

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham held at the
Village Hall, High Street, Farningham at 7.45pm on
Wednesday 19th July 2017**

Present: Cllr. D. Burns (Chair)
Cllr. G. Bergne
Cllr. M. Cook
Cllr. P. McGarvey (District Councillor)
Cllr. C. Salmon

Mrs. J. Gray (Clerk)

37. **Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for absence:**

1. The Chairman welcomed four Parish Councillors, PCSO Amy Hardy, two members of the public and the Clerk. The County Councillor, Roger Gough, arrived at 8.10pm.
2. Apologies had been received from the Cllr. A. McEnroe.
3. The Chairman welcomed Mr. Krishna Shanmuganathan, who had been co-opted onto the Parish Council. He signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and Declarations of Interest form which were countersigned by the Clerk.

38. **Declaration of Interests:**

The declarations of interest stood as previously recorded in May 2017. Councillors were asked to inform the Clerk should they have any changes.

39. **Policing:**

PCSO Amy Hardy introduced herself to Councillors and reported she was currently covering Farningham, along with Horton Kirby and South Darenth, but changes were expected in September 2017 so her future was unknown at present. She reported two mopeds had been used in local burglaries and asked all to be alert and report any sightings on 101. The Chair reported that the Parish Council would be discussing the proposal to implement a 20mph speed limit in the High Street and London Road and she agreed it may be possible for the Police to carry out spot checks via Speedwatch.

40. **Matters Arising and Confirmation of the Minutes of the last Meeting;**

1. It was agreed the Chairman, Cllr D. Burns, would write the report for Trident.
2. Cllr. Salmon reported the new slide on the Oliver Crescent green had proved popular. The Clerk had sent the handover documents for the new slide to Dave Boorman at SDC. Cllr Salmon confirmed the strimming around the play equipment by SDC's and Richard Abel Landscapes contractors was often poorly done, with grass cuttings left spread over the safety

surfacing. The Clerk was asked to contact both parties to report.

3. The Clerk was asked to check on the status of the renewed lease from UK Power Networks in respect of the electricity sub-station at the Village Hall.

4. The Clerk had arranged a meeting with Nikki Massiah and Will Dixon at Barclays Bank on Monday 31st July at 2.00pm. It was agreed the Chair, Cllrs McGarvey and Salmon plus the Clerk would attend.

5. The Clerk reported she had not heard back from Kent Highways regarding the request for double yellow lines to be installed along the church's flint wall and would remind.

6. The Chair confirmed that the lady who fell and broke her wrist had exited from the double doors at the front of the Village Hall. It was noted that hand rails had now been installed.

7. The Clerk reported she had received no further information regarding the deer in Farningham Woods which had attacked two dog walkers in May.

8. The minutes of the meeting held on 7th June 2017 were confirmed as correct, and signed by the Chair.

41. **County Councillor:**

Roger Gough, the County Councillor reported that Kent Highways were proposing a Consultation to include Farningham Parish and Swanley Village for installing a temporary block at the Button Street/A20 junction, in view of the history of accidents at this spot, to prevent vehicles turning right. Councillors asked him to report back on how long KHS propose to monitor the temporary installation of a barrier and suggested that he ask KHS to look at the whole stretch of road on the A20 in Farningham rather than a temporary fix at just one accident location. There is a history of accidents at all the junctions i.e at A225 Eynsford Road, and White Post Hill as well as at the Scratchers Lane junction. Also to remind KHS the last double fatal accident had occurred at the Eglantine Lane junction with the A20 therefore the Parish Council believed a joined up approach was essential.

42. **Correspondence:**

1. It was agreed the invoice for the sum of £195.00 plus VAT for grass cutting and maintenance in Alban and Oliver Crescents be settled.

2. It was agreed to settle the invoice from Lothlorien Landscapes for the third cut in the churchyard of St. Peter and St. Paul church totalling £236.00 plus VAT be settled.

3. It was agreed the sum of £200.00 be sent to Eynsford Parish Council as a contribution towards the forthcoming Family Fun Days to be held at Anthony Roper School in the summer.

4. It was agreed the invoice from Wicksteed Leisure Limited for the installation of a medium slide at a cost of £9,600.00 be settled.

5. It was agreed the invoice for £110.50 plus VAT from Sevenoaks District Council for the emptying of dog waste bins from April to June 2017 be settled.

5. Peter Knight from Mitchells and Butlers plc had written to the Clerk stating

he was sorry for the delay in replying to her letter regarding The Lion in Farningham. He had visited the site in May and was currently putting together a schedule of external repairs for tendering. At this stage it is his intention to carry out some works in the autumn however this is subject to approval. It had been noted that the Lion are currently advertising for someone to help look after the open areas, which it was hoped would continue to improve the look of this Listed Building.

6. Kathy Budgen of the Rural Kent Coffee Project had written to confirm dates that the Pop Up Café would arrive in the High Street:

Tuesdays: 15th August, 12th September, 10th October. It was agreed to try to promote this for the Project so posters would be circulated within the village in the coming weeks.

7. The Clerk was asked to obtain a copy of Public Liability Insurance from Frances Ware who had sent a list of dates for her Pilates Class to take place on Oliver Crescent Green: Friday evenings 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Friday 4th, 18th, 25th August 2017 and Friday 1st, 8th, 15th September 2017 (no class on Friday 11th August)

8. Mark Gallant at the North West Kent Countryside Partnership had confirmed his group of volunteers are too busy at present to get involved in the removal of Himalayan Balsam in the riverbed by the Lion Hotel. Therefore Cllr Bergne had done his best to remove the plants. Mark Gallant had offered his team to tidy up the Willow Trees in October 2017 and offered to try to clear the river of Himalayan Balsam next May/June 2018. He had also stated he was happy to relay his knowledge/expertise to anyone undertaking this task. Mr Steve Gray (who works with Mr Grenville Bint) has expressed his interest and it had already been agreed that up to £250.00 could be spent on the removal. It was agreed the Chair and Clerk would try to meet the new Manager at the Lion Hotel to ask if they could remove the newly grown Willow trees on their side of the river. If this was not possible Cllr Cook agreed to undertake their removal. Following advice from the Environmental Agency the Clerk had reported on their Incident Line that plants are growing across the riverbed at the Lion and could pose a flood risk.

9. The Clerk reported that Mr V Clarke has repaired the damaged seat in Irving's Corner and as he had the equipment and tools, will not charge the Parish Council for his time; Parish Councillors asked for their thanks to be conveyed to Mr. Clarke.

10. The Clerk confirmed Mr. Clarke is currently investigating the cost of the equipment to spray the flint wall at the Village Hall with weed killer, which he says would be best done on a dry day in May 2018 and which would not adversely affect wildlife or the nearby drains.

43. **Planning;**

1. The planning applications had been discussed and agreed

comments sent to Sevenoaks District Council:

SE/17/02106/PAC Quantum House, High Street Prior notification for a change of use from (A1) shop to (C3) dwelling house. This application is made under Class M of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015. No Comment

SE/17/01955/HOUSE Ross, 32 Beesfield Lane. Loft conversion into habitable space with front dormer. Alterations to side fenestration and removal of front chimney. No Comment

2. Planning Decisions:

SE/17/01270/HOUSE Holmwood, Eynsford Road Erection of a single storey front extension. Demolition of existing utility room to facilitate erection of a single storey rear extension.
Demolition of existing chimneys. GRANTED

3. Application for Consent to cut down, prune or uproot trees covered by Tree Preservation Order:

SE/17/02262/WTPO Mellow Yellow, 8 London Road Fell Beech Tree (TPO) The Clerk was asked to write to Harry Walker, Tree Officer, stating that Councillors were very concerned that this resident has again applied to have this tree removed; it was refused last time. Councillors would like to object to its removal due to loss of amenity; this is a fine tree specimen in a prominent position in our Village.

SE/17/01806/WTCA The Carriage House, Sparepenny Lane Various works to trees CA

4. Appeal Decision from Planning Inspectorate APP/G2245/W/16/3166183 and 3166873 South View, Till Avenue

These two appeals were a variation on a theme; both seeking permission for the demolition of extensions to an existing, traditionally designed 2 storey house with pitched roof to make space for a new “uncompromising” contemporary designed house. Scheme A included a large element of flat roof, with third floor accommodation under a shallow pitched roof. Scheme B was essentially the same floor plan still with flat sedum roof above second floor, but with third floor also in flat roof form.

In design terms the proposed building appears in fairly stark contrast to the character of other houses in this rural settlement, which also includes smaller bungalows. Views of the site are available from a large open green to the flank and front. The applications were refused on the grounds of detrimental impact on the street scene.

The Inspector acknowledged the existing house was clearly visible, but considered the new dwelling(s) (essentially tucked behind the existing

house and set back from the frontage) would not intrude into longer views across the green, appear unduly prominent or harm the character of the area. Because of the mixed character of the area (building age and design) the design, which would include some traditional facing materials, was not considered to appear particularly incongruous. The dwelling(s) would be set back behind a generous frontage with garden to rear, would not appear cramped and would reflect the character of the area. Parking, impact on neighbours and amenity space all considered acceptable. Interesting decision bearing in mind the very clear contrast in building design and contemporary appearance proposed.

44. **Highways, Footpaths and Street Lighting:**

1. Since Cllr. K. Shanmuganathan had written to the Clerk reporting speeding traffic in the High Street and had asked if a 20mph speed limit could be imposed, a further three letters of support to this proposal had been obtained from High Street residents. Mrs Garland, in attendance, and Cllr. Shanmuganathan agreed to knock on doors to try to obtain further support which would be sent to the Clerk. The County Councillor, Roger Gough, had also indicated he would support the proposal. Cllr. McGarvey agreed to draft a proposal for the JTB which next meets in September.
2. The Clerk was asked to contact Nicky Biddall, Kent Rights of Way Officer, to report there are Willow trees fallen to chest height along the Darent Valley Path, beyond the M20 bridge, towards Horton Kirby.
3. Denise Roffey of the Kent Rights of Way and Access Service had written stating that following a period of formal consultation and having considered all responses, the County Council has made an Order to prohibit access to all motor vehicles (excluding quadricycles and motorcycles) between the 1st October and 30th April annually and at additional times in the event of heavy rainfall, in response to the Met Office's yellow weather warning for rain. Barriers will be used to enforce the restriction over the entire width and length of Public Byway SD192.
4. The Clerk was asked to write again to Sgt. Ballard to request the crash statistics from 1st July 2015 to 31 December 2016 stating the Parish Council is very concerned that this stretch of road, deemed the most dangerous in Kent, is within our Parish and hopes to be able to persuade Kent Highways to take some action. The County Councillor was also pursuing this data via Kent Highways.

45. **Appointment of and Reports from representatives on other bodies:**

1. Cllr. K. Shanmuganathan agreed to represent the Parish Council on Transport matters.
 2. The Chair agreed to represent the Parish Council on the School Safety Campaign.
 3. The Chair and Cllr. Salmon would represent the Parish Council on the Village Hall Committee.
- An updated list of representatives is attached to the Minutes (Appendix 1)

46.

Finance:

1. Members resolved to authorise the Schedule of Payments.
2. The Chair reported that as the meeting had been held two weeks later in July the Clerk's pay was twenty days after the end of the month. It was agreed she set up a Standing Order so that in future salary would be made on the 25th of each Calendar month.

Signed **Wednesday 6th September 2017**

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm. The next meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham will be held at 7.45 pm. on Wednesday 6th September 2017.

**Appointment of Parish Council Representatives on Local Organisations for
Farningham Parish Council Year 2017 to 2018**

1. Planning (Chairman: Cllr G Bergne)
2. Footpaths, Highways and Lighting (All Cllrs)
3. Darent River Preservation Society (Cllr G Bergne)
4. Age Concern (Vacancy)
5. Charity of Anthony Roper (Mr. P. Doye, Mrs Staples, Mrs. Gould, Mrs L. Mullins)
6. Solomon Cox Charity (Mrs H Goldsworthy, The Rector, Cllr. P. McGarvey) Plans to change this charity to run via Anthony Roper School with an additional three representatives from the school were underway)
7. Kent Association of Local Councils - Sevenoaks Branch, (Cllr. P. McGarvey)
8. Council for the Protection of Rural England (Cllr G Bergne)*
9. Correspondent for Trident (Cllrs D Burns)
10. Farningham Village Hall Management Committee (Cllr Mrs D Burns and Cllr C Salmon)
11. Representative on Transport Matters (Cllr. K Shanmuganathan)
12. Tree Warden (Vacancy)
13. Brands Hatch Liaison Group (Cllr Mrs D Burns/Cllr P McGarvey)
14. Responsibility for website (Mr. Gale)
15. Darent Valley Consortium (Cllrs D Burns and P McGarvey)
16. Darent Valley Hospital Trust (Vacancy)
17. Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme (Cllrs G Bergne and Cllr P McGarvey)
18. School Safety Campaign (Cllr. D Burns)