

# FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 31<sup>st</sup> JULY 2017 AT 7.30 P.M. IN FARNHAM COMMON VILLAGE HALL

### Present

Mr. Trevor Clapp (Chair)	Mr. Bob Milne
Mr. Paul Rowley	Mrs. Vicky Thompson
Mr. Richard Thomas	Mr. John Hodges
Mrs. Marilyn Rolfe	Mrs. Judy Tipping
Mrs. Hilda Holder – Clerk	

Seven members of the public including County Councillor Lin Hazell and District Councillors Dev Dhillon and David Anthony.

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30pm. A minute's silence was held as a mark of respect for Cllr. Bilgorri, recently deceased. The meeting was adjourned for OPEN FORUM noted at the end of these minutes. The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

### 17/62/PC Apologies for absence

Mr. Clive Robinson and Mr. Roger Home.

### 17/63/PC Minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017

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

### 17/64/PC Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

Mr. Milne referred to item 17/54.4/PC and reported that he had met with an L&Q officer regarding the access to Ingrams Copse from Warren Court. L&Q said there were no rights of way marked on their Land Registry title documents. They will look into it further and get back to us.

### 17/65/PC To receive an update from Andy Barnard on PSPOs

65.1 Mr. Barnard referred to the consultation carried out by the City of London. Visitors' views (of which dog walkers formed around 33% of the 33,000 visitors) showed an overwhelming majority in favour of the continuation of the existing dog control orders into a PSPO except for the one issue of where dogs could be off lead. However a clear majority still existed for the continuation of the DCO terms in this respect too. Of the statutory and other consultees only the Kennel Club objected and the Open Spaces Society adopted a neutral position from their previous objections. They had received an i-petition with 341 signatures. Having studied the suggestions made it had been decided that the suggestions would be too complex and difficult to enforce. They were now working closely with SBDC on PSPOs as SBDC's plans would affect Stoke Common.

65.2 He was able to report therefore that they had received a good level of support and the decision had now been taken to convert the DCO into a PSPO. He concluded by saying that at the end of the day Burnham Beeches was more than a dog walking park

but a very unique and special environment appealing to more than one interest group.  
65.3 Mrs. Thompson raised the issue of dogs off leads in an area they shouldn't be owing to ineffective signage. Mr. Barnard said they would be reviewing signage shortly.

### **17/66/PC To consider further actions to control illegal encampments**

66.1 The Chairman noted that residents had complained about how slow it had been to deal with the travelers on Blackpond Lane and had sought reassurances that lessons would be learnt for the future. P.S. Anna Davison said that if the travelers had been on public land action could be taken more quickly but if they are on private land it is down to the landowner to take action. The landowner would have to allege they were trespassing and start s.61 proceedings to enable the police to forcibly remove them from a location.

66.2 In the case of Blackpond Lane - unusually - it transpired that the landowner had consented to them being there. SBDC were approached and planning issues were raised but any process of enforcement would not have been speedy. Thinking outside the box the police then issued the landowner with an anti-social behaviour notice which would have made him liable to criminal proceedings and a fine if he allowed the anti-social behaviour of the travelers to continue on his land. This led the landowner to change his mind about consenting to the travelers' presence and enabled the police to take s.61 action.

66.3 Following debate P.S. Davison said she would feedback comments made that the police had appeared slow to act - particularly at weekends. She made the point however that there were resource issues for the police although they were now recording encampments to gain a better picture of their movements. She said the police were careful to not be seen as discriminating against this section of society when there was no clear evidence of any crimes being committed. Indeed when travelers' children were found to be causing damage to some cars the owners were apologized to and the damage paid for. Cllr. Dhillon added he had met with the travelers who had been polite and left when they promised. They did say that South Bucks had been an easy place to camp in.

### **17/67/PC To consider the future of the Guide Hut**

67.1 The Chairman reported that the Guides had now advised the Council that they would no longer be proceeding with renting the Hedgerley Youth Club facilities but would wish to explore sharing space in a new community hub building on the current site. The Clerk was asked to find out why they had changed their minds.

67.2 The Chairman noted the current hut was uninhabitable owing to the Guides' failure over many years to maintain the hut under their full repairing lease. He queried what benefit there was in forcing them to repair it when they hadn't the funds to do so. Mr. Rowley said this was an opportunity to explore resourcing a new building with other stakeholders and he hoped by Christmas to have spoken to all such potential partners.

67.3 Mrs. Rolfe said the Guides should be fund raising for a new building themselves as she had had to do when she was a youth leader. Mrs. Tipping said she would not be willing to develop a new community hub just for the Guides

### **17/68/PC To consider erecting signs and additional dog bins at FCSC to control dogs on the grounds**

68.1 Mr. Thomas declared his interest as chairman of Farnham Common Sports Club. He said he was concerned that dogs ran all over the grounds off lead - some being let out at night to do so. As a result, despite polite signs and bins, there was dog fouling on the grounds and this could potentially pose possible risks especially for children who use the pitches although the pitches were checked before each match. He believed the best way to approach the problem was by education and consultation and then looking into what can be done to control dogs working with the council under the terms of the Lease. It was not his wish to antagonize the local community. Mr. Milne suggested that FCSC should keep records of incidents.

68.2 Mr. Barnard agreed that the voluntary approach was the right one. He said there was kennel club guidance on this. Legally he pointed out that the Parish Council no longer had powers to issue Dog Control Orders or PSPOs. Only SBDC could issue a PSPO. The only alternative to the Parish Council was to create its own by-law. The Clerk was asked to find out the status of the current PSPO consultation SBDC were undertaking and make enquiries into the steps necessary to obtain a by-law. It was agreed that the Council would in principle assist FCSC in providing publicity and additional signage and bins. FCSC was asked to provide a proposal of what it required in due course.

### **17/69/PC To consider highways issues relating to Beeches Road**

69.1 The Chairman was disappointed that residents from Beeches Road who had asked for the matter to be on the agenda were not present. Mrs. Rolfe said that because of the increase in development in the area large lorries were parking on the pavement from early in the morning; the road was not fit for purpose especially with the residents' parking zone as the number of vehicles parking was clogging up the road; part of the road had collapsed and still has bollards up after 3 weeks; trucks from the tip were using Beeches Road now and Green Lane was also dangerous with visitors parking there for Burnham Beeches. She believed making the road part of a one way system was the only solution.

69.2 The Chairman commented that the Council did request a Construction Management Plan be agreed for developments with difficult accesses. Bad parking should be promptly reported to the police. He said that residents should collaborate to agree a majority view on the solution and the Council would consider whether a feasibility study could be undertaken.

69.3 Cllr. Dhillon noted that such a study would cost in the region of £15,000. Informal advice might be possible by contacting Alistair Turk or Simon Dando. He felt it unlikely that any survey of residents would come up with a majority view.

69.4 Cllr. Hazell said if any evidence was forthcoming of tip lorries using Beeches Road she would be happy to take it up at SBDC for them to put in place a routing policy. She added that she might have some funds to help undertake a survey.

**17/70/PC To approve the outcomes for the Parish from the other responses to the Parish Plan survey**

Mrs. Thompson had circulated outcomes for all the headings under the Parish Plan. She hoped between her, the Clerk and the Chairman that a first draft of the parish plan could be brought back to the September meeting for comment.

**17/71/PC To consider further areas in the Parish that require siding out and to agree priorities for applications to the LAF**

71.1 Mr. Milne referred to a meeting of the LAF bid working group and their recommendations as to the projects to ask the LAF to fund. Firstly they would be raising the issue of the costs of siding out/ hedge cutting of historically neglected areas and asking the LAF to fund the costs of putting those areas right. The intention was at least to have the decision of the LAF recorded in LAF minutes.

71.2 With the aim of improving accessibility for older and vulnerable people the working group had recommended and **it was agreed** to put forward:-

71.2.1 providing dropped kerbs at the following sites – pavement on A355 at Spring Lane/ 'Green Man' junction , several sites in Langton Meadow/Parsonage Lane, across Rosewood Way at Robins Parade.

71.2.2 repairing pavements at the following sites – the whole of Mayflower Way, Old Beaconsfield Road where footpath to Blackpond Lane enters, Kingsway pavement repair along new fence and reconfigure and improve where Kingsway meets Green Lane. In this respect he had met with the Local Area Technician who would be preparing a report recommending dropped kerbs.

71.2.3 Improving drainage where puddling on and around footpaths occurs – around ATS and carpark entrance, Rosewood Way North and South sides and new houses at Dippingwell Lodge site.

71.3 With the aim of improving accessibility for Older and Vulnerable people and Environmental Improvement the group recommended extensive siding out and cutting back of vegetation alongside neglected pavements, footpaths and verges –

71.3.1 Verge south of the 'Green Man' on A355. **Agreed** to put forward

71.3.2 Verge bordering but not part of Farnham Royal Cricket Club. **It was agreed** that the Council should obtain an arboricultural survey of the trees in this area.

71.3.3 Route from surgery in Blackpond Lane to FC village. Mr. Milne noted that the hedges were neatly trimmed. However the hedges were not cut back to the very edge of the footway but were overhanging by about 1 foot. The Clerk was asked to get a quote for the cost of undertaking the work.

71.4 Mr. Hodges raised the issue of the trees obscuring visibility at the junction with Beeches Road and Stewarts Drive. Mr. Milne said it would need to be established who owned them.

71.5 Mr. Milne noted that the Footpath in FCSC from the car park to the play area and then along to the A355 needed siding out. **It was agreed** this was not a matter for the LAF but that a quote should be obtained by the Council for this.

**17/72/PC To agree the SSE quote to install an electricity service to Temple Dell**

The Chairman reported that it seemed likely to cost almost £5,000 to install electricity into Temple Dell with a view to developing it into a useful site for future events. **It was agreed** not to proceed with this project at this time.

**17/73/PC 17/74/PC To review the state of St Mary's churchyard and agree future maintenance priorities**

Mr. Milne reported that the churchyard was overgrown but it was impossible to tell how long it had been like that. He was concerned about the shrubs/ bushes and saplings growing through the graves. He would recommend to council that these be removed over time where they were less than about 10 foot in height. He felt the first step would be to contact the church for their approval of this policy and to invite their comments on the taller trees/bushes. The church may need to undertake their own survey to identify any that they wished to keep. **It was agreed** that

73.1 the Clerk write to the Church to ask if they would want the trees growing through graves to be removed if less than 10 foot high

73.2 our contractor should be asked what could feasibly be achieved under the contract to cut back overgrowth on the boundary in the remaining two years of the contract. It might be necessary to engage the Council's former contractor to bring the situation up to an acceptable specification.

**17/74/PC To consider FCSC request for drone filming at FCSC**

The Chairman declared his interest. He said his company had been asked to undertake some filming at FCSC to help promote it. This needed the permission of the Council as the land owner. This **was approved**.

**17/75/PC To approve the use of a new events application form**

The Clerk had developed an application form by way of a risk assessment form for anyone wanting to run an event on land the Council owned or maintained. This was **approved**.

**17/76/PC To agree to acquire a Chairman's chain of office**

The Chairman said there were certain formal events where chains of office were worn and this Council was the only one that didn't have a chain of office in the district. He said that it would be his intention to seek independent funding for such an item. It was **agreed** in principle that a chain of office would be desirable. Mr. Milne abstained and Mr. Rowley expressed concern about the timing of this initiative.

**17/77/PC Finance**

Mr. Hodges reported that :-

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

77.2 The Clerk had prepared a quarterly management report which showed the Council were on target against budget. This was noted.

**17/78/PC Planning**

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

78.2 Planning decisions were noted.

78.3 On the issue of the development at the rear of Honey Cottage, Mr. Milne was concerned that there still remained a conflict of interest issue - namely that SBDC had sold the land to the developers and were now responsible for planning approval relating

to it. The Chairman agreed this should be taken up again.

78.4 Mr. Milne had met with the owners of 6 Kingsway Mews. The same developers as were developing the above property were building next to their property. They would be overlooked and he felt SBDC had made a poor decision. **It was agreed** to write to SBDC requesting that the developers should plant semi-mature trees along the rear boundary of 6 Kingsway Mews to help screen their property from the new development

### **17/79/PC Any Other Business**

79.1 Mr. Thomas asked the Clerk to send him details of what had been agreed about parking on the FCSC field.

79.2 Mrs. Thompson thanked the Council for its support for the Big Picnic. It had been a great success with 500 people attending.

79.3 Mrs. Thompson reported that BCC were looking into possibly transferring ownership of the Green to the Council

79.4 The Chairman said the Hedgerley Gravel Extraction issue was back. It was agreed that the Council should continue to offer support to Hedgerley residents.

79.5 Mrs. Tipping noted gravel lorries from East Burnham Quarry were coming out of Kingsway onto the A355. She was asked to provide evidence to Cllr Hazell who could take this up.

### **17/80/PC Next meeting**

The meeting closed at 9.59pm.

The next meeting would be on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 7.30pm at Farnham Royal Village Hall.

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

Mr. and Mrs. Stebbings of Green Lane said their property adjoined the proposed development of Land rear of Honey Cottage, Green Lane. They had sent in their objections to SBDC and copied the Parish Council. Their concern was that the development had started in a way not in keeping with the permitted development but - when approached - the developer had been confident he would get retrospective permission. They had then approached SBDC and been disgusted to be met with the same attitude of indifference from SBDC.

The Chairman said that there seemed to be a growing trend of initial applications being followed by applications for non-material amendments which belied the true picture. It appeared that SBDC was more lenient than many councils in what changes they would allow before they considered it to be something that required a new planning application. He added it was not illegal to start building something – only if the application relating to it failed. However the Parish Council would formally raise this as a concern with SBDC.

Cllr. Dhillon added he would escalate the complaint with SBDC planning that residents should be treated with more courtesy.

Mr. Milne said he had visited the site and residents. He enquired whether SBDC monitored developments and was advised that no one from SBDC monitors developments – developers were at liberty to engage their own independent surveyors to inspect works.

Cllr. Anthony encouraged residents to ensure that ten objections were sent in on controversial applications so that they can be referred to planning committee.

Mrs. Tipping noted the climate of mistrust of the SBDC planning department that existed in the parish.

P.S. Davison reported that Roy Evans had been appointed the acting sergeant for this area and he would try to submit monthly reports to future meetings.

*This concludes the meeting.*