

FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 24th APRIL 2017 AT 7.30 P.M. IN FARNHAM ROYAL VILLAGE HALL

Present

Mr. Trevor Clapp (Chairman)	Mr. Richard Thomas
Mrs. Marilyn Rolfe	Mrs. Vicky Thompson
Mr. Bob Milne	Mr. John Hodges
Mr. Roger Home	Mr. Clive Robinson
Mrs. Judy Tipping	Mr. Paul Rowley
Mrs. Hilda Holder – Clerk	

Six members of the public including County Councillor Hazell and District Councillors Anthony and Dhillon.

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

17/14/PC Apologies for absence

Mr. Brian Bilgorri.

17/15/PC Minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2017

These were **approved** and signed by the Chairman.

17/16/PC Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

16.1 Mr. Milne asked the Clerk for an update on items 9.2 and 9.3. The Clerk would email Mr. Milne after the meeting.

16.2 Mrs. Thompson had not received the raw data from the parish plan survey. The Clerk would send it again to her. The Chairman suggested that Councillors could volunteer to address each topic from the survey and report back to future meetings. Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Tipping agreed to deal with the 'Village Life' topic and report back to the next meeting.

17/17/PC To receive a presentation by Heather Smith on behalf of dog walkers

17.1 Mrs. Smith explained she lived close to Burnham Beeches and had been walking her dogs there for over 15 years. She wanted to express an alternative to the proposals set out by Andy Barnard which she believed would be better for all and reduce anti-social behavior. She said she represented a group of dog walkers who agree with all the policies relating to dogs set out by Andy Barnard on behalf of the City of London except one.

17.2 They believed that the wrong areas had been chosen where dogs should be allowed off leads. This was based on the statistics she had gathered over the course of a year based on usage. She said dog walkers would like the area around the Common and the ponds (the most popular areas) to be where dogs should be kept on lead or alternatively on lead between 11am and 5pm. She had set up a petition which already had 300 signatures. She added that she would like to see the City of London take a stronger line

on the issue of dog fouling.

17.3 Mrs. Rolfe noted that families were still using the Common at 5pm so perhaps 6 or 7pm might be a better end time. Mr. Milne noted that the Common was one of the only areas dog walkers could throw balls to their dogs. He added he would like to see at least one of the wilder areas as being an 'on lead' area so non- dog walkers could take their families there without fear of dogs on the loose. Mrs. Thompson said families including her own were terrified of the dogs running loose on the Common area. Mr. Thomas added he had observed groups of dog walkers meeting at the café and letting their large group of dogs run off unsupervised around the Common. Mr. Home commented on the lack of dog bins – some areas had none.

17.4 Mrs. Smith was asked to submit her written proposal to the Clerk and the matter would be put on the next agenda for debate as to whether and what to comment on the current consultation.

17/18/PC To consider a request from the Farnhams Magazine for the Parish Council to contribute a fixed sum of £4,000 per annum

18.1 The Chairman introduced this matter. He said several years ago – to help facilitate what had turned out to be very successful changes to the Magazine he had brought back to Council the need for the Council to underwrite additional costs. His view had been that the magazine committee were trying to create a product that would be as self-funding as possible and that a flexible partnership approach had been agreed. He noted that the Council had always been prepared to support the magazine by substantial amounts and that no other parish in South Bucks did this in their parishes.

18.2 Mr. Rowley supported the concept that the Magazine should seek to be self-funding as a target although there should be no time limit on that and the Council should continue to support the magazine during the transition to that position.

18.3 Mr. Hodges confirmed that the principle had always been that we would top up the Magazine's finances with a fixed sum and review the position at the end of the year.

18.4 Mr. Home emphasized the importance of the Magazine as a communications tool for the Council and in enhancing community spirit. He noted that the Magazine was run by volunteers who worked hard and he believed the volunteers would find the debate and recent criticisms very demotivating.

18.5 Mr. Houdret made the point that he was business manager for the Magazine and needed to run it as a business with autonomous control - that is without having to plead its case to the Council every year and having its books examined. He felt that without a fixed sum the Magazine would fold.

18.6 Mrs. Thompson said that everyone supported the Magazine and appreciated the hard work undertaken by the volunteers but the principles on which it is supported by the Council need clarifying. She asked if there might come a time when the Magazine did not need Council funding and if so when should the funding be reviewed.

18.7 Mr. Hodges added that it was important that the Council did not just give a blank cheque but - as in the past - it was necessary to control costs.

18.8 Mr. Milne added that he did not ever think that the Council had tried to take away

the Magazine's autonomy and was dispirited to hear that was the Magazine's view. The Chairman noted that the request to see the Magazine's accounts had been made to understand the extent of the losses the Council were being asked to underwrite as part of the partnership approach. What had changed was the current request to return to a fixed sum approach. In response to a question from Mr. Milne, Mr. Houdret confirmed that the core funds/reserves would need to grow at the start of each year as contingent costs grew.

18.9 Mr. Houdret requested and **it was agreed** that a fixed sum of £4,000 would be granted to the Magazine in the Council's financial years 2017/18 and 2018/19. However Mr. Houdret then offered to review funding requirements in April 2018 when accounts would be provided by the Magazine committee. It was not clear if the review would be in relation to funding for 2018/19 or 2019/20.

17/19/PC Update on Guide Hut site

Mr. Rowley reported that although the Guides were still to formally terminate their lease it was fairly certain they would do so. This allowed the Council greater freedom as to what use to put the site to. He and Mr. Clapp proposed to review all parish 'assets', talk to local stakeholders and present a paper to Councillors in due course with a view to considering long term plans and aspirations.

17/20/PC To consider and adopt a new communications policy

The Clerk had prepared a new communications policy – partly to clarify the role of the Clerk and Councillors. **This was approved** subject to adding a paragraph on the role of the Chairman which the Clerk would agree with Mr. Hodges.

17/21/PC To consider a contribution of £500 towards a free community event in Burnham Beeches organised by F &H Community Church

This was approved. Mrs. Thompson anticipated that 300 people would attend and the date was likely to be 16th July.

17/22/PC Finance:

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

17/23/PC Planning

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

23.2 Planning decisions were noted.

17/24/PC Any Other Business

24.1 The Chairman recommended more Councillors attended SBALC which was a very useful forum. He had become aware through SBALC:-

24.1.1 of Heathrow's expansion plans which could affect the parish. Mr. Home noted that routes were not yet defined.

24.1.2 that the District Council were undertaking a review of all their assets.

- 24.1.3 that the recent Local Plan revisions would all be re-addressed following the general election with another review of green belt in the area
- 24.1.4 that the unitary authority decision would probably not be made known until after the general election
- 24.1.5 that other parishes seemed to be making greater progress in the police and parking issues than we were. The Clerk would chase the police on this.
- 24.2 The Chairman noted that following a recent clear up at FCSC a dog bin had been dug up and needed re-positioning. He had instructed the Clerk to let our contractor agree its new position with FCSC.
- 24.3 The Chairman noted that the roots of the tree which fell into someone's garden last year needed removing. The Clerk would ask our contractor for a quote.
- 24.4 The Chairman said that he had agreed to take on 6 trestle tables and stacking chairs from Hedgerley to be stored in the office.
- 24.5 The Clerk confirmed she had referred the issue of the kerb near the former Green man to TfB.
- 24.6 Mrs. Thompson said she was still trying to clarify who owned Kingsway Green with Cllr. Hazell.
- 24.7 Mr. Milne asked the Clerk to pursue the possibility of taking the lease of Parish Woods from BCC.
- 24.8 Mr. Robinson was concerned about what should be done about the ivy on trees in FCSC and it was agreed this should be put on the next agenda for the open spaces working group.
- 24.9 Mr. Robinson noted that the metal sign on Temple Dell was agreed to be removed but was still there. The Clerk would refer the matter to our contractor.
- 24.10 Mr. Robinson volunteered to attend the devolution training session organized by SLCC for 7th June in Stratford on Avon.
- 24.11 Mrs. Tipping said she was having difficulty speaking to anyone at SBDC about the war memorial. The Chairman asked the Clerk to forward copies of the SBALC meeting minutes where the matter was raised. The Clerk said that she would work closely with Mrs. Tipping to resolve the issues.

17/25/PC Next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.30pm. The next Council meeting would be the Annual Meeting of the Council on 22nd May 2017 at 7.30pm at Farnham Common Village Hall.

NOTES from the public open forum of the meeting

Derek Hussey of Ashenden Walk thanked the Council for its assistance in facilitating Virgin Media to be able to lay cable along Ashenden Walk. He noted they had cut through BT cables which were only 2 inches below the surface. Issues of liability were ongoing. Mr. Hodges noted that no cable could be laid in Stewarts Drive as the City of London were not forthcoming with their approval.

Cllr. Dhillon noted that the planning committee had refused the Farm Cottage application although he was shocked that the County had approved the felling of trees on

Collinswood Road. He also noted that the committee had refused the Phil Whitaker application going against the recommendation of the planning officer. Mr. Houdret added that McCarty and Stone had agreed changes to accommodate the neighbouring site which the church had be grateful for.

This concludes the meeting.