

# FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2017 AT 7.30 P.M. IN FARNHAM COMMON VILLAGE HALL

### Present

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

Eight members of the public including County Councillor Hazell .

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.

### 17/01/PC Apologies for absence

Mr. John Hodges, Mr. Paul Rowley and District Councillors Lewis, Anthony and Dhillon.

### 17/02/PC Minutes of the meetings held on 20<sup>th</sup> February and 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017

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

### 17/03/PC Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

There were none.

### 17/04/PC To receive a report from District Councillor Bagge on unitary authorities

SBDC leader Cllr. Ralph Bagge gave a presentation on the District Councils' case for two unitary authorities to replace the current system of County and District authorities in Buckinghamshire. One of the key reasons for re-organisation was that there would be no money available from Government in 2018/19 at a time when there was increasing demand on adult and children's services. An application to Government for the two unitary model approach was made last year – an application by Bucks County Council for one unitary authority and 19 local hubs had already been submitted - but it seemed likely that the Secretary of State will wait until after the May elections to make a decision. Cllr. Bagge explained the geographical, community and economic reasons why a two unitary model would better meet the needs of the areas and unlock growth. He accepted that on the face of it the County model would save £15.5 million but that was less than 1% of total revenues and by unlocking growth it was believed that the two model approach would bring in more revenue.

### 17/05/PC To approve a street name for the access road to the development to the rear of Linden Lea, Victoria Road

As the Parish Council was not aware of any local connection to the names put forward by the developer, it **was agreed** to suggest the name 'Fold Mews'.

**17/06/PC To agree works to repair the mound at Farnham Royal play area**

Mr. Robinson explained that a lengthy process of obtaining quotes had led to two quotes being considered in the final shortlist by the play area working group. These had been circulated to councilors and the recommendation was to place a contract with Progress Services to enlarge the base of the Mound, stabilize it, cover it with safety matting and install wooden steps. The quote was £3,800. **This was agreed.**

**17/07/PC To receive an update on the Guide Hut site**

In the absence of Mr. Rowley, the Chairman reported that - with the Guides confirming they were moving to the Youth Club hut in Hedgerley - the suggestion now was to broaden the remit of the working group to review all the facilities in the village and how that might affect the site. The matter was deferred to the next meeting.

**17/08/PC To receive an update on Kingsway Green**

The Chairman referred to the brief circulated by Mrs. Thompson and said the next step was to speak to landscapers to produce ideas and costings. The working group would meet again shortly to discuss. Mr. Bilgorri suggested contacting local gardening groups. The Clerk advised that at some stage public consultation and the approval of BCC should be sought.

**17/09/PC To consider and prioritise the schemes to pursue with the LAF**

9.1 Following debate **it was agreed** by a majority vote that the Parish Council would match fund with the LAF the works to Footpath 4 to the sum of £2,747 plus Vat.

9.2 More investigation was needed in relation to improving disabled access between Blackpond Lane and the A355.

9.3 The issues relating to the removal of yellow lines and a raised kerb outside Sainsburys was deferred to the next meeting as a confusing email had just been received from the LAF that needed clarifying. The Clerk was asked to clarify what was now being proposed.

**17/10/PC Finance:**

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

10.2 A draft expenses policy had been circulated prior to the meeting. **This was approved.**

10.3 A draft reserves policy had been circulated prior to the meeting. **This was approved** on the basis that total reserves should be no less than half the Precept and no more than three quarters of it. Also the amount of reserves held in ear marked funds should be no more than half of the total reserves.

10.4 Haines Watt **were re-appointed** as the internal auditor for the current financial year

10.5 The cost of £263.10 to repair the Christmas lighting **was approved.**

10.6 Mr. Bilgorri reported that the volunteers running the defibrillator training refused to

take the agreed donation of £100 and asked that another charity receive this. It was **agreed** to donate £100 to the Air Ambulance instead.

### **17/11/PC Planning**

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

187.2 Planning decisions were noted.

187.3 The Chairman commented again that a Neighbourhood Plan would be useful but that parishioners needed to commit to develop it.

### **17/12/PC Any Other Business**

12.1 Mr. Robinson reported that the Rotary Club had kindly cleaned the war memorial plaque as well as planting the crocuses.

12.2 Mr. Thomas was concerned that a final version of the Parish Plan had never been completed. The Clerk was asked to put this on as an agenda item for the next meeting and circulate the raw data to councillors.

12.3 Mrs. Thompson asked about the funding of the Parish Magazine following Mr. Houdret's request for a fixed annual funding of £4,000 at the Annual Parish Meeting. The Chairman hoped to have it on the next agenda but he would be contacting Mr. Houdret to clarify the basis of the request as previously a different principle had been agreed that the Council would work in partnership with the magazine. Mrs. Tipping commented that advertising in the magazine was very expensive.

12.4 Mr. Bilgorri wanted to record his thanks to Richard Flowers of Ashford Kitchens for enabling the defibrillator cabinet to be placed on their side wall and liaising with his landlords.

12.5 Mr. Home and Mr. Milne were thanked for their efforts in organizing the siding out of the footways along the A355. Mr. Milne said the next step was to prepare a specification for the other village roads.

### **17/13/PC Next meeting**

The meeting closed at 9.45pm. The next Council meeting would be on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7.30pm at Farnham Royal Village Hall.

### **NOTES from the public open forum of the meeting**

Derek Hussey of Ashenden Walk was concerned about Virgin Media not laying cable to the 15 dwellings along Ashenden Walk. He had contacted Virgin Media to be told that a complaint had been received and work had stopped because Virgin Media had discovered that the road was covered by a S.58 notice placed on it as the footways had been resurfaced in the last two years.

The Chairman could not understand why Virgin Media had not asked for the S.58 notice to be revoked or had not laid the cable along the verge or road instead. Cllr. Hazell said she would take the matter up with Rosie Taylor of TfB's streetworks team. Cllr. Home added that he felt that BCC were in disarray.

Graham Clark of Rectory Close complained that SBDC had not responded to his query about the houses that had been notified about the development in Rectory Close. He said only four houses had been notified which did not include the four nearest houses but did include the developer's own house and the house belonging to someone who also had a pending application for development. The Chairman said he believed rules had been complied with and that the area was not in the Green Belt. He noted that the application had failed twice before and was granted on this occasion because no further ground for refusal existed as the developer had satisfied SBDC previous refusal reasons. He encouraged Mr. Clark to consider whether his objections would have carried any greater weight than what he had said before and the costs of mounting any 'maladministration' case.

Mr. French said he was representing his wife who was concerned about the burglaries happening in the Parish and how to raise awareness of them. P.S. Mutch was in the audience and responded that the main areas for high burglary rates in the area were Iver and Stoke Poges. Burglaries are always given a high priority at the fortnightly police tasking meetings and there was a full time team of eight people based in Taplow investigating them. With regards to recent burglaries in the Farnhams the police had not detected a single 'M.O' although most burglaries tended to be overnight or over a series of days and he didn't think it was one team of burglars. Intelligence suggested it was criminals from the Met area or Herts or Slough. He said detection rates for the whole LPA were at 10%. He said victims were visited as were their neighbours. The police were concerned that raising too much awareness could leave residents in a state of fear. He said he would ask the local PCSO to feed into the Clerk on a regular basis what current trends were and reissue general advice which could be put up on the Council's website. He agreed to attend the next meeting.

Jeannette Fitzbentley of Warren Court thanked the Council for clearing footways on the A355. She regularly went to Farnham Royal on her mobility scooter and had often found the footway impassable in the past. She asked if a dropped kerb could be installed at the Green Man as she currently had to cross the road at the point.

*This concludes the meeting.*