



FARNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL - Clerk to the Council: Mrs J.C. Gray,
3 Hillside, Farningham, Dartford DA4 0DD - Phone & fax: 01322 866066
email: clerk@farninghampc.co.uk - Web: www.FarninghamPC.co.uk

Farningham Parish Council met via a video link on Wednesday, 3rd June 2020, and present were six parish councillors (including Sevenoaks District Councillor Philip McGarvey); Kent County Councillor Roger Gough, two members of the public and the Clerk Jane Gray.

New chair and co-opted member:

Liz Bourne took the chair for the first time and immediately thanked Daryl Burns for her three years in the role. Daryl will continue as deputy chair. Two members of the public stood for the vacant councillor position and Latif Oztosun was duly co-opted. A lecturer in travel and tourism with skills in maths and computing, we are delighted to have Latif on board.

Friends of Farningham:

Finally we are sufficiently clear of the Covid-19 virus threat to start our Friends of Farningham season – with appropriate social distancing. As the lockdown slowly eased some of us were able to get out and do a few small jobs in the village so hopefully the weeds on the bridge and at the village hall will not be as robust as they could have been. Unfortunately some of our recent visitors to Irving's Corner have not fully respected the area so there is work to do there. Our first meeting will be on Saturday, 4th July, 10am at the village hall. We are usually together for an hour to tidy up footpaths, pavements and our green spaces and if anyone has a particular area for our volunteers to work on please advise the Clerk. We will meet again on Wednesday, 15th July and subsequently on the first Saturday in the month and so on. August dates are 1st and 12th; September 5th and 16th and October 3rd and 14th. New members will be welcomed with open arms (albeit two metres apart); nothing too strenuous but it all benefits our village. Please bring your own gloves and any light gardening tools you use at home.

Alban Crescent:

We have had many favourable comments on the improvement to the grass area in Alban Crescent, all courtesy of a resident who kindly volunteered to mow and clear the area. Grass cutting has been one of the many problems for Sevenoaks District Council during the lockdown period as priority went to maintaining our weekly household rubbish clearance. It is good to see another local resident giving of their time and lifting the spirit in the crescent. Another Alban Crescent resident told us SDC have supported this initiative by following up instances of damage to the grass caused by car parking and there has also been some police follow-up to complaints about dangerous parking at the entrance.

Road works:

Kent County Council's Roger Gough reported that further work to alleviate flood problems had been carried out at Button Street and Eynsford Road with good progress. More work is needed on the soakaways in Button Street and further investigation into a blocked chamber under the green in Oliver Crescent may help the Eynsford Road situation. Apart from the odd hiccup, KCC are satisfied with the efficiency of the on-line booking system instigated when the Swanley Household Waste and Recycling Centre was finally re-opened. Farningham High Street was closed at short notice in early June for Thames Water works aimed at ending the flooding in Lion Cottages and the entrance to the Mill Estate. If you would like more regular updates from FPC they are available on Facebook, Twitter

or by email. For email updates please contact the Clerk at farninghamparishcouncil@gmail.com to be added to her circulation list

Speedwatch:

This will be up and running again soon in the constant battle against speeding drivers. The more volunteers the better so if you are interested in working a roadside speed gun please contact the Clerk.

Dog waste bins:

As well as using the dog waste bins, owners have been placing dog waste in the SDC street litter bins for some time now. There have been no reported problems following the fire-enforced removal of the bin in Cinder Path and we will therefore be removing all the dog waste bins in July. Thank you for your co-operation; sadly there has been an increase in dog fouling since lockdown rules were relaxed and there are still anti-social owners who selfishly throw their plastic bags of waste into the grass on Sparepenny Lane and along the river path.

Shopping centres:

Many Sevenoaks Town Centre and other's shops are now re-opening. Although free parking continued on-street and in SDC-owned car parks for the past three months this was to be reviewed by SDC on 22nd June, so do read the signs before you park (especially in Swanley because SDC owns only the little car park in Park Road off the High Street).

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 1st July 2020, 7.45pm in the Farningham Village Hall with a break for public participation at 9pm. Should it be necessary the meeting will be conducted remotely via the Zoom website and details will be displayed on the noticeboard at the village hall and be available from the Clerk.

Cllr. Carol Salmon