

# FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 25 MARCH 2019 AT 7.30 P.M. IN FARNHAM COMMON VILLAGE HALL

### Present

Mr. Paul Rowley (Chairman)    Mr. Clive Robinson  
Mrs. Marilyn Rolfe                Ms. Jennifer Jebson  
Mrs. Judith Hall – Clerk

Seven members of the public, District Councillor David Anthony and District Councillor Marlene Lewis

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.

### 19/9/PC Apologies for absence

Mr. Bob Milne, Mr. John Hodges, Mr. Roger Home, Mr. Richard Thomas and Mrs. Judy Tipping

### 19/10/PC Declarations of Interest

The Chairman declared an interest in point 16.2, planning decisions.

### 19/11/PC To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2019

The minutes were **approved** and signed by the Chairman.

### 19/12/PC Matters Arising (not covered on the agenda and for information only)

The Chairman advised that prior to the meeting all councillors had been provided with a report detailing the items under this section. The Chairman asked those councillors present whether they were in happy to continuing with this approach and they confirmed that they were. The report can be downloaded from the Parish Council website or a hard copy can be requested from the clerk.

12.1 Update on tree work that was not included in arboriculturalists report – report noted

12.2 Update on historic pension liability – report noted

12.3 Update from the Kingsway Green Working Group – report noted and the Chairman advised that he and Mrs. Rolfe had met earlier in the day with the working group and whilst progress has been slow there now appears to be a consensus that the space should be largely open and usable for community events such as farmers' markets and/or plant fairs. The Chairman reminded councillors that £3,000 had been included in the 2019/20 budget for the project and a phased approach was therefore going to be necessary with the group agreeing that phase one would be to protect the Green by placing bollards along the Kingsway and service road to prevent lorries and cars from parking on the grass and, if funds allowed, to plant some hedging and bulbs. The Chairman also noted that it would be important to encompass the oak tree and seat into the finished design and raised holding a consultation event for parishioners and shops on a Saturday to share the plans and ideas. Mr. Robinson supported the idea commenting that it was very similar to one he had suggested 18 months earlier and suggested bollards that matched those on The Broadway and not made out of plastic. Ms. Jebson advised that it would be necessary to comply with highways regulations in respect of the bollards chosen and their placement.

12.4 Update from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – report noted

12.5 Update on tent encampments – report noted and the Clerk advised that the Environmental Health department of SBDC had advised that they would be happy to provide clearance services for both sites via their contractor Biffa but that this service would need to be paid for. In respect of Boundary Copse, the Clerk further advised that she had reviewed the lease and although nothing was specifically mentioned in this regard, it did

provide for the Parish Council to maintain the site. The Clerk continued that she would request a quote from SBDC and from Constant & Co, who had previously advised that they are able to provide this service. Mr. Houdret advised that he was liaising with the villages' PCSO in order to contact the owner of the field in Blackpond Lane in order to progress matters in this regard.

12.6 Update on contract renewals – report noted

12.7 Update from the Farnhams Magazine – report noted and the Chairman invited Mr. Houdret to say a few words on behalf of the magazine. Mr. Houdret appealed for articles.

### **19/13/PC To consider the terms of the new lease for 1st Floor, Sherriff House, The Broadway, Farnham Common**

The Chairman advised that the terms of the new lease were as discussed at the last meeting with the exception of one as the new lease was for a period of seven rather than ten years with a four year rather than five year break clause. **It was agreed** that the Parish Council enter into the new lease.

### **19/14/PC To consider amendments to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group terms of reference**

The revised terms of reference **were agreed**.

### **19/15/PC Finance**

The Chairman advised that prior to the meeting all councillors had been provided with a report and supporting documents detailing the items under this section. The report can be downloaded from the Parish Council website or a hard copy can be requested from the clerk.

15.1 To approve payments and note receipts, as per the cashbook

The payments and receipts, as per the cashbook, **were approved**. The Clerk advised that as 31 March 2019 was also year end an updated March 2019 cashbook would be issued to councillors during April 2019.

15.2 To consider quotes for installing a sink in the office and a budget for the project – report noted and the Clerk advised that two quotes had now been received. The first quote had been received from Stows Plumbing & Heating for £750 to cover labour and plumbing materials and the second from Mr. Gomm for £300.00 for labour with plumbing materials being an extra cost. Mr. Robinson asked whether anyone had used either or both of the plumbers suggested. The Chairman advised that he had engaged Mr. Gomm previously and that Paul Sherriff, the Parish Council's landlord, had previously engaged Stows Plumbing & Heating. Mr. Robinson also asked whether both individuals were local, which the Chairman confirmed advising that one was based in Burnham and one was based in Cippenham. **It was agreed**, based on price, to engage Mr. Gomm to carry out the work.

15.3 To ratify the purchase of a new office fridge – report noted

### **19/16/PC Planning**

The Chairman advised that prior to the meeting all councillors had been provided with a report and supporting documents detailing the items under this section. The report can be downloaded from the Parish Council website or a hard copy can be requested from the clerk. The Chairman invited Mrs. Rolfe, as Chair of the Planning Committee to update councillors regarding the Committee. Mrs. Rolfe advised that the committee was working well and was reviewing all applications and amendments and planned to apportion areas to committee members to enable members to become familiar with what's going on in smaller areas. The Chairman also added that the Committee was reviewing permissions granted to ensure conditions such as choice of materials are being met during building and confirmed that any issues would be reported to the planning enforcement department at SBDC.

16.1 To note comments on recent applications

The Planning Comments were noted.

16.2 To note planning decisions

The Planning decisions were noted and Mr. Robinson stated that he was interested to read the decision regarding the application concerning School Wood.

### **19/17/PC Any Other Business (for information only)**

17.1 Mr. Robinson advised that the speed camera was now working again.

17.2 Ms. Jebson asked the Clerk to ensure that the Parish Council's Facebook page was populated regularly. Mr

Foulds, a member of the public, expressed that it was good to get updates regarding the travellers from the Clerk on Facebook.

17.3 Mr. Foulds also asked what the planning application regarding Old Oak Farm was for. Mrs. Rolfe advised that the owner was seeking permission to change the use of the stable to residential. Mr. Foulds expressed his concern that he was not notified of the application by SBDC despite his land neighbouring the property.

17.4 A resident of Scott Close, asked how he would hear further regarding the points raised by him today during the Open Forum. The Chairman advised him to ring the Clerk for an update. He also asked for further information regarding the budget following comments today regarding the available funds for the Kingsway Green project. The Chairman advised that an itemised budget would be available at the Annual Parish Meeting.

17.5 Cllr. Dhillon advised that there were ongoing discussions regarding the single unitary authority and in particular the locations of hubs, how to shape the future and about devolving more services to parishes.

### **19/18/PC Next meeting**

The meeting closed at 8.35pm. The next meeting will be on Monday 29 April 2019 at 7.30pm at Farnham Royal Village Hall.

### **OPEN FORUM**

Mr. Foulds stated that he understood that the Parish Council had a fair bit to do with moving on the travellers and asked whether the bailiff company engaged by the Parish Council were involved. The Chairman advised that the company wasn't used but was in the background. He continued that as a result of pushing from Mr. Thomas the Parish Council was more organised and efficient in dealing with encampments. The Chairman advised that during his discussions with the Police during the last incursion, it transpired that the Police had prepared their report and forwarded it to SBDC for progressing with the eviction but in accordance with an agreement between SBDC and BCC all traveller matters are dealt with by BCC and they have no out of hours provision which is a vulnerability in the system and one that the Clerk will follow up with BCC. Cllr. Dhillon advised that he would check regarding a BCC out of hours service and that this was something SBDC can lobby them about. Mr. Foulds stated that the new system seems to work and thanked the Parish Council for its efforts. Mr. Houdret expressed disappointment that some people were moaning about the defences put in place to prevent future encampments. Mr. Norvill stated that the trench is excellent but the skip by the gate could pose a health hazard. The Chairman advised that Mr. Whiting, a resident not in attendance, was in discussion with Mr. Houdret's contact who put in the defences to find a solution.

Mr. Norvill advised that the applicant for planning permission concerning Neelam Stables in Parsonage Lane had submitted an amendment which provided for a reduction in size but still included cavity walls. In addition, he advised that the applicant for Old Oak Farm, Parsonage Lane had not yet responded to the observations and that the application has therefore not yet gone back to the SBDC Planning Committee. Finally, Mr. Norvill turned to the application concerning Allerds Farm. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council was keen to preserve both the Green Belt and the listing building on the site. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council's Planning Committee was looking at what's granted and what's being built. Finally, Mr. Norvill confirmed that the tent encampment in Blackpond Lane was opposite Roslin Grove rather than Fairfield Drive.

A resident from Scott Close raised concerns regarding motorcycles racing on the A355 at 11pm in the evening at weekends. Mr. Robinson advised that the Speedwatch team were scheduled to go out on Mayflower Way and Templewood Lane on 1 and 2 April 2019 but this has been postponed. Mr. Foulds commented that vehicles often travel 80/90mph on A355. The Chairman advised that the Clerk will raise the motorcycle racing with the Police but reminded those present that the Parish Council has no authority in these situations. Cllr. Dhillon suggested contacting the SBDC Environmental Officer in respect of noise and air pollution. Ms. Jebson advised that she used a noise monitoring app on her phone and suggested that the resident look into this. The resident also raised concern regarding lorries using Crown Lane and the degradation this was causing to the road surface. Mrs. Rolfe advised that the problem in Crown Lane was caused by lorries travelling to and from the concrete crushing site behind Bishops Farm but the resident felt Highways lorries were also responsible. Mr. Robinson also mentioned the Fairlawn development and the resident stated that developers are often asked to make good the areas immediately surrounding their developments. Finally, he raised his concern regarding the Haymill Garage site that is all boarded

up and looks awful, is open to an incursion and could have all sorts of hazards present. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council would look into this.