

# FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 24 JUNE 2024 AT 7.30 P.M. AT FARNHAM COMMON VILLAGE HALL, VICTORIA ROAD, FARNHAM COMMON, SL2 3NL**

## **Present**

Paul Rowley (Chair)  
Tony Birkett  
Bob Milne  
David Moore  
Jenny Quilter  
Clive Robinson  
Judith Hall (Clerk)

Buckinghamshire Councillor Dev Dhillon and Buckinghamshire Councillor Thomas Hogg.

The Chair declared the meeting open at 7.30pm. The meeting was adjourned for OPEN FORUM noted at the end of these minutes. The Chair reconvened the meeting and advised that prior to the meeting all councillors had been provided with a report giving information on agenda items. The report can be downloaded from the Parish Council website or a hard copy is available upon request.

## **24/64/PC Apologies for absence**

Katherine Damsell

## **24/65/PC Declarations of Interest**

None

## **24/66/PC To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2024**

The minutes were **approved**. It was **agreed** that they would be signed by the Chair.

## **24/67/PC Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda - for information only)**

### **67.1 Update on Community Speedwatch**

The content of the report was noted and Tony Birkett advised that he was waiting to hear from the Neighbourhood Policing Team about his request for a speed camera van on Collinswood Road near Claybourne drive.

### **67.2 Update on repairs at playground in Farnham Park Playing Fields**

The content of the report was noted and those present were pleased the playground was now fully repaired.

### **67.3 Complaint received regarding an oak tree in Ingrams Copse**

The content of the report was noted and the Clerk will share the quotes received for the work recommended in due course.

### **67.4 Receipt of £33,319.23 under the Community Infrastructure Levy**

The content of the report was noted.

### **67.5 Update on Buckinghamshire Council's 2024/25 Grass Cutting and Weedkilling Programme**

The content of the report was noted and the Chairman advised that this matter had been discussed fully

during the Open Forum, which is recorded at the end of these minutes.

#### 67.6 Update on 'Meet Your Local Councillors' initiative

The content of the report was noted and it was confirmed that Jenny Quilter and Katherine Damsell would attend the session on 13 July 2024 on behalf of the Parish Council.

#### **24/68/PC To consider next steps on anti-social behaviour in Blackpond Lane**

The Chairman advised that this matter had been discussed fully during the Open Forum, which is recorded at the end of these minutes.

#### **24/69/PC Finance:**

##### 69.1 To receive and note the 2023/24 Annual Internal Audit report

The 2023/24 Annual Internal Audit report was **received and noted**.

##### 69.2 To consider the 2023/24 Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 AGAR)

The 2023/24 Annual Governance Statement **was agreed**.

##### 69.3 To consider the 2023/24 Accounting Statements (Section 2 AGAR)

The 2023/24 Accounting Statements **were agreed**.

##### 69.4 To note the arrangements for the exercise of public rights

The Clerk confirmed that the period for the exercise of public rights to inspect the accounting records for the financial year ended 31 March 2024 will commence on Wednesday 26 June 2024. The period continues for 30 working days and ends on Tuesday 6 August 2024.

##### 69.5 To consider payments and note receipts, as per the June 2024 cashbook

The payments **were approved** and the receipts **were noted**.

#### **24/70/PC Planning:**

##### 70.1 PL/24/1720/PIP - Land To The North Of Allerds Farm, Crown Lane, Farnham Royal, SL2 3SF

Tony Birkett, Lead Councillor for Planning, advised that he had read through the application. The Chairman and Clive Robinson also confirmed that they had reviewed it. It was noted that although the applicant had tried to address some of the objections, the largest objection being the location of the site on green belt land had not altered. There was then a discussion as to whether O'Neill Homer, who prepared the parish council's objections to the previous application, should be appointed again to review the new application. Tony Birkett and Clive Robinson proposed that as this application was essentially the same as the previous application, the objections previously submitted could be updated to reflect the current application and submitted to Buckinghamshire Council again. The Chairman proposed that these updated objections were then reviewed against the new application by O'Neill Homer. It **was agreed** that the objections previously submitted would be updated. It **was also agreed** that the Clerk would obtain a quote from O'Neill Homer for the proposed review and an informal decision would be sort from councillors over email with ratification at the next parish council meeting.

It was **also agreed** that two banners and three posters would be purchased to publicise the new application. A budget of £150 plus VAT **was agreed**.

##### 70.2 To ratify comments submitted on recent applications

The planning comments on the circulated schedule **were ratified**.

##### 70.3 To note recent planning decisions

The planning decisions on the circulated schedule **were noted**.

#### **24/71/PC Projects:**

##### 71.1 To consider the Neighbourhood Plan and associated documents

The Parish Council reviewed the Submission Plan, Basic Conditions Statement and Consultation Statement. Clive Robinson asked whether the Plan still included support for the provision for social and/or affordable housing as whilst he agrees there is a need it cannot be provided due to local house prices. He feared that if support was included or a need was demonstrated in the Plan, developers will argue that the only way to achieve this is to release some or all the green belt. Those present reviewed all references to social and affordable housing in the Plan and one paragraph (5.3) was highlighted for deletion. The Clerk was asked to confirm this with O'Neill Homer, the company advising on the Neighbourhood Plan. On the assumption that this paragraph was deleted, the Submission Plan, Basic Conditions Statement and

Consultation Statement **were agreed**. It was confirmed that once the paragraph had been deleted, they would be submitted to Buckinghamshire Council for Regulation 15.

Bob Milne advised that during the Regulation 14 Formal Consultation, he submitted an objection to changing a footpath into a shared footpath and cycleway as he does not believe it would be wide enough. He expressed his disappointment in the wording of the response to his objection in the Consultation Statement.

### 71.2 New Projects

- To consider 30 Minutes Free Parking in The Broadway Car Park

The content of the report was noted and Jenny Quilter asked whether more consultation with residents was required given the potential cost of the project. Tony Birkett, Project Lead, advised that the proposal had been supported by the residents' associations he is in contact with, had been raised during his discussions with businesses along The Broadway and was quite often mentioned on the Farnhams Community Facebook group so he was not sure what other consultation was needed. Bob Milne asked for clarification on what the effect may be on the precept if it was a project being costed for inclusion in the budget for financial year 2025/26. The Clerk advised that crudely it would be a 10% increase although in practice this would be reduced by making savings on other projects that year. It **was agreed in principle**, subject to receiving the memorandum of understanding from Buckinghamshire Council that the parish council would enter into a six month trial for 30 minutes free parking in The Broadway car park seven days a week, including Bank Holidays. Tony Birkett and the Clerk were asked to prepare a statement to publicise this new trial with the wording to be agreed by all councillors.

- CCTV on The Broadway, in Farnham Royal & at the Playgrounds

The content of the report was noted and Tony Birkett, Project Lead, advised that during discussions both the businesses along The Broadway and the Police had felt installing CCTV would be of benefit to the various stakeholders. He is currently awaiting an updated quote as the scheme has been extended and will then prepare a feasibility study for consideration at a future parish council meeting.

### 71.3 Project Review

- Kingsway Green & Rectory Close Flowerbeds

The content of the report was noted and the payment of the Thames Water application fee of £200 plus VAT was ratified.

- Woodland Management Plan

The content of the report was noted.

- Protecting Physical Assets (FCSC Covenant etc.)

The content of the report was noted and the Clerk advised that following her telephone call with BP Collins they were reviewing additional information but had advised that there are a number of possible solutions available.

- MVAS Stage Two (inc. training)

The content of the report was noted and the purchase of a second batch of 30mph wheelie bin stickers at £120 was ratified.

- Farnham Royal Playground Licence Renewal & Future Plans

The content of the report was noted.

- Improvements to website

The content of the report was noted.

- New Christmas Decorations/Lights/Switch on Event

The content of the report was noted and those present supported the idea of holding an indoor family orientated Christmas event. Jenny Quilter asked those present to consider whether they would be available to help with the organisation on the day of the event as significant assistance would be required.

- Christmas Lights - Replacements

The content of the report was noted.

- Residents Association/Business Association

The content of the report was noted and those present supported holding the Community Showcase on 14 September 2024. Jenny Quilter asked those present to consider whether they would be available to

help with the parish council stand at the event as some assistance would be required.

- D-Day 80 Events

The content of the report was noted and the donation of ticket receipts to the Royal British Legion was agreed.

- Orchard Day

The content of the report was noted and Jenny Quilter asked those present to consider whether they would be available to help with the parish council stand at the event as some assistance would be required. The purchase of various items for the stand totalling £192.28 plus VAT was ratified.

- Annual Parish Meeting 2024

The content of the report was noted.

### **24/72/PC Any Other Business (for information only)**

72.1 Bob Milne noted that once the Woodland Management Plan had been adopted, he believed it will be necessary to budget for the cost of the work identified.

72.2 Bob Milne asked whether all the arboriculture work identified in the December 2023 report had been completed. The Clerk advised that she would check and report back.

72.3 Tony Birkett advised that Thames Water were still carrying out a repair on Beaconsfield Road and noted that there is quite a bit of activity from Thames Water around the villages.

72.4 David Moore advised that he had heard that the work identified by Thames Water for Ingleglen may be on the Thames Water 5 year plan. Cllr. Dev Dhillon advised that he was hoping that the Action Group would have a meeting with Thames Water in July 2024.

72.5 Jenny Quilter advised that she and the Chairman had received queries from residents about the potential closure of Little Oaks Montessorri at the Brian Jubb Hall. The Chairman advised that he had spoken to the church, who own the Brian Jubb Hall, and they want to use the space for activities in connection with a new youth worker they are seeking to employ. Jenny Quilter advised that she had contacted Judith Gault, the Manager of the Brian Jubb Hall and had received a response confirming the church's desire to use the space.

72.6 Jenny Quilter advised that she had noticed a couple of maintenance issues with the playground in Farnham Common regarding damage to the surfacing by the Hip Hop and surface rust on some of the metal poles. These had been reported to Proludic, the supplier, who had been very responsive and was looking to resolve them as soon as possible. Clive Robinson advised that the parish council had experienced similar problems with a similar piece of equipment in the playground in Farnham Royal and advised that the serial number on the equipment should be checked. Jenny Quilter also added that the grass around the playground needed strimming. Bob Milne advised that the equipment was now getting very hot in the warmer weather.

72.7 Jenny Quilter advised that the grass in the picnic area needed cutting.

### **24/73/PC Next parish council meeting:**

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Full Council on 22 July 2024 at 7.30pm at Farnham Common Village Hall

### **OPEN FORUM**

Cllr. Dev Dhillon advised that he totally agreed with the concerns of the Parish Council regarding the issues of ownership and future liabilities in respect of the K Barriers proposed for installation at the entrances to footpaths FAR/06 and FAR/07 to address the antisocial behaviour taking place in the field through which the footpaths run. He continued that he had met with Joanne Taylor (Rights of Way Team Leader) at Buckinghamshire Council and advised her that the Parish Council would not take responsibility. She had confirmed that Buckinghamshire Council would also not take responsibility and if the K Barriers were significantly damaged, they would be considered an obstruction on a public right of way and removed. They had agreed that she would consult her senior officers and write to Cllr. Dev Dhillon and the Clerk to confirm where the K Barriers would be installed and how ownership and future liabilities would be dealt with. Cllr. Dev Dhillon also confirmed that the Beeches Community Board required the Parish Council to make the funding application and settle all the costs before invoicing the Beeches Community Board for their agreed contribution. The Chairman asked whether funding agreement would be confirmed in writing as orders would not be placed without it. Cllr. Dev Dhillon confirmed it would. The Chairman then asked

Cllr. Dev Dhillon about other funding routes and Cllr. Dev Dhillon felt that Heart of Bucks was unlikely to be in a position to help but that Thames Valley Police may be able to provide some funds from the Community Safety Fund but this did not open for applications until September 2024. The Chairman asked Cllr. Dev Dhillon if Cllr. Steve Broadbent (Cabinet Member for Transport) was supporting the installation. He confirmed he was but that he was not a decisionmaker in this matter and advised that Joanne Taylor would be carrying out the necessary work. Tony Birkett stated that progress will be dependent on the content of the letter from Joanne Taylor. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Dev Dhillon for his efforts in this matter.

Cllr. Dev Dhillon advised that he had chased Buckinghamshire Highways for confirmation of when the verges would be cut and had been assured it would happen this week. They advised that some reactive work had been done but often the grass cutting teams sent could not find the right places as they were not familiar with the area. He plans to discuss the current arrangements further with Buckinghamshire Highways as he believes that once the reactive cuts required due to the delay in grass cutting have been paid for, the same budget would probably allow for four planned cuts per year.

Bob Milne expressed frustration that Buckinghamshire Council's Creating Wilder Verges project provided for two cuts a year, the same as the standard programme but unlike the standard programme the cuttings are collected to degrade the soil so that eventually the grass would not grow so much. Cllr. Dev Dhillon agreed that left cuttings were a significant problem as, in addition to looking awful, they blocked gullies which were already struggling hence the need for a £3m gully clearance programme. Both Cllr. Dev Dhillon and Cllr. Thomas Hogg raised concerns about the left cuttings drying in the warmer weather to create a fire risk and he offered to draft an email to Cllr. Steve Broadbent. Cllr. David Moore advised that he was happy to cut the grass himself but was advised by Buckinghamshire Highways to call their emergency telephone number to report the various locations. All the Buckinghamshire Councillors present agreed to work together to resolve the issues experienced. Jenny Quilter noted that it was interesting to see that some residents are taking pride in their local areas even though the work should be being done by Buckinghamshire Council.

Tony Birkett felt that it may be necessary for the parish council to take a multifaceted look at verges, hedges, The Broadway and other green assets as recent growth had affected visibility and made the areas look tired and unkept. Bob Milne noted that it was sad to see the state of the parish having handed back previously devolved services when it took three years for the parish council to sort out the mess they inherited. Cllr. Thomas Hogg sort clarification that the parish council had devolved services and then handed them back. The Chairman confirmed this was correct and that they were handed back because the cost of providing the service was far greater than the amount received from Buckinghamshire Council. He confirmed that everything was much worse now and it was sad to see that all the hedges that were being maintained are now overgrown again. Cllr. Thomas Hogg stated that it just shows that when local people can control what happens they do a better job than when it's done centrally.

Cllr. Dev Dhillon advised that following the withdrawal of the first application, a new application had been submitted regarding the Former Jolly Woodman Public House (application PL/24/1860/FA) for a change of use to a religious learning centre for the purposes of teaching and training, focal deity for meditation and Hinduism learning. He continued that he is reviewing the application but will call it in to the Planning Committee at Buckinghamshire Council.

Cllr. Dev Dhillon advised that he had been contacted by the company proposing a 177 unit retirement community off Crown Lane in Farnham Royal. They had invited him to visit some of their other developments but he confirmed that he had declined their offer.