

FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 26th FEBRUARY 2018 AT 7.30 P.M. IN FARNHAM ROYAL 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	Mr. Richard Thomas
Mrs. Vicky Thompson	Mr. Clive Robinson
Mrs. Hilda Holder – Clerk	

Thirty Two members of the public including District Councillors Dev Dhillon and Marlene Lewis.

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.

18/13/PC Apologies for absence

Mr. Bill Baker, County Councillor Lin Hazell and District Councillor David Anthony.

18/14/PC Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January 2018

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

18/15/PC Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

There were none.

18/16/PC To agree recommendations of Open Spaces working group

16.1 A tree safety management policy **was adopted** subject to some minor amendments which Mr. Milne and the Clerk would resolve outside the meeting.

16.2 A quote of £6,400 **was approved** for all works identified under the recent Arboricultural report.

16.3 Mr. Milne reported that a neighbour in Mayflower Way had alleged that two trees on FCSC were damaging his fence. The Council's arboriculturalist had said that although the trees were still viable they had been badly managed by someone unknown and were not attractive. **It was agreed** to allow the neighbour to remove the trees at his own expense as he had offered to do.

16.4 Mr. Milne reported that two quotes had been received to repair the footpath at St Mary's churchyard. The lower quote **was accepted**.

16.5 Mr. Milne noted that attempts to reinstate accesses to Ingrams Copse and Boundary Copse were ongoing and would be deferred to a future meeting.

16.6 Mr. Milne reported that a resident had complained about the mud around the rear of the tennis court which made it difficult to walk around the sports field. It appeared that the French drain needed repair. It was **agreed** that Mr. Milne should work with FCSC to identify the work that needed doing and bring the issue back to a future meeting if

necessary.

16.7 Mr. Milne reported that there was a need to remove a tree stump and other vegetation at the rear of the tennis courts near the tennis hut on the boundary at FCSC. A quote of £1,200 had been obtained. The Clerk was asked to obtain another quote and Mr. Thomas would look into whether any other work could be carried out at the same time.

16.8 Mr. Milne had considered instructing the arboriculturalist to map out trees at FCSC but felt this should wait two years for his next visit.

16.9 Mr. Milne reported that the arboriculturalist had recommended works to the cricket club hedge in Farnham Royal. Quotes had been obtained but the Clerk was asked to wait until BCC responded before proceeding to have any works done. The Clerk was given **approval** to agree the lower quote pending BCC's response.

16.10 Mr. Milne said he had received two complaints about vegetation overgrowth on the verge on Blackpond Lane at the rear of Hill Place. **It was agreed** to ask the council's contractor to take back the vegetation by one metre.

16.11 Mr. Milne had identified additional work that needed undertaking at St Mary's over and above what our contractor could be expected to do. Two quotes had been received for this and **it was agreed** to proceed with the cheaper quote.

18/17/PC To receive updates relating to capital projects and to agree any action

17.1 Kingsway Green- the Clerk noted that the decision to put in a circular bench around the red oak could not be implemented without considering the poppies planted around it by the scouts. This had come as a surprise as it had been understood they would be planted around the flagpole. **It was agreed** to defer reconsideration of the offer of the circular tree bench to the design stage of Kingsway Green.

17.2 Play areas – Mr. Robinson reported that the manufacturers had visited and advised that the gyrospriral at Farnham Royal play area had been installed correctly but that it was in need of repair or a new update was available. They had provided a quote and recommended that wet pour surfacing be installed. **It was agreed** to accept the quote received for the replacement part and wetpour surfacing.

17.3 LAF projects – Mr. Milne reported that he had met with BCC about future projects for LAF funding. They had turned down the submitted bids for drainage and footway repair projects but were willing to consider three areas of dropped kerbs in Langtons Meadow. They did not agree that one was needed on the A355 near the Green Man. Mrs. Tipping said she would provide a contact detail for the lady who had concerns about that area so that Mr. Milne could put this case to BCC again. On the issue of extending parking on the Broadway, BCC had said they would not extend the pedestrian guard rail which Mr. Milne would pursue with BCC.

18/18/PC Devolution contract - To review our policy on illegal signage

This was deferred to a future meeting.

18/19/PC To fly union jack flags for the Royal Wedding in May at a cost of c.£380

This was **agreed**.

18/20/PC To agree new proposals for the Christmas lights

This had been agreed in principle. Mr. Hodges and Mr. Rowley agreed to meet with our suppliers to develop a new proposal.

18/21/PC Finance:

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

18/22/PC Planning

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

22.2 Planning decisions were noted.

22.3 17/02345/OUT Miles and Miles nursery – The Chairman noted that the Parish Council's commitment following on from the Parish Plan was not to support inappropriate development in Green Belt. He noted that the main purpose of Green Belt was to prevent urban sprawl. He noted that the recent Green Belt review had not released this area of land which formed a buffer zone. He did note however that SBDC had released the Wyevale site on the principle that greenhouses/outbuildings/barns were structures that could be rebuilt to the same volume. There had also been issues of viability. Mr. Robinson said we should oppose the application so as not to set a precedent – he felt there should be no development on Green Belt and that this parish had already met its share of housing development. **It was agreed** to oppose the application on the principle of the need for a Green Belt buffer from Slough which was consistent with our previous responses to the Green Belt review.

22.4 18/00108/LBC and 18/00107/FUL re The Crown – It was noted that the application seemed to be mainly different from the previous application by putting a pair of semi-detached dwellings in the car park. It was **agreed** to submit no comment.

22.5 Neighbourhood plan - The Chairman noted that two other developers were looking at sites nearby to Miles and Miles. He was aware that the parish council was at the bottom of the chain of influence and he would like to be in a position where the parish council could have more of a say and engage in the process. The best way to do this was to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. This gives communities direct power to shape the development and growth of their locality. The parish council had called a meeting on 17th April to discuss the principles of how to address planning applications going forward to get the best outcomes even on a scheme which was not wanted. The Clerk was asked to circulate to councillors the responses received from two planning consultants. It appeared that the costs were likely to be in the region of £10-15,000. It was hoped a working group could be formed and a first working group meeting date set at the meeting on 17th April. It would be on the parish council's April agenda for feedback.

18/23/PC Any Other Business

23.1 Mr. Robinson was pleased to report that he had seen the parking enforcement officers twice in the area so far this year.

23.2 Mr. Milne noted that the budget for next year had been updated to include the increased precept and that an item would be on the next agenda to agree how much of general reserves to ring fence for projects.

23.3 Mrs. Tipping was disappointed that the parking in Victoria Road continued to be a

problem with mud on the yellow lines. The Clerk said she had complained twice with nothing being done.

23.4 Mrs. Rolfe noted that there was a problem with vermin on Temple Dell causing problems for neighbouring roads. The Clerk would raise the matter with SBDC.

23.5 Mr. Rowley had circulated the Guide Hut report which concluded that although not dangerous nevertheless the hut was not viable long term.

23.6 The Chairman reminded councillors that the Annual Parish Meeting was scheduled for Monday 5th March.

23.7 Mr. Norvill reported that the stile at the end of the footpath near Allerds farm had been lost and that the corrugated iron sheet fence from Allerds farm was leaning in a way to pose difficulties for walkers. The Clerk would report to BCC.

23.8 Mr. Norvill added that the woodland on the verge near Dair House was a dumping ground for litter. The Clerk would raise with BCC.

23.9 Mr. Foulds said he found it very difficult to hear what was being said in meetings and could the council look into getting a sound system.

18/24/PC Next meeting:

The meeting closed at 8.50pm. The next meeting would be on Monday 26th March 2018 at 7.30pm at Farnham Common Village Hall.

NOTES from the public open forum of the meeting

Mr. Jerry Houdret said he had been the planning portfolio holder at SBDC responsible for the 2006 – 2016 local plan. Against his advice too low a level of housing target had been set resulting in a lack of affordable housing in the area and nowhere available to downsize. He said that the death of the villages would occur unless homes were allowed to be developed on the Green Belt.

Mr. Philip Norvill thanked the Council for organising a meeting for 17th April but he noted the Miles and Miles application will already have been decided by then. He asked if it was granted how could the open aspect of the area between the villages be maintained and the spread of such development be stopped especially in light of Slough BC's efforts to land grab north of their boundary. He said residents did not want the urbanisation of the area into Slough. He noted that the outline application showed 17 dwellings but this could increase. There was only a single access and 50 extra cars per day might be using it. He added that there were problems with the sewage system that would be exacerbated.

Cllr. Dev Dhillon said Blackpond and Crown Lanes were already changing and there was a danger of losing all local green spaces. He said developers were only looking for a profit and could not be relied on with promises of affordable housing. He said he would support residents at the planning committee hearing on this application.

Other residents noted that SBDC had advised that they would not be able to buy land from Miles and Miles to extend their gardens as any such land must be used for horticultural reasons. Neighbours were concerned about their right to light and quality of life as well as safety and the nuisance caused by cars headlights at night. Some felt that there was not the necessary infrastructure to support the development in that area.

This concludes the meeting.