

FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

Judith Hall
Clerk to the Council
clerk@farnhamroyal-pc.gov.uk
01753 648497

Sherriff House
The Broadway
Farnham Common
SL2 3QH

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

Present

Mr. Paul Rowley (Chairman) Mrs. Marilyn Rolfe
Mr. Roger Home Mr. Bob Milne
Mrs. Judy Tipping Mr. Clive Robinson
Mr. Richard Thomas Mrs. Judith Hall – Clerk
Seven members of the public and District Councillor David Anthony

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.

19/57/PC Apologies for absence

Mr. John Hodges and Ms. Jennifer Jebson

19/58/PC Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

19/59/PC To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 24 June 2019

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

19/60/PC Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda - 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 report was provided to all those in attendance and can be downloaded from the Parish Council website or a hard copy can be requested from the clerk.

60.1 Update on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – report noted and the Chairman advised that the Group is currently arranging hall hire for the first public consultation and that another member had been recruited taking the number of members to nine. Finally, he confirmed that Phil Rudd had been re-elected as Chair.

60.2 BCC Consultation on LAF projects on The Broadway – report noted.

60.3 Update on Mound repairs at Farnham Royal Playground – report noted and the Clerk clarified that the delay had been caused as a result of difficulties experienced by Progress Services in obtaining the required soil.

60.4 Update on skip at entrance to field on Blackpond Lane – report noted and reference made to comments in Open Forum.

19/61/PC To consider next steps for replying to the Draft Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan 2036 and Community Infrastructure Levy consultations

The Chairman advised that prior to the meeting all councillors had been circulated with a report providing an update on this item. The report was provided to all those in attendance and can be downloaded from the Parish Council website or a hard copy can be requested from the Clerk. In addition, the Chairman advised that the areas identified by the councillors who had met to review the Plan and Levy consultation documents were:

- Reduction in Burnham Beeches SAC protection
- Poor infrastructure provisions

- Strengthen the protection of the Green Belt

The Chairman advised that the South Bucks Association of Local Councils had submitted a response on behalf of its members but that the Parish Council felt it was important for it to reply individually. It **was agreed** that the same group of councillors would meet again to review the outline response and elaborate where necessary.

19/62/PC To consider LAF projects for 2020/21

The Chairman advised that prior to the meeting all councillors had been circulated with a report providing further details on this item. The report was provided to all those in attendance and can be downloaded from the Parish Council website or a hard copy can be requested from the Clerk. Mr. Milne refreshed the minds of those present by advising that one request received related to installing railings at the pedestrian crossing outside the Farnham Common Infant School entrance and the other related to installing other road safety measures at the same location, such as roadside child shaped bollards, a vehicle activated sign southbound and a painted school awareness message on the road surface of both the northbound and southbound carriageways. He advised that the general feeling was that railings had had their day and had fallen out of favour with BCC as this was the response when they were sought for the crossing on The Broadway outside The Foresters. He also advised that applications needed to be submitted by 31 August 2019. Mrs. Tipping asked whether standard warning signs are present and if so, whether they are clear of vegetation and clean. Mr. Milne advised that signs are present and have now been cleared of vegetation and cleaned but people still don't realise that there is a school at that location. Mrs. Tipping advised that the existence of a school at that location should be more obvious. There was a suggestion that adults accompanying children to/from school could be more aware of the actions of the children walking or scooting to/from school but it was agreed that the Parish Council should do what it can to improve safety for all. Concern was raised regarding the possible cost of these measures and whether the measures would be accepted by BCC/TfB but it was noted that proposals and full costings would be provided by them as part of the consideration process and the Parish Council's contribution should be known in time for its inclusion in the 2020/21 budget, if agreed. **It was agreed** that the second, larger request would be supported by the Parish Council in conjunction with the seven day survey discussed in Open Forum. Mr. Robinson requested that the survey is carried out during a normal week and the Chairman advised that it would be done once the schools returned.

19/63/PC To consider organising community training in the use of defibrillators

The Chairman advised that prior to the meeting all councillors had been circulated with a report providing further details on this item. The report was provided to all those in attendance and can be downloaded from the Parish Council website or a hard copy can be requested from the Clerk. Mr. Thomas thanked the Parish Council for funding the purchase and installation of the community defibrillator at the FCSC and suggested training sessions for residents to ensure people are ready to use the machines properly if required. **It was agreed** that two sessions would be organised and advertised for autumn. One would be held in Farnham Common and the other in Farnham Royal.

19/64/PC Open Spaces:

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

64.1 To consider recommendations for maintenance contracts in respect of open spaces, wooded areas and physical assets – report noted and the Chairman advised that when he and Mrs. Rolfe were reviewing the tenders submitted, they realised that dividing the tasks further based on skill sets would make it easier to monitor the services being received and performance. **It was agreed** that contracts should be entered into with Capability Landscapes Limited, Progress Services and Matties Gardening Limited on the following main terms:

- commencing 1 August 2019
- ending 31 March 2023
- a break clause allowing the agreements to be brought to an end on 31 March 2021
- a provision allowing the contracts to be extended by two years by mutual agreement
- a 3% annual price increase effective 1 April each year.

64.2 Playgrounds

64.2.1 To consider issues identified in Inspection Reports – report noted and disappointment was raised for the number of general maintenance issues that were identified given that maintenance contracts are in place. Despite this, **it was agreed** that Progress Services would be allocated 12 hours at a hourly rate of £25 to fix these issues. There was then a debate regarding the suggestion in the report for the playground in the Farnham Park Playing Fields that the Parish Council should consider a Head Injury Criteria test in respect of the ground surfacing. **It was agreed** that this issue should be included in the new risk assessment currently being prepared, that the surfacing should be monitored as part of the periodic inspections and that no specific inspection should be carried out by either of the providers contacted. Mrs. Rolfe stated that the next item was to consider appointing a Playground Working Group which could review this further. **It was agreed** that the seat of the basket swing and the parts recommended for the cable runaway in Farnham Park Playing Fields should be replaced and that the maintenance kit for the outdoor gym in Farnham Common should be purchased, all at the prices quoted.

64.2.2 To appoint a Playground Working Group and agree the Terms of Reference – Mr. Milne advised that the playground in Farnham Common would need to be replaced in the next three or four years. Mrs. Rolfe stated that the playground in Farnham Park Playing Fields should also be replaced within this timeframe. Mr. Milne continued that it had been suggested that the Playground Working Group is resurrected to look at this and wider related issues such as the Guide Hut and FCSC. Mr. Thomas advised that FCSC had no use for the Guide Hut apart from storage so it was of no value to them. **It was agreed** that the following councillors would join the Working Group; Mrs. Rolfe, Mrs. Tipping, Mr. Rowley, Mr. Milne and Mr. Home. Mrs. Rolfe reminded those present that the lease on the Guide Hut expires in 2024.

64.3 To consider replacing fascia boards and guttering (to include some associated clearance of vegetation) at three bus shelters – report noted and **it was agreed** that the work should be carried out and uPVC boards should be used but other businesses should be asked to quote such as Ridgwell Windows & Conservatories and the one that replaced the Farnham Common Village Hall windows. Disappointment was also raised that despite a maintenance contract being in place and condition of the bus shelters had deteriorate to this level.

19/65/PC Finance:

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

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

The payments and receipts, as per the cashbook, **were approved** with the exception of the payment due to Capability Landscapes Limited as termination payments had been rendered which were not expected. **It was agreed** that payments equal to the usual contract amounts should be made to Capability Landscapes Limited but that additional discussion should be had between the Chairman and this contractor to agree any additional amounts. Any additional amounts due would then be reviewed in the normal way as part of the September 2019 cashbook.

65.2 To consider the management accounts for the quarter ended 30 June 2019 – report noted and the quarterly income and expenditure figures together with the revised annual forecast were discussed by those present. The reduction in anticipated reserves was also discussed and it was felt that a cautious approach to spending should be adopted. The management accounts **were approved**.

65.3 To consider amended Finance Regulations and Finance Committee Terms of Reference – the amended Finance Regulations and Finance Committee Terms of Reference **were agreed**.

65.4 To ratify the purchase of a new fridge for the Parish Council office – report noted and the purchase **was ratified**.

65.5 To consider a contribution of £500 to the costs of 'Carols Not on the Green' – report noted and the contribution **was agreed**.

19/66/PC Planning:

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

66.1 To consider comments submitted on recent applications

The Planning Comments **were ratified**.

66.2 To consider the Parish Council's response to application PL/19/2211/FA Land Rear Of Honey Cottage and The Brooms, Green Lane, Farnham Common – Mrs. Rolfe stated that previously planning permission for a detached property in the back garden with access from the car park had been granted to a different builder. The response from Highways to this application states that access is from a narrow driveway but this is incorrect as access is actually from the car park near the rear access for Broadway tyres. The Chairman suggested asking BCC and SBDC for their long term plans for the car park. Mrs. Rolfe stated that the concern is that all houses down the southside of Beeches Road could seek access from the car park if this application is granted and that may result in no car park for the village. Mr. Home asked whether there was likely to be any loss of parking spaces. Mrs. Rolfe did not think so but felt the danger was the increase in vehicle movements with Sainsbury's lorries, disengaged members of the public walking around the car park unaware of what's going on around them and children running about unwatched. In addition, she objected to the planned height of the properties at 9.5 metres which would dwarf the other houses in Green Lane. Mrs. Tipping stated that the area would be so overdeveloped. Mr. Milne asked Mrs. Rolfe what she felt the objections were and she stated that the Parish Council should object based on the planned height and access from/into the carpark. She added that the long term plans for the car park should also be requested.

66.3 To note recent planning decisions

The Planning decisions **were noted**

66.4 To consider Terms of Reference for the Planning Working Group – the Terms of reference **were agreed**. The first meeting of the Planning Working Group will take place in early September 2019.

19/67/PC Any Other Business (for information only)

67.1 Cllr. Dhillon thanked the Parish Council for objecting to the application for a gypsy and traveller site in Templewood Lane, Stoke Poges.

67.2 Mrs. Tipping stated that the hedges in Parsonage Lane onto Park Lane needed to be cut. Mr. Milne advised that these were not the responsibility of the Parish Council as there are no verges there. He stated that one side belongs to the golf course and the other side belongs to Farnham Park Playing Fields and requested that the Clerk contact SBDC to ask when they plan to cut the hedges and suggested that the Open Spaces Working Group looks at Parsonage Lane and Purton Lane as a priority. The Clerk advised she would contact the Farnham Park Playing Fields Charity as they were responsible for both the golf club and the playing fields. Mrs. Tipping also requested that a meeting of the Kingsway Green Working Group was arranged as soon as possible.

67.3 Mr. Robinson wished to bring to the attention of the Parish Council the encampment in the woods just north of the skip in Blackpond Lane. The Clerk advised that she was aware of this and that the Police had been several times.

67.4 Mr. Home advised that the shrubbery on Robins Parade needed to be cut back to the far side of the post.

67.5 The Chairman advised that now the Parish Council office had a kitchen, the Parish Council could hold a Macmillan Coffee Morning. Mrs. Rolfe felt that this was a good idea and Mr. Milne advised that the library already holds one.

19/68/PC To agree under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted under item 10 below that the public be temporarily excluded and be instructed to withdraw

This was agreed.

19/69/PC Outstanding referral to Monitoring Officer

Councillors were advised that the panel of councillors who initially reviewed the matter had met and prepared a response to the Monitoring Officer's report which had been sent and a response was awaited.

19/70/PC Next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.50pm. The next meeting will be on 23 September 2019 at 7.30pm at Farnham Royal Village Hall.

OPEN FORUM

Mrs. Fields of Manor House Mews advised those present that residents and visitors to this development were experiencing challenges get out onto the Kingsway due to cars parking where the double yellow lines end between them and Golden Oak Close. A mirror had previously been fitted with the agreement of the Parish Council but due to all the parked cars on the opposite side of the road drivers now cannot see in the mirror. Mrs. Tipping stated that the problem is exacerbated by vehicles parking on the other side of the road often meaning that there is hardly room for one car. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council couldn't do anything except support the residents in their call for double yellow lines and this opinion was shared by Mr. Home who agreed that the Parish Council should support residents but stated his fear that nothing would be done by BCC. Mr. Robinson felt that the area had become busier recently. The Chairman asked Cllr. Anthony whether this was something that the Parish Council should write to BCC about. He confirmed that this was definitely an issue for BCC rather than SBDC. Mr. Milne agreed that the Parish Council should write to BCC or that the work could be requested as a LAF project but stated that the issue with the LAF project is that the deadline for 2020/21 applications is in the next few weeks which is too soon to formulate a proper application. The Chairman suggested that Mrs. Fields meet with the Clerk to draft a letter (with photographs) to BCC. Mrs. Tipping suggested placing traffic cones in the relevant area to prevent parking. Mr. Home suggested that Mrs. Field seeks support from neighbours. Mrs. Field felt that this would be problematic given that the two neighbouring properties are rented.

Mr. Norvill of Fairfield Lane advised that there is a new outline application for planning permission at Miles and Miles Nurseries, Beaconsfield Road. He wished to draw this to the attention of the Parish Council as the application states that the site is a brownfield site when it is actually within the Green Belt and expressed that a strong objection should be submitted along the lines of the response to the previous application. Mrs. Rolfe (Chair of the Planning Working Group) advised that she was not aware of the application but confirmed that she would look at it when she got home and would be objecting as the site is within the Green Belt and she had concerns regarding access from the A355. Mr. Norvill advised that the application contained more information regarding access, road management, sewerage and drainage than the previous application but reminded those present that the site is within 500 metres of Burnham Beeches SAC.

Mr. Norvill also wished to advise that he had reported the skip at the entrance to the field in Blackpond Lane to the SBDC Environmental Health Department as he believed it was a serious health hazard with rats, foxes and magpies visiting and fly tipping of a fridge and mattress amongst other rubbish. The Clerk advised that the SBDC Environmental Health Department had contacted her seeking a postcode for the field. Those present felt that the postcode for Farnham Royal Cottage would be the best to give the Department. Mr. Norvill questioned whether the skip was on private land. The Chairman advised that he had attended and take a photograph which proved that the skip was on private land and that the Parish Council would set a dangerous precedent if it, without authority, made arrangement for the rubbish to be removed. He advised that the land owner was on holiday but that he would call him on this return and that the Parish Council would work with the Department for a timely resolution. Mr. Norvill suggested replacing the skip with a concrete block and the Chairman advised that the landowner was considering this.

Mr. Greatorex of Scott Close advised that he had sent a letter to the SBDC Environmental Health Department, the Environment Agency and the City of London regarding the environmental clear up at the former Esso Garage (Haymill) on the A355 and that he had received assurances that the clear up would be to the required standard. He noted that the site currently looked like a tip with lots of graffiti and requested that the Parish Council write to the owner/developer requesting that the site be tidied and the graffiti be removed or painted over. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council would ask and Mr. Greatorex felt that this would be helpful as the development process was likely to take a while.

Mr. Greatorex expressed frustration regarding the speeding on the A355 stating that he had volunteered for Speedwatch, provided evidence to the Police of the speeding motorcycles and raised the issue of the burnt out

speed camera but nothing was happening. He asked what more he could do as the current strategy was not working and rapid action was required as the road is dusty, dirty, used by children and nobody cares. He stated that at night all residents can hear is construction lorries belting through the village. The Clerk attempted to explain the efforts made but Mr. Greatorex expressed that he had heard it all before. The Chairman advised that he had been told that across the country there are hundreds of speed camera but only a small proportion have film and unfortunately that the cameras are livened up based on incidents. Mr. Greatorex advised that he understood what the Chairman had said but asked what an accident is, suggesting that a child would need to be run over for action to be taken. The Chairman said not. Mr. Greatorex advised that his late father joined a council and by the end of his tenure, as a result of his campaigning, three mini roundabouts had been installed on a dangerous road to control the traffic. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council would be considering the location of the BCC seven day speed survey that it had agreed to fund at the previous Parish Council meeting as there was a ground swell towards locating this near the Farnham Common Infant School so that data is obtained that BCC will listen to. Mr. Greatorex advised that this was really encouraging and asked whether the survey would collect data over 24 hours. The Chairman confirmed that it was a seven day, 24 hour survey and Mr. Greatorex repeated that this was really encouraging. Mr. Robinson advised that the effect of a boxed speed camera was that traffic slows. He also confirmed that one in ten cameras have film but when this runs out it is not replaced until the camera is moved. The Chairman confirmed that it was his understanding that only 10% were ever live. Mr. Greatorex asked whether the camera should always flash if a vehicle exceeds the speeding limit when passing. Mr. Robinson advised that it would not flash if there was not a camera inside and that even if there is a camera inside the trigger speed may be up to 15MPH above the limit to avoid catching too many offenders. The Chairman advised that he felt that the seven day survey was the biggest tool available to the Parish Council. Mr. Foulds of Beaconsfield Road stated that the new cameras linked straight to Swansea by Wi-Fi with no requirement for film. Mr. Robinson advised that these were mostly located on motorways. Mr. Greatorex asked what type of camera Stoke Poges had and Mr. Robinson advised that it would not be a digital one as these were on motorways or in grey boxes. Mrs. Rolfe stated that the Parish Council should ask for the camera/box to be changed. The Chairman advised that this could be done but that the decision was likely to be based on funding. Mrs. Rolfe advised that she had seen them changing the film over the years.