

FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. K H Holder
Clerk to the Council
clerk@farnhamroyal-pc.gov.uk
01753 648497

Sherriff House
The Broadway
Farnham Common
SL2 3QH

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 23rd OCTOBER 2017 AT 7.30 P.M. IN FARNHAM COMMON VILLAGE HALL

Present

Mr. Trevor Clapp (Chairman) Mr. Bob Milne
Mr. Paul Rowley Mr. John Hodges
Mr. Clive Robinson (for items 96-98,104 and 107.3)
Mrs. Marilyn Rolfe Mr. Bill Baker (from item 99)
Mrs. Hilda Holder – Clerk
Six members of the public including District Councillor Marlene Lewis and County Councillor Lin 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.

17/96/PC Apologies for absence

Mrs. Judy Tipping, Mr. Richard Thomas, Mrs. Vicky Thompson, Mr. Roger Home and District Councillors Dev Dhillon and David Anthony.

17/97/PC Minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2017

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

17/98/PC Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

There were none.

17/99/PC To co-opt a new councillor

The Chairman reported that Mr. Bill Baker had expressed an interest in standing as a councillor. In response to enquiries, Mr. Baker said he had lived in the parish for 40 years and was a retired chartered surveyor. He had been involved in working on specific projects with the parish council which had come to successful conclusions.

It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Mr. Baker as a councillor and he signed his declaration of acceptance of office.

17/100/PC To agree a response to the Chiltern and South Bucks Brownfield Register Consultation

The Chairman advised that a brownfield site review consultation was underway. Given the pressure for balanced development it was prudent for the Council to come up with some ideas for sites that could be redeveloped to provide more affordable accommodation. He noted that backland development such as splitting larger plots often did not result in affordable housing. His suggestion was the Car Park and Garage site in the Broadway on condition that car parking could be retained too – for example

by building above the car park. Following debate, **it was not agreed** to support this proposal. Other suggestions were invited and Mr. Rowley agreed to prepare a response which he would circulate for approval before submitting.

17/101/PC To consider planting poppies in the parish to commemorate WW1

Chris Leicester- Crow explained that a local scout leader, Ian Henderson, had started a scheme to plant poppies in a ribbon from John O' Groats to Lands End in time for 2018. The scouts had the seeds and would provide the manpower but lacked expertise as to planting and would like permission to plant them in a suitable public space in the parish. **It was agreed in principle** to support this initiative and that the scouts should liaise with the Council's contractor and come back with a detailed proposal.

17/102/PC To agree representatives to attend memorial services in November

It was agreed that the Chairman would attend the Farnham Common memorial event on Saturday 11th November and Mr. Milne and Mr. Rowley would attend the church remembrance service on Sunday 12th November to lay wreaths on behalf of the Council.

17/103/PC To consider the safety of the Guide Hut and agree next steps

Mr. Rowley reported that he and the Chairman had met with the Guides and had agreed that a safety survey was essential. This survey would have to be undertaken whether the Guides stay or leave and Mr. Rowley recommended that the Parish Council pay for this. **It was agreed** that a budget of up to £1500 be approved to obtain the necessary safety survey. Mr Rowley would circulate the brief to councillors and added that they had assured the Guides that they would work with them to find a local solution should the safety report condemn the hut.

17/104/PC To consider and approve the draft Parish Plan and next steps

104.1 The Chairman was concerned that the revised draft parish plan did not have the approach he felt was appropriate as it should be drafted as more of a mission statement with forward thinking policies.

104.2 Mr. Robinson explained he had produced a revised draft parish plan based on the survey results compiled by the Clerk and Lucid Communications. He said that the Council should not be saying that the survey supports a policy if there was no grounding in evidence. He said that the Council could build on the evidence obtained as long as it was clear what was based on evidence and what was not.

104.3 The Clerk was asked to amend the draft so far by adding back some of the policies previously suggested but marking up clearly where they differed from the latest draft.

17/105/PC To approve expenditure following TPO survey of parish trees

The Clerk explained that following the survey showing trees worthy of protecting, a further exercise was necessary to identify those trees which did not already have TPOs as SBDC were unable to do so for the large number of trees identified. This would cost £100 **which was agreed**. The next step of making the applications for TPOs would cost £25 for each tree or group of trees. This would be brought back to a future meeting.

17/106/PC Finance

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

17/107/PC Planning

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

107.2 Planning decisions were noted.

107.3 Mr. Robinson was concerned that highways comments were not made public on SBDC's website. The Chairman added that he had raised the matter at the SBALC meeting and the Clerk was asked to formally write to SBDC requesting that this should take place and copy the same to district councillors.

107.4 The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had met with a developer following an approach made regarding some Green Belt land in the parish. They were talking about building some 100-150 houses. There was an opportunity to work with the developer to achieve the best outcome for the parish rather than keep saying 'no' and becoming toothless. The issue was whether the parish (not just the council) should become involved in steering such development. He noted that a new Green Belt review was about to take place and there was a fear that development could be foisted on us - not meeting the parish's need for lower-cost housing. As no-one had come forward to champion a Neighbourhood Plan this would mean the Council had no control over planning policy and it was important to develop a strategic plan. Concern was expressed about changing previous policy on development in Green Belt and engaging with parishioners fully on the subject. **It was agreed** to try once more to get some impetus behind a Neighbourhood Plan and the Clerk was asked to find out which consultants have been used by other local councils for their Neighbourhood Plans.

107.5 It was noted that Slough was making another land grab attempt. **It was agreed** to wholeheartedly support the District Council's views and reiterate our previous comments as to a need for a green buffer between South Bucks and Slough.

107.6 Mr Rowley thanked Mrs. Rolfe for attending the planning committee meeting in relation to Dippingwell Lodge and securing the right outcome. She said she felt it was important to attend such meetings more often and she had learnt to be more specific for example in clearly differentiating between ground and surface water as the developers had muddled the two.

107.7 The Clerk was asked to write to SBDC enforcement officers about the hoardings around the village put up by developers which SBDC had done nothing about so far.

17/108/PC Any Other Business

There was none.

17/109/PC Next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm. The next meeting would be on Monday 27th November 2017 at 7.30pm at Farnham Royal Village Hall.

NOTES from the public open forum of the meeting

Mr. Ron Whiting of Blackpond Lane said he and his neighbours had been the worst affected by the illegal travellers' encampment and had formed a committee to explore ways of preventing this happening again. Although the owner via his local manager had put up a more robust gate and better fencing either side of the gate and intended to put in bollards, the rest of the fence was very insecure and could be easily breached. He had visited other sites where earth bunds had proved effective and to do so in Blackpond

Lane would restore the verge to how it looked in the 1950s and could look very attractive. He would prepare more plans and come back to the next meeting with firmer proposals. He believed the land on which the bunds would go belonged to BCC but was managed by the Parish Council.

The Chairman commented that the issue had been taken up by parish councils across south bucks who were writing to the Secretary of State via SBALC for better laws to speed up eviction of travellers from private land and to reduce land fill charges to prevent illegal dumping. He said that other issues to consider including putting in bunds on a parish level and who would fund them.

This concludes the meeting.