

**Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of the PARISH OF FARNHAM ROYAL  
held on Monday, 6th March 2017 in Farnham Royal Village Hall at 8 pm**

**Present:** Mr. T. Clapp (Chairman), Mr. R. Milne, Mr. C. Robinson, Mrs. V. Thompson, Mr. R. Thomas, Mr. R. Home, Mrs. J. Tipping, Mr. B. Bilgorri, Mr. P. Rowley and Mrs. M. Rolfe.

**In attendance:** County Councillors Lin Hazell and District Councillors Dev Dhillon and Marlene Lewis, the Clerk and 17 members of the public.

**Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Mr. John Hodges and Mr. David Anthony.

- 1. Report of the Parish Council 2016-17**  
Given by the Chairman, Councillor Trevor Clapp *appended to these minutes*
- 3. Report from Farnham Common Village Schools**  
Given by Andrew Parry *appended to these minutes*
- 4. Report from the Farnhams Magazine**  
Given by Jerry Houdret *appended to these minutes*
- 5. Report from Farnham Common Sports Club**  
Given by Pauline Gregory *appended to these minutes*
- 6. Report from Farnham park Baseball and softball club**  
Given by Patrick Knock *appended to these minutes*
- 7. Report from the Rotary Club of Burnham Beeches**  
Given by Ray Dance *appended to these minutes*
- 8. Report from Farnham Common Village Hall**  
Given by Marilyn Rolfe *appended to these minutes*
- 9. Report from Farnham Common Community Library**  
Given by Michael Mills *appended to these minutes*
- 10. Report on Buckinghamshire County Council**  
Given by County Councillor Hazell *appended to these minutes*
- 11. Guest Speech on 'Dog Control Measures in Burnham Beeches'**  
Given by Andy Barnard *appended to these minutes*
- 12. Those present noted that written reports had been received from:**  
Thames Valley Police  
Farnham Royal Village Hall  
St Mary's Farnham Royal C of E Primary School  
Community Orchard  
Farnham Royal Charities  
The Royal British Legion *all appended to these minutes*

### **13. *Close of meeting***

The Chairman thanked everyone who had attended the meeting and especially Mr. Barnard for his interesting talk. The meeting closed at 9.45pm

## **APPENDICES**

### **Item 1: CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Annual Parish Meeting is a meeting for you to tell us what you have been up to. Thank you all for coming to share your year in the Farnhams with us. It is important that we hear from our key stakeholders in our villages. This helps the Parish Council shape what it does to reflect the aspirations and wishes of those involved in the Parish. Before we hear from various group and our key speaker this evening I will run through the year in brief from the Parish Council's viewpoint.

#### **THE GREEN BELT ATTACK**

This year we have seen two exercises looking at the possibility of taking land from the green belt for development. We are all aware that there is a need to find land for housing and we are tasked by Central Government to look at this seriously.

First off was an analysis by SBDC of all of the areas of the Green Belt in the District. This was quite an undertaking, analysing the performance of the Green Belt and assessing if areas could be released without impacting upon the prime function of the Green Belt. That function is to prevent urban sprawl and the joining of separate settlements.

We made robust representation to SBDC on areas within our Parish. We did not take the NIMBY approach but suggested areas that, if land had to be released, would be our preference. The SBDC approach was to target areas of the Green Belt which had minimal function as a buffer and that were immediately adjacent to existing development. None of the areas of the green belt in our Parish fulfilled this criteria and none are earmarked as a preferred site for release.

The second and ongoing challenge to the same areas of Green Belt comes from option J in the draft Slough Borough Local Plan. This is an idea that is being "floated". It is not an argument made with any substantiation or analysis. Although, interestingly, the Slough connection has stirred much more emotion for the Green Belt than the District Council's exercise, in my mind it is destined to fail as the areas targeted are those that fulfil the prime Green Belt function which is supported under the NPPF.

You can keep in touch with the fast moving events through the Parish Council website and sign up to email notifications as we have little notice of these consultations which are always too late to include in the Parish Magazine deadlines.

#### **A UNITARY AUTHORITY**

Plans for a change in structure of local government are being considered in order to make the savings that are necessary to balance the books. Essentially the proposal is to unify the various council bodies be it a single County wide authority based in the north of the County or an amalgamated District Council to the South. We watch the development of these proposals with interest and are inputting into the process through our membership of South Bucks Association of Local Councils which I also chair.

There will be wide ranging implications for the Parish Councils and this will, no doubt, mean that we will take on more of the work that County and District are currently responsible for.

#### PLANNING & NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Our Parish Plan questionnaire was well supported with around 400 returns. One conclusive response was that we should protect our green belt at all costs and, development, to provide the housing that we need, should happen through intensification of existing sites. This means more houses on existing plots, replacing one house with two and in backland.

We see issues with this happening right now. The character and feel of areas is changing and although nobody took up the challenge when I wrote about it in Parish Patch I will reiterate that there are ways in which we can influence, if not control these developments. That is through the preparation of a neighbourhood plan. To do this requires our Parishioners to get involved and set aside their time to make this happen. So there you have it. We can start to take control but it requires effort on your part to make it happen.

#### DEVOLUTION

We are getting to grips with the works devolved to us by the County Council in respect of street maintenance. It is a learning curve and we have initiated additional grass cutting to improve on the standards that we have been used to

We have, however, been left with much undone by County when we took over the devolved works. We have having to redress years of neglect in respect of our footways and have just started clearing and siding out the run of the A355.

This comes at a cost. One that we will recover through the precept which will be raised this year to £138,000 to pay for these works.

#### LED STREETLIGHTS

We have taken the decision to replace all streetlights through the Parish with low energy bulbs on a rolling programme over the next year. This will reduce our energy bills substantially and should pay for itself within 2 years.

#### PROJECTS

In addition to the maintenance that we carry out on open spaces like the woodlands, Temple Dell and the play areas we have two major projects that we are pursuing.

The guide hut at Farnham Common Sports Club and landscaping improvements at Kingsway Green. We are carrying out a Parish wide evaluation of the facilities that we have to try to develop a consistent strategy for making the most of our facilities and to understand and hopefully provide for the needs of those groups.

#### FUNDING OUR PARISH

That brings me on to how we pay for all this. We have this year earmarked a substantial part, £30,000, of our reserves to allow future projects to be progressed. This will fund initial feasibility studies and the commissioning of professionals to advise us.

Where we have additional works, such as those under devolved powers which need extra expenditure, these are to be met by increasing the precept.

The precept will raise to £138,000 this year which equates to a rise of £5.17 on average per person taking a band D contribution to £44.83.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I would like to hope that we will see more and more of our residents getting involved with the Parish work. We have a number of exciting projects coming up and need to tackle the threat of ongoing development and the change to our environment. That will only happen with your involvement. I realise that I am preaching to the converted at this meeting but we must encourage others to get involved. Keep in touch via the Parish Council website and attend the odd Parish Council meeting or two.

**Trevor Clapp**  
**Parish Council Chairman**

## **Item 2: FARNHAM COMMON VILLAGE SCHOOLS' REPORT**

During the early months of last year, the Governors of both the Infant School and the Junior School were working on agreeing and then implementing a Federation between the two schools. There was very little disagreement over the desirability of forming a Federation but we needed to be sure we had considered the move very carefully indeed. We established the Federation, called the Farnham Common Village Schools, with effect from September 2016, and so have been running as a Federation for just under 6 months.

In a Federation, the schools do not lose their individual identity, and the main change is that there is one Head Teacher, and one Board of Governors. We were delighted that Mrs Fischer accepted the position of Head Teacher. I had been Chair of Governors at the Junior School and was appointed Chair of the Federation, and Mrs Hewin (previously Chair of the Infant School) was appointed Vice Chair.

We are so proud of all the staff, for their professionalism and care, and for the way they have worked with the Governors to implement the Federation and once implemented, to work hard to build further success. It has been a good year so far. The Infant School received a Silver Award for Outside Learning, and the Junior School has appointed a number of Junior Road Safety Officers. We held a very useful e-safety day for both schools (and for parents, who came in the evening) and most recently both schools had a scarecrow building competition as a support for another outdoor activity.

In addition, we are already realizing a number of benefits from being in a Federation.

- We have found that transition from the Infant to the Junior schools to be smoother for the children
- We are managing to share some resources and specialized skills across the schools.
- Also, in an education environment where it seems that every week there is talk in the press of Academies, and we are all being encouraged to consider becoming Academies and then forming Multi Academy Trusts, being a Federation has helped us enormously as we manage our future and that of the children for whom we care.

And here, I must mention money. Becoming a Federation has enabled us to realize some efficiencies, but this was never primarily a cost-saving exercise. You might have heard in the news that schools funding formulas are being revised in England, and you might also have heard that, as Bucks schools have always been funded less well than schools in some other areas, we are likely to see our allocation increase by just under 2.5%. While this will be welcome when it arrives, all sorts of deductions are being prepared already – for example, we will have to pay over £4,000 toward the Government's apprenticeship levy – for which I can see no return at all. This is especially galling where we strive to achieve savings of a few thousand pounds per year and our superb PTA works hard to raise money. The message is clearly that we will have to work even harder on this in the years to come.

So we have a lot to do. And we are doing it.

- Ensuring that the schools continue to provide top-class education;
- ensuring that we have the funds we need;
- and continuing to shape the future for our schools in the changing education landscape in which we find ourselves.

And in doing all this, we are grateful for the support from the Community - from you all, and for the understanding and care shown by those who interact with us.

**Andrew Parry, Chair of Governors**  
**Farnham Common Village Schools**

### **Item 3: FARNHAMS MAGAZINE REPORT**

In the last 2 years the magazine has changed and grown from a subscription magazine of 500 copies four times a year, and two issues of 3,000 copies supported by the Parish Council, all distributed by volunteers.

During 2015, it was decided to change the magazine from this roughly 8,000 copies per annum, with only two issues per year to all Parishioners homes, to its new format.

With a chance to increase advertising revenue once advertisers saw the new format, and concern over declining subscription numbers, the decision to issue four FREE copies per year professionally delivered to all homes, was made. This would mean a more than doubling of copies to 17,000 annually.

The Parish Council is thanked by the management committee for providing a proportion of financial support to disseminate Council information alongside the usual items of local interest, and for its additional support during the transition to the new style.

This change includes moving to editor led copy, full colour format on quality paper, and more information of general interest to our Parishioners.

This new format has received praise from advertisers who have seen the results of their adverts in the magazine, pay off. And the management committee understands people are actually reading the magazine more than before, which must be good for the information the Parish Council disseminates via this method.

Now thanks to a substantial rise in advertising rates for 2017, and taking into account the support from the Parish Council, the forward plan is for a small surplus, income versus cost.

Now for future years:- It appears this new format is a success for the Parish, and a viable venture giving the locals, Parish Council and advertisers greater awareness and presence in the village.

2017 advertising income, already fully sold, will be £15,780.

With Parish Council support the income should exceed expenditure by a small safety margin.

Printing in its current format is £13,850. This is Full Colour, quality paper, 80 page A5, for much less cost per copy than before as a result of a move to a local printer/designer and includes the full design service at each issue. Professional distribution is £2,100, with other costs near £2,000.

As to our hardworking editors, Jenny Harper-Jones and Jessica Houdret, we believe we have found additional editorial support and a new editor to help lead the production with Jenny as from the September issue. This will enable Jessica to step back to the original editorial advisor role she took 2 years ago, and to move back to her other writings.

We especially thank them for all their hard work in this successful transition.

The management committee hope that Councillors and Parishioners agree that a full colour, professionally delivered FREE magazine of this quality, is something of which our village should be proud.

**Jerry Houdret**

**Item 4: FARNHAM COMMON SPORTS CLUB REPORT**

2016 was a year in which FCSC did not have any major projects in the pipeline. There are of course always improvements to be made, but very rarely do we have many funds to spare. Our membership remains fairly static, although we are seeing a trend towards an increasing proportion of minis and juniors, which though very promising for the future of the individual sports, does not, of course, bring in the equivalent adult subscription income. Having said that, our Treasurer, Richard Cowan, does a wonderful job of keeping us all on a fairly tight leash, whilst always allowing for the most necessary expenditure to be covered.

During the year we installed a large number of new security cameras around the clubhouse, car park and grounds. This was done with the help of a grant from you, the Parish Council, for which very many thanks, and also we received a generous grant from the Hedgerley & Farnhams Horticultural Society. I am delighted to say that these are already proving to be a sound investment, as when some undesirables tried to break into our locked containers by the clubhouse, they realised they were on camera, and tried their very best to disable it ... but we had purchased special vandal proof cameras, and they proved to be exactly that!

If you have taken a walk around the club grounds recently you will have noticed that we finally took down the two huge Leylandii trees that were pressing into our tennis pavilion. A large Norway Spruce that was in the car park was also felled at the same time. Our Tennis Club is now planning to do some planting around the pavilion to improve the aesthetics – I am sure almost anything will be better than the previous monsters, but they will put their proposal to the PC before they go ahead.

Finally, this will be the last report which you receive from me. I will be standing down as Chairman at our club AGM at the end of April. I have really enjoyed my time in the chair, and will very much miss the wonderful camaraderie I have experienced, both with all the members of my club committees and with you, the members of the Parish Council. I hope, and indeed I believe, that the strong relationship that exists between our two institutions will continue to flourish under the new management!

**Pauline Gregory**  
**Chairman**

**Item 6: Farnham Park Baseball and softball club**

It was reported that since the facility opened in 2013, they had developed four fields fully fenced. There was a clubhouse on site and the hope was to make it into a family friendly environment. This was the National facility site for the organisation although the Head office was based in London. They would like to see more involvement from the local community using the site – age, gender and experience were no barriers - and extended an open invitation to all present to visit the site whenever possible. They had

school programmes in place and were hoping to start a community programme on Friday evenings from 5<sup>th</sup> May.

## **Patrick Knock and Johanna Malisani**

### **Item 7: ROTARY CLUB REPORT**

The Rotary Club of Burnham Beeches is affiliated to Rotary International which has 1.2 million members worldwide based in more than 200 countries. Our motto is Service above Self and we concentrate on helping communities locally, nationally and internationally. Rotary International is ranked as the 6<sup>th</sup> most effective humanitarian organisation in the world (Source CBNC.com).

Our international charity, The Rotary Foundation, brings together a global network of volunteers who dedicate their time and skills to tackle the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges by focusing on disease prevention and treatment, water and sanitation, and maternal and child health. *Polio Plus* is one of its biggest initiatives and seeks to eradicate polio around the world. Since the programmes start in 1985, Rotary and its partners, including the World Health Organisation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, have immunized more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries. Locally we have planted a mass of purple crocus in both Burnham and the Farnham's in commemoration of this achievement.

**At a local level** The Rotary Club of Burnham Beeches comprises 3 dozen moderately successful men and women who live in the local area (Burnham, Dorney, Taplow and the Farnham's). We meet regularly to raise money, assist the community, organise events and make charitable donations. Recent beneficiaries have included Marie Curie Cancer Care, Thames Hospice, the *new* Alexander Devine Children's Hospice, and The Thames Valley Adventure Playground to name but a very few. In total last year we made 36 grants totalling £36,113.

We are proud to have worked together with Burnham Parish Council to install 6 defibrillators in the locality the closest being sited at The Beeches Café. 2 of the defibrillators were financed exclusively by our Club and we are keen to extend this initiative to the Farnham's.

We continue to organise an inter-school football competition at Dropmore Infant School; plus local school's Carol Concert at St Peter's Church, Burnham. Indeed the concert is so popular it is frequently standing room only. Additionally we have supported our local schools by providing Dictionaries for Life for Year 5 pupils, mentoring, mock job interviews, poetry awards and student achievement awards. We also part fund student character building initiatives on Tall Ship voyages and Rotary Youth Leader Awards (a type of Outward Bound style week away).

Sadly we have several disadvantaged children in our community and to help alleviate their circumstances we organise a special fun day for them at Thorpe Pak in conjunction with a local school.

Funding for these initiatives are raised in part at our annual Music Night at Caldicott School and we are indebted to the school trustees for their continued support of this popular event.

Our other major fund raising activities include the ever popular Burnham Beeches Donkey Derby which is now in its 26<sup>th</sup> Year; the Burnham Beeches 10K Fun Run; and a



12 hour collection for Marie Curie Cancer Care held exclusively at Heathrow Terminal 5. We are grateful to the local community for their continued support of these activities.

6 years ago the Rotary Club of Burnham Beeches organised, funded and planted the Farnham Common community orchard together with information boards. We still take a keen interest in the orchard and regrettably had to arrange replacement of some of these trees due to vandalism.

All these events require an army of volunteers to make them successful. We accordingly welcome new members and invite you to look at our website [www.rcbb.co.uk](http://www.rcbb.co.uk) to find more details about what we do and the fun we have doing it.

**Ray Dance, President  
Rotary Club of Burnham Beeches**

### **Item 8: FARNHAM COMMON VILLAGE HALL REPORT**

Farnham Common Village Hall has had a really great 2016 and we have completed all the double glazing it makes the building much more appealing and draft free - our grateful thanks to South Bucks District Council for the 50% grant for the windows. We have also installed a sink unit in the committee room which now enables us to let the room independently the shared kitchen use was holding us back and we have re-finished all the wood floors which is a vast improvement to the hall

We are currently saving for the replacement of the large flat roof area which is not good at all we just hope it will last whilst we save sufficient funds. As you can imagine we have a long list of work that we wish to implement at the hall but all costly it will take a good while to save the money required we do not get government or County funding all the work that is carried out has to come from the hire charges and we try hard to keep these affordable to all.

We are hoping to start actively fund raising as well and are looking for volunteers to assist with this to enable us to improve our facilities which are used extensively. Farnham Common Village Hall is a vital part of Farnham Common and the Trustees and Management Committee are committed to improve the hall and continue to make it a better facility for the community.

**Marilyn Rolfe**

### **Item 9: Farnham Common Community Library Report**

As most of you know we have been operating as a Community Library now for just over 5 years, staffed entirely by volunteers and supported financially by a large group of Friends of the Library and by Bucks County Council. Since then we have gone from strength to strength, creating a hub for the local community in the Farnhams and surrounding areas.

I'll try to cover some of our achievements and give an update on current activities:

**The conventional library service** - increased opening hours by 55% (18 to 28 hours pw); book stock by 25% (7600 to 9,500), book issues by 12% (note – this is against the County and national trend). We constantly refresh our book stock to ensure access to new books, bestsellers, non-fiction, local history etc.

**Children's activities** Are the pride of the library. Weekly storytelling session for pre-school children, holiday arts and crafts sessions – these are extremely popular with a different theme each time. We partner with local schools and have class visits for storytelling or to mark events such as World Book Day. The Annual Summer Reading Challenge continues to be a great success and brings in lots of new young readers. There is also a steady supply of teenagers volunteering at the library as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme experience.

**Social Events** We run numerous events to bring the community together, help raise money for the Library and support other charities. Recent ones have been - Open Gardens, coffee mornings, talks, Christmas Supper, Annual Quiz and Ancestry workshops. In addition, we put on regular displays to commemorate events such as the anniversary of WW1.

**Visits & Excursions** These have become an important part of village life, they are great value and often sell out well in advance. Notable events have included theatre visits, concerts, places of interest including Hampton Court, Oxford, Birmingham Library, Bletchley Park, Thursford and many others.

**Lunch Group** Is open to anyone who likes a nice meal in good company. We meet regularly trying out different restaurants in the local area and have provided many people with the opportunity to make new friends.

**Services & Communication** Library users can access free Wi-Fi, use our computers and do photocopying and printing. We provide free IT clinics for those seeking to improve their IT skills or to resolve simple problems. Our newsletter is published 4 times a year and we post information on our Facebook page, website and the Farnhams FB page. We also have a small meeting room available for anyone to rent.

**Bucks CC** Any review of the library must include a comment on the role played by BCC. We have continued to be well supported by them with free access to their IT systems, book stock and of course the building. However, their financial support has reduced over the last two years and the future level of support is by no means certain. Last year I mentioned that the County Council was in the process of reviewing the delivery model for the library service across the entire County – for both community and fully serviced libraries. However, this review has been delayed due to the discussions on changes to local government structure. In the meantime, our first 5-year agreement with BCC was rolled forward last October on similar terms but with a slight reduction in annual grant.

Our first business plan assumed that County support would be eroded gradually and that we would need to build a financial reserve. Over the last five years we have achieved our plan and we are now in a strong financial position.

**Looking forward** We plan to add more activities in the library and are considering regular coffee mornings, Lego/Duplo sessions for toddlers and welcome other ideas.

Finally, I must give credit to the small army of unpaid volunteers and supporters who contribute their time, energy and enthusiasm to ensure the smooth operation of the Community library.

**Michael Mills**

**Item 10: BUCKS COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Last year we accepted the Governments offer of a 4 year settlement, this was confirmed so there was very little change from the figures already budgeted for.

However this settlement did not recognize that one of the most significant cost pressures within the budget is the growing costs of and demands for Adult Social Care. The continuing rising costs within Children's Services have not been recognized and will have to be absorbed within the existing budget.

The Adult Social Care precept announced last year was initially capped at 2% this has now been increased to 3% in any one year, but the total increase cannot exceed 6% over the next 3 years. This allows us to address the rising demand sooner and to develop sustainable strategies with our partners in Health over the coming years..

On this basis the basic Council Tax will be increased by 1.99% and in addition the Social Care Precept at a further 3%. Will be implemented. The adjustments will equate to an overall Council Tax increase to 4.99%.

With the revenue support grant being withdrawn in 2018/19 , we still will have less money than we need to address the increases in both cost and demand for our key services. We are still one of the two worse affected counties in the country for the loss of RSG, Wiltshire being the other. Overall the estimated shortfall of our settlement over the next 4 years will be in the region of £46M.

For the future one of the major focus's will be on income generation from energy from waste, investment property car parks etc.

Capital funding has historically focused on carriageway repairs, £15m out of the allocated £20.5m 16/17.

In the last 6 years £120m has been spent on resurfacing.

Over the next 4 years £60m will be spent on a further resurfacing.

In addition a further £1.5 m will be invested in our footways

I am still endeavouring to sort out the issues regarding Mayflower Way it would seem that the discussions with the utility companies are not as we would wish, the complexity of the issues are vast and expensive. We have also allocated a further £25m in 2017/18 to ensure we have sufficient school places for our growing population of school children. In total over the next 4 years we intend to invest a total £143M in providing the necessary capacity in our schools to ensure there is a school place for every child.

Royal Assent had been granted for HS2 so despite our protests of the route through green belt country there is no stopping the scheme. The county is still working hard on mitigation and we will continue to monitor the implementation plans.

**Lin Hazell**

**Buckinghamshire County Council**

### **Item 11: Talk by Andy Barnard**

Mr. Barnard, the Superintendent of Burnham Beeches, reported on the effectiveness of Dog Control Orders (DCOs) at Burnham beeches based on data collated both before and since their introduction on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014. Their aim was to encourage responsible dog behaviour and reduce dog related complaints whilst balancing the needs of visitors. The Beeches were split into zones. Dogs were allowed in all areas except a very small area around the café. Schedule 2 zone (59% of the site) was where dogs must be kept on leads whereas Schedule 3 zone dogs could be off lead but under control..

The main impact to date has been that dog numbers have decreased although numbers had been declining since 2010. Car numbers had also decreased although it was believed that the car parking charges had had a bigger impact on this than the DCOs. Car charges had increased from £2 to £3 per day although it was still free Monday to Friday. Visitor numbers had increased with a modest shift to more visitors using the schedule 3 zone. All dog related complaints /incidents had reduced dramatically with a large reduction in dog mess although the schedule 3 area had been less effective than the schedule 2 area.

There had been good compliance with no incidents reported in the Schedule 2 zone but with one pending court case relating to the Schedule 3 area. The enforcement process is to have three 'strikes' before starting the formal process.

Income was discussed with the conclusion that car park charges and weather conditions had a greater impact on income than the DCOs had done.

Dog services had been maintained with free bags, more bins, regular emptying of bins and dog friendly walks and events.

He believed that the effectiveness of DCOs were proven although a vocal minority were unhappy.

He explained that DCOs would automatically convert to Public Space Protection Orders on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017. These needed to be extended every three years and the consultation had already started for its extension.

### **ANDY BARNARD**

### **Item 12: WRITTEN REPORTS**

#### **FARNHAM ROYAL VILLAGE HALL REPORT**

2016 was another steady year for the hall and its Management Committee.

Booking were regular and this meant that there was a steady income into the accounts.

A steady income means that the Management Committee can spend money on the hall making sure that its facilities and fabric are kept up to date. The fact that the hall is used so regularly is a good sign that the committee are doing there job and I think it is fair to say that the hall is as good, in some cases better, that other like venues in the area.

Much of the credit for the use of the hall goes to our two regular caretakers Marie and Vincent. Marie looks after the bookings and does an absolutely first class job.

One of our aims this coming year is to improve the lighting and heating in the Hall. What we have at the present is very costly and so all other alternatives are being looked at.

Our regular users continue to support us which is another good sign and shows that we are getting things right. As many other people will know it is not an easy job running a Village Hall and one must make sure that the hire price is right and more importantly fair and that the facilities are good.

The Management Committee of the Hall is a small committee of enthusiastic volunteers backed up by a few very experienced Trustees whose help and guidance over the year has been priceless. All of them are very experienced and not slow in telling us if they think we have got it wrong

What does the future hold for Village Halls. It is an uncertain world we live in at the moment but we think that Village Halls will have an important part to play in Village life for many years to come.

I thank my fellow committee members for their efforts during 2016 and also our Trustees for their advice and guidance and we look forward to being able to give another excellent report in 2017

**Stanley SWANN BEM, Chairman**  
**Farnham Royal Village Hall Management Committee**

### **St Mary's CE Primary School Report**

#### **Summer Term 2016**

The whole school embraced wholeheartedly and celebrated the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Marking this historic occasion with a 'Red, White and Blue' theme. The children enjoyed the celebratory day in mufti and designing posters to wish Queen Elizabeth a very Happy Birthday. An enormous picnic was held on the school field, in which parents and members of the community were welcomed to take part in. Parents additionally, made cakes of the 'Red, White and Blue' theme and the pupils sold and bought these, with all proceeds going toward the school fund.

After the picnic, everyone was invited to our local St Mary's Church, where a very special service was carried out to mark the auspicious day. This was a tremendous success, and both parents and Governors have commented on how well the children sang and the creations they had made for the service.

Year 6 treated us to a fabulous end of year production, Grease! They worked tirelessly to learn lines, lyrics and dance routines. They really have made the school proud.

#### **Autumn Term 2016**

The Autumn Term was both busy and extremely eventful with children continuing to enjoy the topic based curriculum. They attended trips or been provided with in-school workshops from external companies.

Lower key stage 2, have been learning about the key events from British History, culminating in an exciting trip to the Tower of London. The children thoroughly enjoyed looking at everything that could be fitted in to the brief visit, from the White Tower with the armoury, the site of the scaffold where people like Anne Boleyn lost their head and even the crown jewels themselves!

Key stage1 have been discovering climates and habitats from different countries. This included a guest speaker from ZooLab who brought in a range of animals from various countries for the children to hold, explore and discuss. The children particularly enjoyed the opportunity to get up close and personal to animals that they had not seen or heard of before.

As part of Year 2's topic 'From England to India', they thoroughly enjoyed a day where they were able to take part in activities that they had been learning about in class. The children tried on beautiful Indian clothing, including bindis, saris and kurtas and some had mehndi on their hands. They had a great time dancing to Indian music and the mango lassi that they made was delicious! The children also heard some traditional Indian stories whilst relaxing in the library.

In addition to this, the children in Key Stage One performed "A Wiggly Nativity" - an exciting re-telling of the Nativity story from the perspective of some very excited and wiggly children. The Year Two children worked very hard to learn their lines and really impressed in their roles as animals, shepherds, stars, angels and wise men. Year One formed part of the choir and sang the show's songs and traditional carols beautifully. All parents, staff and the rest of the school thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

Our Year 6 football team have played 2 more matches against other schools and have continued to improve. Eight children from Year 3 and Year 4 represented our school in a multi-skills sports festival at Halton Sports Club where they competed in tennis, football, hockey and running events.

The Third Age Lunch was once again, a roaring success, with the Year 6 pupils enthusiastically chatting and making sure the visitors had yet another amazing Christmas lunch experience at St Mary's.

To finish the end of the first half of the spring term we invited both our Diocesan and Buckinghamshire advisors in to verify our teaching & learning. We were pleased to break for half term knowing that they confirmed we still remain a GOOD school

**Mrs Vania Eaglen**  
**Headteacher**

### **Farnhams' Community Orchard Report**

The Community Orchard has progressed well over the last year with all of the trees surviving without damage. Many of the trees produced blossom and fruit. Some of the apple trees and the medlar were particularly prolific. The pear and plum trees furthest from the road and under the shade of the big oak tree have made the least progress. The fruiting hedge has been trimmed during the year to keep it below the level of the fence.

Winter pruning of apple and pear trees has been carried out (including those in the fruitful hedge) and some fertiliser/mulch applied to the poorer trees and those near the oak tree. Topping up of mulch should be done later in the spring. Spring/summer pruning of stone fruits would be beneficial this year to help shape the trees. One or two

of the trees in the fruitful hedge have died but those remaining are in good shape. The dead trees and places where the hedging has died will be replaced.

The trees in the orchard are currently quite variable in size. This is a result of some being replaced after vandalism, variable growth rates due to the availability of shade and water across the area and some variation in eventual size of trees. It is unfortunate that some of the vandalised trees are also those in poorest growing conditions.

Overall the orchard is in good shape.

Many people visit the orchard throughout the year and some sit on the benches and admire the trees.

A simple management plan for Temple Dell has been produced which will soon be put to the Parish Council for approval. This recommends the retention of the area as a place for quiet recreation and also a place for nature. The potential for installing a small number of natural items for children to play on will be made as well as efforts to encourage more school children and youth groups to make use of the area as an educational and recreational facility.

**Alan French and Helen Read**  
**Steering Group**

### **Farnham Royal Relief in Sickness Charities Report**

The Trustees comprising Reverend Saunders and four members of the Parish Council continue to run the affairs of the Charities in good order.

The Charities hold approximately £19,000 in investments and currently have approximately £4000 available for distribution from income from these investments.

Sadly no grants have been made in the financial year 2016/17 so far. One application was received but was not successful in meeting the criteria. In the past grants from the charity have been made to help with providing essential furniture hospital travel and other expenses and to support the needs of a sick child.

We would encourage anybody who feels they might benefit from a grant from the charity to contact the Clerk to the Parish Council who will deal with any approach in strict confidence and as efficiently as possible. There are no difficult hoops to jump through but it will help to be clear what you need the money for and to have the support of an organisation like Sure Start or a doctor teacher or other professional so that we can more easily substantiate your claim.

The Trustees would like to thank those who assist the working of the charities by putting forward cases for consideration. We welcome all applications and will assist those we can whose needs fall within the remit of the charities.

Finally the Trustees would like to extend their considerable thanks to Mrs Hilda Holder, Clerk to Farnham Royal Parish Council, for her very considerable support and guidance over the last year.

**Peter Cathcart**  
**Chairman**

### **Royal British Legion Report**

We had a mixed year in 2016 when, sadly we had to cancel some of our customary social events, due to lack of support, but we did hold our Annual Dinner, once again at Stoke Park in MARCH 2016 providing a most convivial evening for our Members and guests.

Having raised a total of £ 22,000 for the Poppy Appeal in 2015, and we topped this last November when we were able to forward 24,000 for the Poppy Appeal, a new Branch record. Whilst we continue with our house to house collections, our Poppy collection at the Beaconsfield Motorway Service Area - which actually falls in Hedgerley, therefore within the boundaries of our Branch area, and where we are now in our 3rd year of collecting - has proved most rewarding, and our Appeal benefitted by over £ 8,000 from this venue alone, due to the high footfall in this Service Area. Our sincere thanks to the many Poppy People who gave so generously of their time, however they helped with our Poppy Appeal - and especially those who enabled us to fill our rota at the MSA from 7 am to 7 pm, on each of the 11 days we covered.

I would also mention that we are pleased to let Villagers and Businesses have one of our attractive all-year-round red Poppy Boxes - available in both large and small - and they are ideal for collecting loose change and - dare I say it - acting as a swear box, throughout the year, and the contents help swell the Poppy Appeal each November.

**NAOMI C ARNOLD, MBE**  
**Chairman**

### **Thames Valley Police report**

The Neighbourhood team has undergone change this year with PCSO Caroline Sampson being reposted as the dedicated PCSO for the area.

The Parish Council has made the police aware of recurrent parking and speeding issues. Parking was decriminalised in 2005 and the police cannot deal with general parking issues – except relating to zig zag and obstruction offences- as the responsibility sits with BCC. The Police have now decided that any community police volunteers would have no role in policing parking.

The police have been out with the Speed Indicator Device with local residents and are keen to promote the community speedwatch scheme using volunteers who can then access the police national computer to send out letters. It is hoped that a SID device can be obtained through LAF funding for the volunteers currently being trained to use.

The police have had to deal with some Anti social behaviour at the rear of the shops last summer. The youths were identified and given informal warnings at meetings with their parents. The number of ASB reports has greatly reduced.

A particular address in Beeches Road continues to generate a high demand for police services and the police are working with partner agencies to resolve.

**PS 6150 Mutch**

**This concludes the minutes**