



## FARNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Helen Penney.

Phone: 07799 256668 email: [clerk@farninghamparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@farninghamparishcouncil.org)

Web: [www.farninghamparishcouncil.org](http://www.farninghamparishcouncil.org)

Postal address: Farningham Parish Council, Farningham Village Hall, High Street, Farningham, Dartford, Kent DA4 0DH.

Farningham Parish Council met in the Shand Hall at St Peter and St Paul's Church on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025, and present were five Parish Councillors, Kent County Councillor Roger Gough, Sevenoaks District Councillor Alan White, two members of the public and the Clerk Helen Penney.

### Parish Vacancies:

We remain very keen to recruit two more Parish Councillors from our community. It is not an onerous job and can be very rewarding. Please contact our Clerk or any current Councillor for further details.

### Annual Parish Meeting:

Don't forget to come along to the Village Hall at 6.30pm on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> March. Parish Councillors, Kent County Councillor Roger Gough and PC Caleb Guest are expected to be among those attending and they will be taking questions from the floor. It is an informal meeting with refreshments.

### Highways:

Cllr Gough said new signs indicating No Right Turn at the junction of the A225 and A20 will be in place shortly and, since the meeting, have been installed. Telematic data can be taken and if illegal turns continue enforcement action will be an option. Councillors are meeting a KCC Highways Engineer in March and one of the issues to be raised is the increased speeds being recorded on the A20 between Kings Roundabout and the Open Road sign at London Road.

### Local Government reorganisation:

Cllr Gough conveyed his deep disappointment at the Government's decision to exclude Kent and Medway from the first round of devolving council authorities. It is currently expected that Kent will have Unitary Authorities by April 2028.

### Community Police Officer:

PC Caleb Guest has returned to his duties as our Community Officer and has indicated that he will be at our annual Parish Meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup> as well as our next Farningham Parish Council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> April. Recently released Kent Police statistics indicate that while the crime rate is dropping incidents of anti-social behaviour are rising in our Ward.

Kent Police are encouraging anyone with home security or a camera doorbell to sign up to the CCTV Registry to help keep the community safe. It's free, secure, quick to register and your camera footage could be used to support investigations to help bring criminals to justice. You can find out more at <https://cctvregistrykentandessex.co.uk/>

### Friends of Farningham:

Due to kick off in April, dates for 2025 are Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 1<sup>st</sup> June, 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 6<sup>th</sup> September and 4<sup>th</sup> October. New volunteers are very welcome. The group meets at 10am on the above dates at Farningham Village Hall.

Family Fun Day, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2025, Market Meadow, 10:30 to 13:30.

Everyone is welcome to join the event over the summer holiday. We will provide more details nearer the time.

#### Eynsford and Farningham Neighbourhood Area Consultation:

You may already know that Eynsford and Farningham Parish Councils have jointly applied to SDC to designate the two parishes as a Neighbourhood Area. If granted, we'll be able to develop a Neighbourhood Plan outlining a vision for the future of the parishes, along with planning policies that will guide local planning decisions. SDC is currently consulting on the application for six weeks, from Friday 14 February to Friday 28 March 2025. Find out more and take the survey at

[www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/eynsfarnnp](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/eynsfarnnp)

A Steering Group will be required for the plan with the first meeting on Thursday, 22nd May at 10am in St. Martin's Church in Eynsford. Everyone is welcome to attend to learn more about the project.

If anyone is interested in joining to help bring the plan to life please contact your parish clerk:

Holly Ivaldi (Eynsford) at [info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk)

Helen Penney (Farningham) at [clerk@farninghamparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@farninghamparishcouncil.org).

#### Visit to Farningham Cricket Club

Councillors visited Farningham Cricket Club on 26th February to meet with the club chairman, junior chairman and club captain to discuss future plans for the club which sits in the heart of Farningham, along Horton Way. Farningham Cricket Club is the first in the country to be given the ECB accreditation from Kent Cricket, which represents a club which is well-run and provides the right environment to its members. Whilst there are already thriving mens and junior teams, the club are keen to expand their adult and junior ladies teams which include an 8-11 year old girls group currently playing on a Saturday morning. There are a number of improvements the club plans to make in the coming years to modernise the clubhouse and improve accessibility - keep an eye out for upcoming events!

#### Regular updates:

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

Our next Parish Council meeting is on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm in the Shand Hall, which will have taken place by the time you read this report. Following March, our next meeting is Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025, 7pm in the Shand Hall. There is an allocation of time for public participation.