

FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 22ND JANUARY 2018 AT 7.30 P.M. IN FARNHAM COMMON VILLAGE HALL

Present

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

Four members of the public including District Councillors Dev Dhillon and David Anthony.

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.

18/01/PC Apologies for absence

Mr. Richard Thomas, Mrs. Vicky Thompson, Mr. Bill Baker, Mr. Clive Robinson, County Councillor Lin Hazell and District Councillor Marlene Lewis.

18/02/PC Minutes of the meeting held on 27th November 2017

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

18/03/PC Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

3.1 Mr. Milne asked about the yellow lines in Victoria Road. The Clerk had written to BCC but would chase.

3.2 Mr. Milne enquired about the lamppost in Langtons Meadow. The Clerk explained that SSE needed to reconnect the light before the old stump was removed. They had been scheduled to do that in December but the work had not been done and she was chasing.

3.3 Mr. Milne noted the fallen tree had still not been removed near the FCSC entrance. The Clerk would ask our contractor to attend again. She added that a land registry search had not been able to identify the owner of the area where the tree had fallen.

3.4 The Chairman noted that he wished to set a date for a public meeting after residents had been notified via the Farnhams Magazine. It was agreed not to wait until the June edition but to place a flyer for distribution with the March edition. This would need producing by 15th February. Mr. Home was asked to find out costs and a budget of £500 **was approved** for the cost of production and distribution of the flyer.

18/04/PC To approve the costs of publishing and distributing the Parish Plan

The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had met with Lucid but the costs of printing and distribution were not yet available. He asked for a budget of £3,000 to allow the printing and distribution to take place. **This was agreed.**

18/05/PC To agree progressing LAF funded projects

5.1 Mr. Milne clarified that the proposal submitted to the LAF was asking for 10 metres of extra parking with either bollards or a raised kerb alongside and 10 metres of double yellow lines with an extension of the fence so that could not be used for parking.

5.2 Mr. Milne was concerned about the footway on the west side of the A355 to the north of the 50mph sign in Farnham Common. This was not within our devolution contract remit and had suffered long term neglect making it impassable. **It was agreed** this was another possible project to put to the LAF.

5.3 **It was agreed** to support item 7 below as a LAF project in priority to item 5.2 above if necessary.

18/06/PC To consider next steps in the re-design of Kingsway Green

6.1 A resident had offered £1,000 to fund a bench around the Golden Oak tree on Kingsway Green. **It was agreed** to accept the offer and to budget a further £500 from Council funds to ensure a robust bench is chosen and installed.

6.2 In the absence of Mr. Baker, the Chairman reported that he had drafted a letter to go out to eight local landscape designers inviting them to suggest some ideas within a three week timescale. From those that respond the working group could select three and pay them to develop designs within a month on the understanding the Council would be free to pick and choose from the designs suggested. The Chairman recommended a budget of £3,000 to progress to that stage. Mr. Baker was working with Mr. Whiting to finalise a brief and the Clerk should wait for that brief before sending the draft letter. The process and budget of £3,000 **were approved**.

18/07/PC To agree to support installing a footway between Scotlands Drive and Southmead surgery

Mr. Milne had met with the TfB Local Area Technician who said that approximately 50 yards of bank would need removing. **It was agreed** that this was a project the Council would support and that Mr. Milne should put it forward for LAF funding.

18/08/PC To agree delegation of certain matters to Open Spaces working group

8.1 **It was agreed** that the Open Spaces Working Group should have authority going forward to agree the costs and the contractor necessary to undertake work required under the Arboricultural reports undertaken each year.

8.2 **It was agreed** to instruct our preferred contractor to remove a fallen tree and surrounding vegetation near the tennis hut on FCSC.

18/09/PC Finance

9.1 Payments as per the cashbook circulated prior to the meeting were **approved** for payment. Receipts were noted as per the cashbook.

9.2 Mr. Hodges noted that the Litter pickers had not had any increase in their rate of pay for several years and having regard to the real living wage debate he recommended that their hourly rate be increased from £8 to £9 per hour. **This was agreed**.

9.3 Mr. Hodges noted that the Finance Committee had been unable to reach agreement about the need to forecast for future project funding. Mr. Clapp added by way of background that the Council was making a surplus over budget each year and the

debate was whether to reduce that surplus by redirecting it to forward funding capital projects which had never been done before. It was his belief that this was the best way forward. Mr. Rowley said the challenge was finding volunteers to push a project forward. It was noted that more should be done to push projects along more quickly and the Clerk was asked to ensure regular agenda items on this. The Chairman made a plea for more parishioners to step forward to assist.

9.4 **It was agreed** that the Precept for 2018/19 be increased by £10,000 to £148,000 to ensure that the Parish Council could continue with undertaking devolution responsibilities should the subsidy from BCC be withdrawn as feared.

18/10//PC Planning

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

10.2 Planning decisions were noted.

10.3 The Chairman expressed grave concern about the appalling way the most recent Dippingwell application had been handled by SBDC. In particular, despite the Council having been very vocal at the previous planning committee meeting and having lodged an objection, neither the Council nor residents had been notified that the application had gone to planning committee nor been given a right to attend and speak. This appeared to be due to the fact that Council comments are not treated as objections which count towards making up the ten objections needed to trigger a referral. There were 9 resident objectors and if the Council had been counted it would have made the difference. The referral was actually made by an officer and this did not require them to notify anyone. The Chairman encouraged councillors to object as residents when they felt a matter should be referred to Planning Committee.

10.4 Mr. Anthony apologised about the procedures currently adopted. He had spoken to the head of planning but there appeared to be no enthusiasm for change as there was concern over limited resources. The Clerk encouraged him to champion a change of policy at this time when SBDC were amalgamating with CDC. He said he would look into it and would be happy to ask for a referral to planning committee on any case we feel strongly about in future.

10.5 Mrs. Rolfe enquired what could be done when contractors created a nuisance during building. The Chairman said it was our regular stance to ask for a construction management plan to be in place but everything depended on an efficient enforcement department and conditions were very hard to enforce. There might be redress by way of the environment or highways departments. The police would be willing to attend to deal with obstructions or aggressive behaviour.

10.6 The Chairman expressed ongoing frustration with the lack of enforcement against blatant transgressions of advertising consent at two sites on Templewood Lane by developers.

10.7 Mr Rowley enquired if there was any news about the car wash. There was none.

10.8 The Chairman noted that the next step for the neighbourhood plan was to send out a letter to three consultants asking them for the route to take to develop a Plan, the benefits of one and to quote for costs. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the Chairman to send out such a letter.

18/11/PC Any Other Business

11.1 Mrs. Tipping asked what could be done about neighbours who have very bright lights outside their property. It was suggested that the environment department might be able to help.

11.2 Mrs. Rolfe was concerned about drainage issues along the Broadway particularly by the tyre garage. Mr. Milne said a request had been put in to the LAF but the Council

had been told it was not a LAF project. Mr. Home noted that there were only 4 drain emptying vehicles for the whole of the County. The Chairman said all that could be done was to keep chasing BCC to undertake the works either with joint funding or wholly funded by the Council.

11.3 Mr. Milne noted that there were overgrown hedges down Templewood Lane and One Pin Lane which needed cutting back under the Devolution contract. Mr. Hodges confirmed that decisions could be taken to proceed with such works without referring them back to Council as they were items of routine maintenance.

11.4 Mr. Milne noted that the footpath at FCSC had not been sided out yet. The Clerk was asked to chase out contractor.

11.5 Mr. Milne was progressing with meetings with our contractor regarding improving the maintenance of St Mary's churchyard. Where works were found to fall outside of the Council's contract he would be getting quotes to bring back to a future meeting.

11.6 Mr. Home encouraged councillors to take a look at the Heathrow expansion consultation.

11.7 The Chairman noted that there had been strong feelings expressed by parishioners about parking on verges. The Clerk had written to TfB who had responded that they do not promote anything to stop parking on verges but noted that Amersham Town Council had installed verge posts with their approval. The Chairman would pursue TfB to request some role in approving such posts perhaps with delegated authority if possible and bring the matter back to a future meeting.

18/12/PC Next meeting

The meeting closed at 9pm. The next meeting would be on Monday 26th February 2018 at 7.30pm at Farnham Royal Village Hall.

NOTES from the public open forum of the meeting

Cllr. Dev Dhillon reported that he had received a letter from Land and Partners about developing land in the area. He would not meet them on his own but would be happy to attend any meeting called by the council. The Chairman said in order to have some say at a pre-planning stage the Council had agreed to hold a public meeting. Two parcels of land were now being proposed to be developed.

Cllr. Dhillon added that a consultation was being held in Burnham on 3rd February about Heathrow Expansion and he would recommend as many attended as possible.

This concludes the meeting.