

FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 26th JUNE 2017 AT 7.30 P.M. IN FARNHAM ROYAL VILLAGE HALL

Present

Mr. Bob Milne (In the Chair)	Mr. Paul Rowley
Mr. Richard Thomas	Mr. John Hodges
Mrs. Marilyn Rolfe	Mr. Clive Robinson
Mr. Roger Home	Mrs. Judy Tipping
Mrs. Hilda Holder – Clerk	

Five members of the public and District Councillors Marlene Lewis and Dev Dhillon.

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.

17/50/PC Apologies for absence

Mr. Trevor Clapp, Mr. Brian Bilgorri, Mrs. Vicky Thompson and District Councillor David Anthony.

17/51/PC Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May 2017

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

17/52/PC Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

52.1 Mr. Milne said he would check whether the works authorised under item 17/41/PC had been completed.

52.2 Mr. Milne said it had not been possible to organise a meeting pursuant to item 17/42/PC before this meeting but it would shortly take place and he would report back to the next meeting.

52.3 With reference to item 17/47.4/PC, Mr. Milne noted that a response had been received from SBDC confirming that BCC/TFB were consulted on each application and had responded on each of the cases mentioned.

17/53/PC To consider commissioning a survey of trees in the parish on which to apply for TPOs

53.1 Mr. Milne said that this had been an agenda item which Mr. Clapp had put forward to try and protect the trees in our parish from being taken down by developers. It was noted that this didn't stop unscrupulous developers and that, unless they were actually caught in the act of damaging a TPO tree, SBDC had made it clear there was nothing they could do.

53.2 Mr. Milne believed the idea was that each noteworthy tree in the parish visible from a public place should be plotted on a plan and enquiries made of SBDC whether they had a TPO and, if not, whether one could be made. This could be done by councillors or a specialist tree expert. To this end the Clerk had enquired of the Council's regular arboriculturalist contractor what it might cost for him to undertake this work. He had said

it might be a day's work which could cost up to £400 plus Vat.

53.3 Cllr. Dhillon said he would ask SBDC for a map of the Parish showing all trees currently with TPOs. When this was received, **it was agreed** to commission our regular contractor to undertake this work. It was noted that the finance regulations usually required that the Clerk should try and get another quote. **It was agreed** to waive the finance regulations in this instance given that this was specialist work by our regular contractor.

17/54/PC To agree a policy on making grants

The Clerk had circulated a draft policy on how the Council should make grants. This was **approved**. Mr. Robinson felt that a simple covering explanatory note was needed. He would draft one for the Clerk's approval to display on the website with a link to the policy.

17/55/PC Report from the Open Spaces Working Group and to agree a revised Tree Policy

55.1 Jubilee Copse – Mr. Robinson reported that this was in good shape except for a dead tree, encroachment of the boardwalk by nettles and brambles, the need to remove ivy from trees near the north-east corner and the need to remove rhododendron which had moved in. **It was agreed** to ask our regular maintenance contractor to proceed to undertake these additional works. It was noted there would be additional charges but these arose out of an established maintenance contract and no other quotes would be required.

55.2 Temple Dell – the Clerk had obtained a quote from SSE to install electricity into Temple Dell. The point was made that this should be driven by need and that none had really been established. The Clerk was asked to enquire what the lead time for installation would be. Mr. Robinson added that on the map supplied point A would be the ideal spot for the cable to end but it was not clear what point B signified. The Clerk was asked to clarify.

55.3 St Mary's Churchyard – Mr. Milne was concerned that although basic strimming was undertaken, there did not seem to be any work taking place to keep the boundaries clear of brambles and some graves had saplings growing through them. He didn't feel the bi-annual reports were detailed enough as several graves had been broken but had not been mentioned. He was arranging a meeting with the contractor and would report back.

55.4 Ingrams Copse – Mr. Milne had witnessed dumping of garden waste and was disappointed by the amount of fly tipping. All the Council could do was monitor the situation. He noted that under the instruction of a previous chairman the Council's contractor had taken down all the holly bushes along the boundary with Warren Court but - partly for reason of lack of access - had left all the cuttings on the ground which was unsightly. He was pursuing the issue of reinstating the access gate but it was proving hard to arrange a meeting with L&Q

55.5 Tree Policy – Mr. Milne referred to the draft tree policy drafted by Mr. Robinson. This was approved subject to minor amendments. A copy will be circulated and kept with these minutes

17/56/PC To approve the outcomes for the Parish from the other responses to the Parish Plan survey

56.1 Mr. Milne said Mrs. Thompson had circulated another analysis of a section of the Parish Plan for approval. It was felt that the conclusions were good although when preparing a final parish plan document some account should be made of works since the questionnaire was undertaken.

56.2 Mrs. Tipping said she would have to step back from this project as she felt she had not been able to take an active part in how things were proceeding owing to poor communication between team members.

17/57/PC To appoint a representative to attend the BCC Rights of Way Liaison Group

57.1 Mr. Home noted that he had been interested in volunteering in the past. He felt the main issue was how a formal right of way could be established where people used a path but access was now being denied. An example of this was in Ingleglen. A solid case built up with a large number of witness statements was necessary and any such action would need to be taken before 2026. The Clerk was asked to submit an article on this for the next Farnhams Magazine

57.2 Mr. Milne said he had attended the liaison group meeting recently. The Rights of Way team were now back as part of BCC (rather than with Ringway Jacobs). There should be 3 Rights of Way at officers in BCC but as they have never been able to appoint one for the south they have now dropped the number to 2 for the whole county – that is they have given up trying to appoint. There are two Rights of Way maintenance teams in Bucks with two people each. However, one of the South team is on long term absence and as the other cannot work on their own (for Health & Safety reasons) no work is being done. There are no contingencies for this.

57.3 **It was agreed** that Mr. Home should be appointed the Rights of Way Liaison Group representative with Mr. Milne willing to deputise if necessary.

17/58/PC Finance

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

58.2 The Accounts and Annual Return presented to the meeting upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee **were approved** and duly signed.

58.3 **It was agreed** that in the light of the recent rescue arrangement for the Co-operative Bank there was no need to change banks at this time.

17/59/PC Planning

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

59.2 Planning decisions were noted.

59.3 Mr. Rowley reported that the car wash appeared likely to be moving to the Victoria Public House soon. It was noted that the Council would need to wait until they do so without planning permission before the matter could be reported to enforcement.

17/60/PC Any Other Business

60.1 Mr. Robinson was concerned that the boundary line between Temple Dell and Farnham Lodge did not seem to be in the right place given that it seemed to cross over a drainage ditch. The Clerk advised that unfortunately SBDC had agreed the boundary

line and there was nothing more that we could do.

60.2 Mr. Robinson reported that instructions had been given to proceed to repair the war memorial. The cheaper quote had been chosen.

60.3 Mrs. Tipping had attended the Burnham Beeches Consultative Committee and confirmed that it had been agreed to retain existing arrangements under PSPOs.

60.4 Mrs. Tipping said she had received a complaint that the hedges at the corner of the A355 and Farnham Park Lane were overgrown. The Clerk asked that she let her know about such complaints as soon as she had them.

60.5 Mrs. Tipping enquired who owned the car park opposite the Stage pub site. Mr. Milne confirmed this was owned by Burnham Beeches.

60.6 Mrs. Tipping noted that residents were coming together at her suggestion to put in a bid to acquire School Wood and Brockenhurst Wood which had been put up for sale. Mr. Milne had received a leaflet which he would ask the Clerk to circulate.

60.7 Mr. Hodges referred to a request from SBDC to consult on the strategic planning for Farnham Park Playing fields. Mr. Rowley said he and the Clerk were meeting with their agents next week. Mr. Robinson asked to also attend.

60.8 Mr. Thomas, as Chairman of the Sports Club, expressed concern about dogs not being under control by members of the public exercising their rights to walk around the sports field. He would undertake a risk assessment and come back to the Council if the Sports Club needed any support on this issue.

60.9 The Clerk enquired whether there was any objection to the developers of the land at 6 Fairfield Road calling the access road Fairfield Place. There was no objection.

17/61/PC Next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.02pm.

The next meeting would be on Monday 31st July 2017 at 7.30pm at Farnham Common Village Hall.

NOTES from the public open forum of the meeting

Chris Foulds repeated earlier concerns about noisy and speeding vehicles in the early evening using the A355. He was disappointed that PCSO Sampson had not been able to meet with him on this issue. Mrs. Tipping added that she believed the offenders lived in Langtons Meadow and she had contacted the police who said they could do nothing about this. Mr. Robinson advised that two people from the village had now completed their Police Support Volunteer vetting and were awaiting training. If more information as to when would be the best time to monitor the situation was forthcoming, the volunteers would be better able to target their efforts in due course. Mr Robinson also advised that Burnham and Farnham Royal are jointly gaining a Sentinel Camera device from the LAF, which will be able to record registration numbers as well as speed.

Mr. Nicholas Walters of Blackpond Lane asked if the Council was aware of the travellers who had moved into a field on Blackpond Lane. Mr. Milne confirmed that the Council had found out about this today. Cllr. Dhillon confirmed he was closely involved in the matter and – as they were on private land - it was up to the landowner to seek a S.61 notice to evict them. This could take a week or so unless there was any evidence that anyone had been threatened in which case it could be sooner.

This concludes the meeting.