

FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2017 AT 7.30 P.M. IN FARNHAM ROYAL VILLAGE HALL

Present

Mr. Bob Milne (In the Chair) Mr. Paul Rowley
Mr. Roger Home Mr. Clive Robinson
Mr. Brian Bilgorri Mrs. Judy Tipping
Mrs. Vicky Thompson
Mrs. Hilda Holder – Clerk

Twenty members of the public including County Councillor Hazell and District Councillors Lewis and Anthony.

Mr. Milne declared the meeting open at 7.30pm. The meeting was adjourned for OPEN FORUM noted at the end of these minutes. Mr. Milne reconvened the meeting.

16/172/PC Apologies for absence

Mr. Trevor Clapp, Mr. John Hodges, Mrs. Marilyn Rolfe, Mr. Richard Thomas and District Councillor Dhillon.

16/173/PC Minutes of the meetings held on 23rd January 2017

These were **approved** and signed by Mr. Milne.

16/174/PC Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

174.1 The Clerk had written to the BCC Local Area Technician (LAT) and the County Councillor to enquire what was happening regarding the Mayflower Way footways but was still awaiting a response.

174.2 Mr. Home advised that two quotes had been received relating to the tender for hedging and siding out. Both contractors had been interviewed and one was being given a few more days to revise figures owing to a misunderstanding by them of what was involved. A decision would be taken by the end of the week. Mr. Milne added that an application had been made for match funding from the BCC Local Area Forum (LAF) but this had been turned down as devolved services were taken on 'as seen'.

174.3 The Clerk had spoken to the LAT about the need for a soak away outside Mr. Ball's house but would seek a formal response in writing.

174.4 Mr. Milne noted that complaints were still being received from neighbours about the overgrown hedge at Walnut Tree House on One Pin Lane. Mr. Home would discuss this with the LAT at a meeting next week.

174.5 Mr. Milne advised that the LAF had decided to remove funding for traffic calming measures from its funding criteria for 2018. He was trying to clarify whether environment issues would remain on the criteria.

174.6 Mr. Milne noted that the Council's response to the application relating to Langtons House should be similar the response submitted regarding Holly House.

174.7 Mr. Robinson said he was still pursuing the issue of the removal of yellow lines outside sainsburys. BCC had not advised the Council of any site visits and had concluded only part of the yellow lines could be removed. Mr. Robinson had clarified our views on this and advised BCC in writing.

174.8 Mr. Milne reported the website was complete and live. He was impressed with it and thanked Mr. Thomas, the Clerk and the website designer, Candoo, for their efforts.

16/175/PC To receive a report from the Farnhams Magazine

175.1 Mr. Jerry Houdret gave a report explaining the changes in the Magazine which had taken place in the last two years – namely the huge increase in circulation from 8,000 to 17,000 copies annually, the better quality and now free product and professional distribution - and the financial needs it had. The Parish Council funded £3,500 in 2012 and 2013, and £3,250 annually until the 2015/2016 year. The magazine had made a £1000 surplus in each of the years 2014 and 2015 which they had given to the Charles Warner Trust. The team running the Magazine felt that it needed one year's operating costs to be kept in reserve. The plan was to make a 10% to 15% surplus every year to add to the reserve until the target was met. They currently had £20,229.80 in the running cash account, which represented the accumulated funds at 31/12/2016 and was subject to all outstanding advertising invoices being paid.

175.2 Mr. Milne confirmed that the Council was keen to support the Magazine but expressed concern that the Council had not been given copies of audited accounts over the years and Mr. Houdret agreed to send the records for 2015.

175.3 Mr. Milne noted that the records for 2016 currently showed a deficit at the end of year of £1,833 notwithstanding the sum of £1,500 granted in 2015 being shown in the 2016 records. So in their financial year 2016 the Magazine had made a loss of £3,333. Mr. Houdret agreed. However he did point out that should all expected sums for 2016/2017 be forthcoming the figures would look different, and that his expectation with PC support was for ongoing profits along the lines his predictions for the future hoped to achieve.

175.4 In the future the Magazine team would be requesting a fixed figure of £4,000pa which they were confident would meet future needs. If this was not possible there was every chance the Magazine would fold. They also needed more people to join the team especially as editors.

175.5 Mr. Home added that the magazine would be added to the Council's website going forward.

16/176/PC To consider work on ROW footpaths:

176.1 **It was agreed** to increase the number of cuts to the Rights of Way Footpaths under the devolution contract from three to four per annum at an additional cost this year of £260 plus vat.

176.2 Mr. Milne noted that since the last meeting and pursuant to contact made via the Clerk to BCC, sending in a residents' petition, BCC had now advised that the costs of adding 'planings' to Footpath 4 at Barn Close would be about £4,000 and suggesting the Council apply to the LAF for match funding. Further enquiry revealed BCC had not understood the footpath was tarmacked and had only undertaken a desk exercise. Mr. Home said that he had taken a close look at the path recently and he felt the best solution was just to clear off the debris that had accumulated and that more tarmac was not the best solution. He said he was willing to co-ordinate a community working party to restore this footpath.

16/177/PC To arrange training for use of the defibrillators

Mr. Bilgorri advised that he had heard no more from Lloyds and it was decided to pursue the offer from Ashford Kitchens or the Pub next door to place the defibrillator on their wall. It was emphasized that the landlord's consent should be obtained in writing. Training dates for anyone who wanted to attend were discussed and a sum of £100 **agreed** to be donated to the ambulance service.

16/178/PC Temple Dell:

178.1 Mr. Milne thanked Helen Read for producing an excellent plan which had been examined by the Open Spaces working group. **It was agreed** to adopt the Temple Dell Management Plan.

178.2 Certain actions had been listed in the Management Plan. **It was agreed** to remove the old sign, replant the eastern boundary and fruiting hedge and pursue the other actions to be considered. Mr. Robinson added that the intention was to put up new signage but that this would depend on the other actions that needed further consideration.

178.3 Mr. Milne reported that £3,000 had been received from the developers of Farnham Lodge neighbouring Temple Dell and a quote for £1,835 had been received for work along the boundary and fruiting hedge. **It was agreed** to approve the quote to undertake works to the boundary with Farnham Lodge and the fruiting hedge. This would take place in the Autumn.

178.4 **It was agreed** to approve the wayleave agreement with SSE, needed to provide electricity to the Farnham Lodge site and its neighbours and authorise Mr. Milne to sign the same. It was noted however that the Council was awaiting satisfactory confirmation as to the situation with the boundary trees and fence alongside Farnham Lodge before releasing the signed Wayleave for completion.

16/179/PC To receive an update on the Guide Hut site

Mr. Rowley confirmed he would be meeting with FCSC later that week to discuss access issues. He noted that the Guides had now been given total ownership of the youth club in Hedgerley and it was expected that this should go through in March.

16/180/PC To receive an update on Kingsway Green

Mrs. Thompson advised that she had sent out a design brief for comment and would be sending this to landscapers for ideas shortly.

16/182/PC To nominate two trustees for co-option to the Farnham Royal Charities

Mr. Clapp and Mr. Robinson – who had served for the last four years - were nominated as the two trustees from the Council to continue for a further four years. **This was agreed.**

16/183/PC To receive a report on the state of the war memorial

Mr. Robinson and Mrs. Tipping had circulated a report on both war memorials and didn't think anything needed doing urgently – just some minor cosmetic work. They would be pursuing quotes.

16/184/PC To receive a report from the Burnham Beeches Consultative group

Mr. Milne advised he attended the last Burnham Beeches Consultative Committee

meeting and heard a report from Andy Barnard reviewing usage of the Beeches before and after the dog control orders. He said dog walkers had been at that meeting and some had spoken in favour of dog orders. Mr. Barnard will be attending the Annual Parish Meeting on 6th March and the next Council meeting on 27th March to answer questions. Dog control orders will lapse under new government legislation and the City of London will be applying for new Public Space Protection Orders and undertaking another consultation process. Mr. Morgan asked to speak from the floor and commented that the report produced in 2014/15 was flawed and incoherent and asked if the Council's position was simply to accept everything it was told. Mr. Milne said we would be consulted and would comment in due course.

16/185/PC To approve the costs of implementing works required by the Arboricultural report.

Mr. Milne reported that quotes had been received from our regular maintenance contractor to undertake the work required under the Arboricultural report on Boundary copse for £700 plus Vat and in Ingrams Copse for £1,400 plus Vat. It was noted that £250 of this was to clear away holly bushes alongside 109 Langtons Meadow as a gesture of goodwill and without prejudice.

16/186/PC Finance:

186.1 Payments and receipts, as per the cashbook circulated prior to the meeting were **approved.**

186.2 The Clerk noted that the website designer's bill included an additional sum of £50 for further work undertaken to install mailchimp and a licence fee of £35pa to incorporate a more professional calendar system.

186.3 The Clerk had received a quote for a computer expert to attend councilor's homes over two evenings to ensure they had properly setup their email accounts. It was agreed that councilors who needed this should make private arrangements.

16/187/PC Planning

187.1 Planning comments submitted since the last meeting were **approved.**

187.2 Planning decisions were noted.

187.3 Mr. Rowley noted that the way Slough Borough Council had formulated the consultation questions in the Slough Local Plan Issues and Options consultation were to invite general support for their housing needs. It was inappropriate to try and answer them but to base our answers on our issues. Having looked at South Bucks and Chiltern District Councils' draft response he felt our response should support their stance that they had recently undertaken their own Local Plan consultations which had tested Green Belt spaces and had not released the Green Belt land on the boundary with Slough notwithstanding their own unmet housing needs. In addition we would emphasise the unique character of Farnham Royal and the need for a buffer zone from Slough. He had circulated a draft response he had prepared which would be put on the website.

County Councillor Hazell noted Slough had attempted a land grab before and it was up

to SBDC to knock them back. She felt this was a desk job just testing to see reactions. District Councillor David Anthony agreed. He added that SBDC were in the final stages of agreeing their own Local plan and none of the land identified by Slough in the J1 option is marked for release. Indeed it was the fundamental purpose of this land to protect against such encroachment.

16/188/PC Any Other Business

188.1 Mr. Bilgorri was concerned about the litter at Dorney Bottom following residents' complaints. The Clerk was asked to formally request a response from SBDC and our District Councillors.

188.2 Mr. Robinson said he had met with the local PCSO regarding speedwatch. He confirmed that the LAF had agreed to buy a sentinel device if sufficient volunteers were on board.

188.3 Mr. Robinson noted the LED lights were being rolled out and looked nicer than the previous lampheads.

188.4 Mr. Robinson noted that the virgin media cabling work seemed to be being undertaken sensitively.

188.5 Mrs. Tipping would liaise with the Clerk about name/s for the Wyevale redevelopment road and circulate for comment.

16/189/PC Next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.45pm. The next Council meeting would be on 27th March 2017 at 7.30pm at Farnham Common Village Hall. The Annual Parish Meeting will be at 8pm on Monday 6th March at Farnham Royal Village Hall

NOTES from the public open forum of the meeting

Mr. Chris Higgs of Christmas Lane referred to the planning application by the owners of Farm Cottage to build 3 six bedroom dwellings. He was concerned about the size and proportion of these dwellings on the relatively small piece of land. He believed over 20 objections had been submitted.

Mrs. Tipping expressed concern about the interference to the natural water courses which flow into Burnham Beeches which will cause problems there and noted the owners had already put in a new access road and cut down a beautiful oak tree.

Lester Gleeson of Christmas Lane said the scale of the drawings did not seem accurate and was concerned that further development might be applied for.

Mr. Milne said the Council had made comments about amenity before hearing from residents and the time limit for responses had expired. If residents wished it might be possible to add to our previous comments at the discretion of the planning authority and the Clerk was instructed to do so. He added that the matter would go to planning committee if more than 10 objections had been submitted so residents had done all they

could.

Mr. Ron Whiting raised the issue of the Slough expansion plan and advised he had been doing a leaflet drop. He said people had been asking how long the Council had known about it.

Ms. Sue Davey of Burnham Park Lane said she had not heard about it until three days ago.

Ms. Joanne Hodgson of East Burnham Lane said she believed the date for responding had been extended until the end of March. The Clerk was asked to check and put the correct information on the Council website.

Mr. Peter Wilkinson of Farnham Lane asked if the Council was going to formally respond.

Mr. Milne replied that the Council had drafted a response which would be sent on Thursday. The Clerk would put the draft response on the website. He added that the first the Council knew was when Stoke Poges Parish Council called a meeting about it in early February. He noted that the Stoke Poges PC chairman was also Leader of South Bucks District Council and would most likely have become aware of it through that route.

Mr. Cottrell of Foxhollow Drive referred to the planning application at number 9 Foxhollow Drive and noted that although it refers to it being a side extension, in fact the extension was in itself bigger than the existing house.

This concludes the meeting.