggestions for a traffic improvement scheme. £10m of KCC funding has been set aside for another pothole blitz across the county with last year's work resulting in over 600 one metre square potholes filled in.

Regular updates:

If you would like more regular updates from Farningham Parish Council they are available on Facebook, Twitter or by email. To receive email updates, please complete the sign up box at the foot of the home page www.farninghamparishcouncil.org The Facebook link is www.facebook.com/farninghampc and Twitter [@FarninghamPC](https://twitter.com/FarninghamPC)

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 7th April 2021, 7pm on Zoom. Please contact the Clerk if you wish to join in.

Cllr. Carol Salmon