

# FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 29 APRIL 2019 AT 7.30 P.M. IN FARNHAM ROYAL VILLAGE HALL

### Present

Mr. Paul Rowley (Chairman)    Mr. Clive Robinson  
Mrs. Marilyn Rolfe                Ms. Jennifer Jebson  
Mr. Richard Thomas            Mr. Roger Home  
Mr. Bob Milne                    Mrs. Judy Tipping  
Mrs. Judith Hall – Clerk  
Ten members of the public and District Councillor Dev Dhillon

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30pm and read the following statement:

I would like to remind both councillors and the public that when speaking you should not make reference to another individual's age, gender, sexual orientation, race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin or their religion or belief.

The meeting was adjourned for OPEN FORUM noted at the end of these minutes. The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

### 19/19/PC Apologies for absence

Mr. John Hodges

The Chairman advised that Mr Hodges was still going through difficult family issues and in accordance with the decision of the Parish Council his membership would not cease.

### 19/20/PC Declarations of Interest

None

### 19/21/PC To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2019

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

### 19/22/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.

22.1 Note actions on historic pension liability – report noted

22.2 Note application for a debit card – report noted and the Chairman advised that in addition to existing authority procedures any purchases would be approved by the Chairman and the Vice Chairman prior to the relevant transaction taking place.

22.3 Update on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – report noted and the Chairman advised that the Group would be making a communication shortly. Mr. Robinson asked whether councillors could see the minutes and the Chairman advised that he would discuss this with the Chairman of the Group but ultimately yes. In addition, Mr. Robinson asked whether the Parish Council wanted to have input into the Local Plan and the Chairman confirmed that it would.

22.4 Reminder regarding no Parish Council elections this year – report noted

22.5 Update on purchase of external wall mounted defibrillator – report noted and Mr. Thomas confirmed that he

would liaise with the Clerk to progress this. Mr. Milne asked whether the location of the unit had been decided and Mr. Thomas confirmed that it had not as he needed to talk to the electrician but it was likely to be on the front wall facing the tennis courts. Mr. Milne questioned whether it would be better on the side wall by the car park and Mr. Thomas said he would discuss it with the electrician and take a view. He also agreed to take a photograph of the proposed site and forward it to councillors.

22.6 Update on Kingsway Green Working Group – report noted and Mr. Milne asked whether the group would formulate a phased plan during the coming year to assist with future budgeting. The Chairman confirmed that this would be the case. Mrs. Tipping suggested placing a tree trunk, painted white, along the edge of the green rather than bollards and thought that Burnham Beeches could bring a felled tree. The Chairman advised that Mrs. Tipping was the first person to raise an issue with using bollards. Mr. Robinson returned to bollards and advised that he had looked around The Broadway and Kingsway Green and noticed that there is a variety of bollards but 70 of the 120 bollards are Doric so suggested that it might be sensible to use these to standardise the bollards in the village and suggested replacing the square and round plastic bollards on The Broadway. Mr. Milne stated that replacing the bollards on The Broadway had been discussed previously with TfB but Lin Hazell decided to cut the funding for the project to concentrate on road surface repairs. Mr. Milne advised that Lin Hazell had suggested wooden bollards and expressed that the bollards on The Broadway could possibly be a LAF project for 2020/21. Mr. Robinson advised that his recollection was that Joe Connolly had said that the LAF would not be interested in replacing bollards. He had reviewed the number of bollards required and felt 20-24 would be needed on Kingsway Green, 20-30 on The Broadway and 10 on the triangle. Mr. Milne advised that the budget would not allow this expenditure and that it couldn't be afforded until 2020/21 anyway. Mrs. Tipping returned to her idea of getting Burnham Beeches to donate a tree.

22.7 Update on Beeches Road traffic management consultation – The Chairman advised that he didn't feel there was a conclusion on what action was going to be taken as the April 2018 minutes approved a consultation on a one-way system but following the resident's survey that Mr. Howden presented in October 2018 it appears that residents do not want a one-way system. The Chairman advised he had met Mrs. Rolfe and Mr. Howden separately early this year. The Chairman therefore plans to meet with Mrs. Rolfe, Mr. Howden and Mrs. Jebson together before the June 2019 Parish Council meeting to formulate a plan to take this forward. Mrs. Rolfe expressed her opinion that Green Lane will be dramatically impacted by any change in Beeches Road and residents of that road should therefore be included in any consultation. The Chairman confirmed that Mr. Home had volunteered to help with any paperwork in relation to the plan. Mr. Home advised that it was important to make a really good case if residents want BCC to do anything. Mrs. Rolfe agreed.

22.8 Update on report of motorcycles racing on A355 late at night – report noted and the Chairman stated that this item was covered in the open forum.

22.9 Update following resident's request to reduce the speed limit of Templewood Lane – report noted and the Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council had previously decided that it couldn't support the resident's request as there have been no accidents and the speed limit had been reduced previously. He felt that residents would need to raise the funds required. Mr. Robinson advised that once the Speedwatch camera was working Templewood Lane was on the list of roads to monitor. The Chairman thanked him for his efforts.

#### **19/23/PC 4 To consider steps to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the outbreak of WWII on 3 September 1939.**

The Clerk advised that it had been brought to her attention that 3 September marked the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the outbreak of WWII and she asked whether councillors wanted to take any steps to commemorate this. Mr. Home advised that he had a philosophical objection as he was not happy to commemorate the outbreak of war and would rather save up and commemorate peace in 2025 in a big way. **This was agreed** by all.

#### **19/24/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. The Chairman invited Mr. Milne, as Chair of the Finance Committee to update councillors regarding the following items.

24.1 To review annual management accounts – Mr. Milne advised that there was an £18,000 difference between

the revised January 2019 forecast deficit and the deficit as per the annual management accounts but that this was mainly due to not receiving invoices in respect of the 2018/19 LAF projects and several maintenance contracts before the year end. If the deficit as per the management accounts was adjusted to include the outstanding invoices, the difference would be £1,881.04. The Chairman advised that given the guidance on what a Parish Council should have in reserves, it would probably take another two years to build the reserves back to the minimum level. The Chairman advised that the Finance Committee was meeting more regularly now and thanked the members for their efforts.

24.2 To consider the Finance Committee's recommendation for a new internal auditor – Mr. Milne advised that the previous chair of the Finance Committee had recommended appointing a new internal auditor and that two names had been put forward. Following a review, the committee had agreed to recommend The Fish Partnership based on their experience in auditing parish councils and therefore members confidence in their ability. The appointment of The Fish Partnership **was agreed**.

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

Mr. Milne advised that there were three large, non-recurring payments in the cashbook this month. £8,000 in respect of LAF match funding, £3,228 in respect of tree work identified by the arboriculturist's report and £8,500 being the second installment to repay the pension deficit. The payments and receipts, as per the cashbook, **were approved**.

24.4 To ratify purchase of two banners to publicise the Annual Parish Meeting – report noted. The Chairman advised that two banners had been purchased to enable one to be displayed in Farnham Common and one to be displayed in Farnham Royal. The purchase **was ratified**.

24.5 To consider the contribution requested by BCC in respect of the 2019/20 LAF project – report noted and Mr. Milne advised that he had met with TfB twice regarding the project and that currently vehicles were allowed to stop on the double yellow lines on The Broadway for loading and unloading. Mrs. Tipping advised that this had always been the case. Mr. Milne advised that TfB will try for 'no loading' on the whole of The Broadway in the project at no cost to the Parish Council. Mr. Thomas clarified that drivers cannot stop on the zig zag lines. Mr. Home stated that issues should be reported to the police for enforcement. Mrs. Tipping added that the car wash should go to enable better use of the service road at the back of the shops for loading and unloading. The contribution of £9,195 **was agreed**.

### **19/25/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. Mrs. Rolfe advised that the committee was working well and meetings were getting shorter but members want to look at all applications and do them justice. She advised that members had been allocated different areas within the parish as it had become apparent that members were not aware of what was going on in the community which is important to support residents' quality of life. She also advised that the committee had asked the Clerk to contact Tristan Miles to see if he would help the committee on certain applications.

25.1 To note comments on recent applications - The Planning Comments **were noted**.

25.2 To note planning decisions - The Planning decisions **were noted**

25.2.1 Neelam Stables – Mr. Milne advised that he attended the SBDC planning committee meeting and Tristan Miles and Cllr. Dhillon gave good presentations and the committee decided that any stable should be of non-substantial construction which would prevent reuse as a dwelling at a later date and the matter was deferred for officers to ask the applicant to resubmit plans for a building of non-substantial construction.

25.2.2 Old Oak Farm - Mr. Milne also advised that at the same meeting the application concerning Old Oak Farm, Parsonage Lane had been considered. He advised that it received planning consent for conversion of the stable to a residential property but that it is subject to three of the four metal shed units being removed from the site.

25.3 Update on car wash appeal at Graphic House, The Broadway, Farnham Common – report noted.

25.4 Mrs. Rolfe advised that the Parish Council was keeping a close eye on the application regarding the crusher at Bishop's Farm.

25.5 Mrs. Tipping advised that under the watchful eye of two elderly gentlemen she approached the young man sat

with the second sign advertising the car wash and advised him to remove it. When he did not do so she removed it for him. The Chairman thanked her for your actions.

25.6 Mr. Thomas raised his concern that the Parish Council may be giving residents the perception that the Parish Council can do more than it actually can. He felt that if the Parish Council replies with irrelevant comments the officer will take no notice of them and then may disregard comments when something is said about a really important application. Mr. Milne advised that he and Mrs. Rolfe has attended training which said that it was important for the Parish Council to comment on application and he had been given some ideas about what and how to comment. He agreed that the Parish Council had historically made irrelevant comments but felt these were more sensible and relevant now. Mr. Thomas reiterated that the Parish Council should not give residents the perception that it can do things it can't. He felt the Parish Council should be honest and clarify that it can only make representations.

### **19/26/PC Any Other Business (for information only)**

26.1 Mrs. Tipping again requested that the gullies in The Broadway are cleared. The Clerk advised that she would chase this up.

26.2 Mrs. Tipping also reported a conversation she had taken part in with an employee at Costa when they were taking rubbish out of the bin. Mrs. Tipping suggested the Costa have their own bin that they can leave out when open but take in when closed.

26.3 Mrs. Rolfe advised that she had seen comments on Facebook regarding litter going north up the A355 from Spring Lane and said it would be nice if the Parish Council could organise a voluntary group. Mrs. Rolfe commented that she means no disrespect to the individuals who are engaged by the Parish Council to litter pick as they do an excellent job. Mrs. Rolfe suggested getting the Scouts and Cubs involved and other children. Mr. Thomas said that the Parish Council could challenge the community to carry out litter picking as it has to come from residents.

26.4 Mr. Robinson reported that one of the seats in Temple Dell is slowly disappearing as bolts, nuts and planks are missing. The Clerk advised that she would bring this to the attention of the contractor. Mr. Robinson confirmed that it is the bench immediately to the north of Duncan Stewart's tree.

26.5 Mr. Home asked the Clerk whether the public toilets are open on Sundays. The Clerk confirmed that the Chairman had confirmed earlier in the day to her that they are.

26.6 Mr. Thomas advised that he had been handed notes for the Chair and Vice Chair, which he passed to them.

### **19/27/PC Next meeting**

The meeting closed at 9.15pm. The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting on 20 May 2019 at 6.30pm at Farnham Common Village Hall followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.00pm.

### **OPEN FORUM**

Mr. Dickens (Chairman of Ingleglen Estates Ltd) wished to pick up the Parish Council on the right of way issue raised at the February 2019 meeting regarding the footpath in Ingleglen. Mr. Dickens advised that D E White Estates have owned the land since 1982 and granted a lease to the residents who in turn pay £600 per year for the upkeep of the estate. He continued that this issue was raised in 2014 which resulted in correspondence between D E White Estates, Ingleglen Estates Ltd and the Clerk of the Parish Council. An article was also placed in The Farnhams Magazine. The frustration is that it was agreed in 2014 that there was no public right of way so residents of Ingleglen are unsure why the matter is being raised again. He also stated that if visitors to Burnham Beeches park in Ingleglen to access Stewarts Drive it is far more dangerous than parking in Beeches Road and noted that since Burnham Beeches had introduced parking charges there was far more parking in Ingleglen. Lastly, he suggested that before anything is put in writing it would be sensible to speak with Ingleglen Estates Ltd to avoid formal letters being issued. He also advised that he had emailed Mr. Home and Mr. Milne (as members of the Rights of Way Liaison Group) regarding this but had not received a reply as yet. Mr. Home said he had not received the email but would check.

Mr. Way wished to raise the appearance of a banner on the field on the south side of Elm Close for Europa Planning & Build. He stated that he does not trust builders or SBDC and wanted the Parish Council to confirm whether it was aware of any plans to build on that field. The Chairman advised that no such plans were known to

the Parish Council and that he had seen the banner on his way to the meeting and noted it to request the Clerk write to the company regarding removal as per the illegal signage policy. Mr. Foulds advised that he had also noticed the sign but that it was nothing to do with him or Richard Allen (the land owner) and the sign would be gone in the morning. Mrs. Tipping advised that there was another sign further down in the dip and the Chairman advised that the Clerk would write to the company as per the policy. Mr Way then asked whether any progress had been made regarding the planning group. The Chairman advised that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was up and running independently from the Parish Council and now had eight members.

Mr. Greatorex thanked the Parish Council for their efforts in pursuing BCC to repair the road surface in Crown Lane as it was now much better. He returned to the issue of the motorcycles racing on the A355 that he had raised at the previous meeting and advised that this was still a concern and that the noise app suggested did not work. His concern is that it is an almost nightly event and someone will get hurt as they are using the road as a racing circuit up to Beaconsfield roundabout. He acknowledged the advice given by the PCSO to ring 101 at the time but felt more should be done. The Chairman advised that Mr. Robinson and the Speedwatch team had volunteered to take the equipment out to monitor this activity. Mr. Robinson advised that they needed a day of the week and time to coordinate and the Chairman stated that if residents could get a pattern or anything on camera that would be useful. Mr. Greatorex again voiced his concerns regarding the site of the Haymill Garage and advised that since the last meeting diggers had arrived. He asked whether the Parish Council had any plans to go around and ensure planning conditions were being met. He also noted that residents of Scott Close were not notified of a recent planning application concerning a property within Scott Close. The Chairman advised that yellow public notices are no longer displayed by SBDC but that the immediate neighbours get a letter. Mrs. Rolfe advised that the Parish Council does not have a lot of power but can flag issues with SBDC Planning Enforcement and have done so with two properties and it appears that anything goes and is acceptable as long as the finished build meets the plans. Mr Greatorex advised that his concerns were more about disruption. Mrs. Rolfe continued that no conditions are being applied when permission is granted and she had been advised by SBDC that issues concerning delivery lorries should be reported to Highways rather than SBDC. Mr Greatorex stated that someone needs to make sure that the huge tanks in the ground previously filled with oil are removed properly. The Chairman advised that this would be a matter for SBDC Planning Enforcement and it was made very clear today in relation to another property that the Parish Council can do nothing. Mr Greatorex questioned whether the Parish Council could raise a concern and Mrs. Rolfe advised that at a recent appeal site visit the inspector refused to speak to the councillor in attendance. Mr Greatorex then raised the issue of fridges being dumped all over Burnham Beeches due to the closure of the Crow Piece Lane tip and that a mattress had been dumped on the A355. The Chairman shared Mr Greatorex's annoyance and reminded those present of BCC's statement that there is no national evidence that closure of the tip will increase fly tipping he also advised that in his opinion the new charging system at the tip was also to blame.

Mr. Norvill spoke to again raise the issue of the skip at the gate of the field opposite Rosken Grove as it is now overflowing more than before. The Chairman advised that Mr. Whiting, a resident, had been discussing the skip with the landowner and the Clerk will follow this up. Mr. Norvill also commented that he wasn't aware of the new charges at the Crow Piece Lane tip until he took 25kg of rubble, which can be recycled and was charged £2.50. He expressed displeasure at paying to dispose of rubbish that can be recycled when residents already pay for their green bins and council tax. He stated he can understand paying to dispose of non-recyclable rubbish. The Chairman advised that the situation will get worse as Slough Borough Council have announced that they will be charging residents from June 2019.

Cllr. Dhillon advised that he believed that the mattress on the A355 belonged to the Yew Tree restaurant and that this was being followed up tomorrow. Cllr. Dhillon stated that he had spoken to the developer of the Haymill Garage site and they were planning to proceed with the second application for a smaller development. He stated that the terms for removing the fuel tanks was agreed when planning permission was granted. With regard to planning conditions, he advised that these can be put on but the problem seems to arise once subcontractors are appointed by the main builder and it is therefore important to talk to builders. He also advised that enforcement can take many months especially if appealed. Cllr. Dhillon advised that if residents call 101 regarding the motorcycles then the police will log the instances and that this was confirmed when he spoke to the police following some racing with a

Audi R8 and Aston Martin. The police have the power to confiscate the vehicles being used even if it is owned by the individual although it is easier if it is rented. Cllr. Dhillon thanked the residents who attended the recent SBDC planning committee meeting. He advised that he felt it was unlikely that the applications regarding The Other House, Beeches Drive and Neelam Stables, Parsonage Lane, would continue. He advised that he had discussed the impact of parking charges at Burnham Beeches on local roads with Andy Barnard (Superintendent at Burnham Beeches) and whilst he had sympathy, it was generating more revenue for the site. Cllr. Dhillon advised that he had reopened the matter of the Crusher at Bishop's farm with SBDC Planning Enforcement and he understood that an officer would be attending the site tomorrow. He advised that nothing will happen regarding the car wash at Graphic House until the appeal has been heard. The Chairman advised that the inspectorate with responsibility for the appeal had advised that this was unlikely to happen until September/October 2019 but that the Clerk would review the matter with the SBDC Environmental Health department. Cllr. Dhillon also advised that the containers behind Grenville Lodge, Hawthorn Lane have all gone. Finally, he advised that he would be meeting with the portfolio holder on Wednesday 1 May 2019 to discuss the rubbish being fly tipped in and around Burnham Beeches. He thought residents still had a rubbish permit but will check. The Chairman stated that this was an important issue as fly tipping would only get worse. Cllr. Dhillon advised that his understanding is that BCC wants to save money but even if not all savings are achieved elsewhere BCC will still try to keep Crow Piece Lane tip open as a contribution is received from Slough Borough Council. He also mentioned that he had received complaints regarding the removal of recycling bins from The Broadway car park.

Mr. Norvill advised that if the presence of the car wash created environmental issues then these would override planning so it would be good to get in touch with them. The Chairman advised that he thought they had already been involved but that the Clerk will contact them to review.

Mr. Bennett raised the issue of the crusher at Bishop's Farm and was unhappy that BCC did not seem to be aware that there is a cottage some 40-50ft from the crusher and that they have not been kept informed about this Green Belt development. Mrs. Rolfe advised that an environmental health officer had attended and coughed a lot but claimed that to be the result of eating a sandwich before the visit. Mrs Rolfe advised that she had personally complained but that it was being reviewed by the Parish Council Planning Committee. She also advised that BCC was unhappy with the application but that it was going through due process and the biggest problem is that the application is retrospective. Mrs. Bennett advised that their garden is unusable.

Mrs. Tipping advised that when Ingleglen House was on the site there was a private gate into Burnham Beeches. She advised that the mattress on the A355 was previously in the skip at the Yew Tree restaurant and that if the skip had been removed when it was full it wouldn't have been a problem. Mrs. Tipping stated her annoyance that the Speedwatch camera was not working and requested that the Clerk chase this up. Mrs. Tipping asked whether if SBDC was no longer putting up public notices regarding planning applications the Parish Council could do it. The Chairman advised that this was not something for the Parish Council to do. Mrs. Tipping stated that the Parish Council could at least put a notice up on the noticeboard and Mrs. Rolfe, the Chairman and the Clerk all confirmed that this was already done.