



FARNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL - Clerk to the Council: Mrs J.C. Gray,
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Farningham Parish Council met via a video link on Wednesday, 2nd September 2020, and present were seven parish councillors (including Sevenoaks District Councillor Philip McGarvey), Kent County Councillor Roger Gough and the Clerk Jane Gray.

Parish Clerk:

After 29 years in the role, our Parish Clerk, Jane Gray has announced her retirement. It goes without saying that Jane has left an indelible and positive mark on our community and we will be suitably marking her dedicated service in a future edition of Trident, as well as within the village. Jane will be leaving her post later this year and we will be looking for a successor.

Vacancy for Councillor: Cllr Ruth Hirons has also announced she will be standing down at our next meeting and we thank her for her efforts. We will be advertising for a replacement and anyone wishing to stand should contact the Clerk.

New Website:

We launched our new brand-new website on 22nd August and it has been well received. Besides including information about Farningham Parish Council and its works, it showcases the beauty of the Village and the wider Parish. There are some fantastic drone videos and images (huge thanks to James Horobin for these), a short walk around historical buildings and sights of interest and information on our Nature Reserve, Farningham Woods. There are fantastic local photographs (special thanks to Linda Cronin, Ollie Butler and Chris Bourne) and information on local businesses and societies as well as matters of general interest. The site will be kept alive with the regular addition of local news items and updates and if you have any ideas on content that could be included, please drop the Clerk a line: clerk@farninghampc.co.uk The Website was built entirely by volunteers at no cost to the Council or parishioners so special thanks to Chris Bourne who has dedicated, many, many hours to this project. Log in and see for yourselves: <https://www.farninghamparishcouncil.org/>

Electric Vehicle Charging Points:

We have expressed an interest in taking part in a project to increase the number of publicly accessible Electric Vehicle charging points in our area. Kent County Council and the Kent Association of Local Council are joining forces for this project and we will keep you informed of progress.

Roads:

Despite plenty of work being carried out to unblock gullies and drains in surrounding roads, Eynsford Road was again flooded in an August storm. KCC's Roger Gough expressed his frustration and disappointment and will be meeting local residents again. Heavy rain also exposed the poor drainage on the A20 again and Cllr Gough said he would follow up our on-going concern. Following further public representations to reduce the speed limit in Farningham High Street to 20mph, we will also see if we can persuade KCC to revisit the issue.

Policing:

Our Clerk was advised by a resident of youths loitering in London Road and this incident was one of the calls Lauren Bruce, the Police Support Officer, detailed as having attended in Farningham during August. The PCSO said she had also visited the area at different times and not seen anyone else but Patrols had been asked to keep an eye out. Kent Police's Community Safety Unit held an on-line surgery on Wednesday, September 23 via their website kent.police.uk This was advertised on our Facebook page.

Friends of Farningham:

Our hardy group continues to meet and work in various areas of the village and we planned to finish clearing the ivy from the flint wall at the end of Beesfield Lane by the end of September. We meet in October on Saturday 3rd and Wednesday 14th at 10am at Farningham Village Hall. New members always welcome; please wear strong shoes and bring your own gloves and any light gardening tools you use at home. Hi-viz jackets will be provided. Further information available from Carol Salmon, 01322 860983 or carolsalmon46@gmail.com

Relighting the River Darent:

Councillors met with Mark Gallant of the North West Kent Countryside Partnership alongside the river outside The Lion and he outlined plans for bringing more light to the river by way of trimming back overhanging tree branches. He and some volunteers have already started on the project and more work is scheduled. The invasion of plants such as Himalayan Balsam was also discussed and our new website will be dedicating a page to the work needed to protect the river and its wildlife.

Regular updates:

If you would like more regular updates from Farningham Parish Council 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. You can also be added to the list via our website. The Facebook link is www.facebook.com/farninghampc; Twitter @FarninghamPC

Next meeting:

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 7th October 2020 at 7pm and will again be conducted remotely via the Zoom website. There will be time set aside for public participation and those wishing to take part should contact the Clerk. The agenda will be posted on the noticeboard, the website and via our social media sites.

Cllr. Carol Salmon