



FARNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL - Clerk to the Council: Mrs J.C. Gray,  
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Farningham Parish Council met on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019, and present were four parish councillors, the Clerk, Jane Gray, Sevenoaks District Councillor Philip McGarvey and four members of the public.

#### Parish councillors:

It was very heartening to see four members of the public in attendance and all willing to be co-opted onto the Parish Council. As was mentioned last month, we did not need a Parish Council election on 2<sup>nd</sup> May because we only had four nominees for the seven vacancies and such a rapid response from villagers is great to see. Having experienced their first meeting from the sidelines, all four will be contacted by the parish clerk to see if they still wish to stand; up to 3 of them can be co-opted.

#### The Lion Hotel:

We were delighted to hear from owners Mitchells & Butlers that they had decided to withdraw the planning application for a gate to be placed across the hotel ground's High Street entrance. This decision was taken in the face of strong opposition from the Parish Council and villagers alike and the company have now decided to place three plant troughs between the existing bollards. Villagers have also expressed their thanks and approval at the removal of the willow trees from the bank and now we look forward to seeing the additional maintenance and landscaping work which is scheduled to be carried out to the front of the building.

#### District Councillor's report:

Cllr McGarvey, whilst acknowledging the huge drop in turnout, thanked residents for voting him in at the District Council elections on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and said he would, on our behalf, continue his robust opposition to the proposed 2,500 housing development at Pedham Place. Fellow Conservative Brian Carroll was the other successful candidate. Development at Pedham Place remains (albeit as only a "Broad Location for Growth") in the Sevenoaks District Council's Local Plan which has now been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate to determine whether it is sound and legally compliant. All those who objected to the proposal should have received this update from SDC and further information on the process is available from Programme Officer, Louise St John Howe via email: [louise@poservices.co.uk](mailto:louise@poservices.co.uk) Cllr McGarvey also reinforced his support for SDC's new Senior Enforcement Planning Officer, Steve Whitehead, who has already made a favourable impression on the large number of complex cases involving our local area.

#### The late Malcolm Gale:

As a further mark of respect for our late former chairman and long-time village stalwart, Malcolm Gale, we have donated £100 to his chosen charity, the British Heart Foundation.

#### Dog waste bins:

The Parish Council have provided dog waste bins in the village but Sevenoaks District Council will no longer be emptying any newly installed dog waste bins because it is now necessary to mix this waste with household waste and litter in the incineration process. Whilst existing bins will still be emptied, dog owners can now use the street litter bins to dispose of their plastic parcels! Whichever deposit box you use, it is preferable to leaving it where it fell or collecting it up and throwing said plastic parcel into the bushes, sadly an all too common occurrence.

VE Day:

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day is on 8-10<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and National Association of Local Councils is encouraging local bodies to mark this important anniversary. Further information is available from the website [www.veday75.org](http://www.veday75.org) or you can register your interest with the clerk.

Dangerous trees:

A member of the public has reported some trees in the woods at the top of the field when walking up By-Way 192 have fallen and others could potentially fall. The footpath runs from Beesfield Cottage in Beesfield Lane and then left and skirts the wood at the top. This footpath is not a public Right of Way but we will be looking at the possibility of applying for it to becoming one, as we have done with the footpath across the front of The Lion Hotel. Please take care when walking in the wooded area off Beesfield Lane.

Friends of Farningham:

Our voluntary group continues to make a difference in and around the village. New recruits are always welcome and a full list of our meeting dates are on the Farningham village hall noticeboard and on the website. In addition to the work of this group, we arranged for the bus shelter to be repainted, an improvement which also has been well received.

Our next meeting is at 7.45pm on Wednesday, 5th June 2019, in Farningham Village Hall. Public participation at approximately 9.00pm.

Cllr. Carol Salmon