

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 23 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 7.30 P.M. IN FARNHAM ROYAL VILLAGE HALL

Present

Mr. Paul Rowley (Chairman) Mrs. Marilyn Rolfe
Mr. Roger Home Mr. Bob Milne
Mrs. Judy Tipping Ms. Jennifer Jebson
Mr. Richard Thomas Mrs. Judith Hall – Clerk

Seven members of the public and District Councillor David Anthony and District Councillor Dev Dhillon

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.

19/71/PC Apologies for absence

Mr. John Hodges and Mr. Clive Robinson

19/72/PC Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

19/73/PC To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 29 July 2019

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

19/74/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.

74.1 Update on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – reported noted

74.2 Update on 2019/20 LAF projects on The Broadway – reported noted

74.3 Update on 2020/21 LAF project and road safety issues generally – reported noted

74.4 Update on the mound repairs at Farnham Royal playground – reported noted

74.5 Update on skip at entrance to field on Blackpond Lane – reported noted

74.6 Update on reply to the Draft Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan 2036 and Community Infrastructure Levy consultations – reported noted

74.7 Update on community training in the use of defibrillators – reported noted

74.8 Update on repairs to playgrounds – reported noted

74.9 Update on tent encampments – reported noted

74.10 Update on fly tipping – reported noted

19/75/PC To consider the Parish Council's response to the BCC Community Boards consultation

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.

Cllr. Dhillon reminded those present that currently there is a county council and four district councils but that the decision was taken that this structure was too expensive. Although SBDC wanted two authorities the decision was

for one new unitary authority, Buckinghamshire Council, and all district councils will cease with effect from 31 March 2020. It is acknowledged that the main centre will be in Aylesbury but there will be others throughout the county. He urged everyone to complete the online consultation which consisted of 10 questions and should take about 10 minutes to complete. Cllr. Dhillon advised that each board would have its own budget of c. £100,000 and local people would be deciding how this was spent. He felt the boards would take shape over an initial five year period. In addition to boards there would be hubs which would be information points for signposting. The Chairman advised that all parishioners, councillors and the Parish Council as a collective should respond to the consultation. As a collective position was required for the Parish Council's response the Chairman asked whether councillors were supportive of boards as a process. This was agreed. Cllr. Anthony advised that in the run up to the unitary authority it had been assumed that there will be a devolution of responsibilities to Parish Councils. The Chairman advised that he would like the Parish Council to be responsible for more so it could help more. Cllr. Dhillon confirmed that the unitary authority would like to devolve more the Parish Councils but only if they want it. Mr. Milne advised that this was for a future discussion.

19/76/PC To consider holding a Macmillan Coffee Morning

It was agreed that the Parish Council would not hold a Macmillan Coffee Morning as there were already quite a few in the villages. It was suggested that a quarterly coffee morning could be held to increase interaction with residents and to raise money for charity.

19/77/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.

77.1 To consider recommendations for the maintenance contract in respect of open spaces (not including wooded areas and physical assets) – report noted and **it was agreed** that Mr. Rowley, Mr. Milne, Mrs. Rolfe and Ms. Jebson would meet to review the position and agree a recommendation to put forward to the Parish Council.

77.2 To agree the Playground Working Group Terms of Reference – report noted and the Terms of Reference **were agreed**.

77.3 To consider quotes received for replacing fascia boards and guttering at three bus shelters – report noted and the Clerk was asked to clarify what work was included in each quote. **It was agreed** that the cheapest quote would be chosen once clarification had been received.

77.4 To consider action regarding hedges within the Parish – report noted and **it was agreed** that Mr. Milne and Mr. Home would meet to survey the hedges. They will then report back to the Parish Council with a recommendation.

77.5 To consider recommendations for Kingsway Green and village flowers – report noted and **it was agreed** that as the Kingsway Green Working Group had disbanded, a group of councillors would take on the responsibility for progressing the project. Mrs. Rolfe, Mr. Rowley, Mr. Milne and Mrs. Tipping agreed to take this matter forward with the priority for this year being protecting the green along the border with Kingsway. Mr. Milne advised that previously bollards had been discussed, then tree trunks but now the thinking was to install large raised planters. In addition, the Group will review all of the flowers in the villages.

77.6 Update on sowing wild flowers on verges within the Parish – report noted and **it was agreed** that Anna Gray (a resident) and Mr. Home would put together a proposal for the Parish.

19/78/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.

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

The payments and receipts, as per the cashbook, **were approved**.

78.2 To consider amendments to the Expenses Policy – the amended policy **was agreed**. The Clerk was also asked to look into separate email addresses for councillors and the implications of GDPR and the Freedom of Information Act.

78.3 To consider insurance arrangements from 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020 – prior to the meeting all councillors had been provided with the comparisons provided by the insurance broker and **it was agreed** to insure with Hiscox under a three year long term agreement in line with Came & Company's recommendation.

78.4 To consider the funding request received from The Freemantle Trust – prior to the meeting all councillors had been provided with details of the funding request. After careful consideration **it was agreed** that the funding could not be granted as it was felt that there would be very limited benefit to the wider community and there was potential for funds to be provided by the umbrella organisation.

19/79/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.

79.1 To consider comments submitted on recent applications

The Planning Comments **were ratified**.

Mrs. Rolfe advised that the application for Greenways, Beeches Road had been amended as the applicant had not declared that the vehicle access was owned by SBDC and that at the moment the application would not be considered by the SBDC Planning Committee as insufficient objections had been received. Mrs. Rolfe asked whether the Parish Council could request that the application go to the committee as this was possible in the Chiltern District and the two districts had merged their planning services. She said she would look into this.

The Chairman advised that the Parish Council objected to the application concerning the Miles & Miles Nursery site.

Mrs. Tipping advised that the owners of the bungalows that back onto the site had been approached by LZ3 Financial with regard to a possible new application.

Cllr. Dhillon advised that the appeal concerning The Other House had been dismissed and that an amended application had been submitted regarding 6 Fairfield Lane. He also stated that the police had attended the property 13 times between March and July 2019.

79.2 To note recent planning decisions

The Planning decisions **were noted**

19/80/PC Any Other Business (for information only)

80.1 Mr. Milne asked who was going to clear the mess from The Broadway Car Park now the travellers had left. Mrs. Rolfe advised that Wycombe District Council have an injunction listing sites and traveller families which prevents occupation and makes eviction much quicker and easier. She advised that in the short term the new unitary authority may make copying this difficult but that it really was something that the new authority should engage with. Cllr. Dhillon said he would raise it with the Leader.

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

80.3 Mrs. Rolfe raise the possibility of entering Britain in Bloom and advised that it would require whole community involvement.

80.4 Finally, on behalf of the Parish Council, the Chairman wished Ms. Jebson congratulations for her wedding on 28 September 2019.

19/81/PC Next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.35pm. The next meeting will be on 28 October 2019 at 7.30pm at Farnham Common Village Hall.

OPEN FORUM

Emma, a Farnham Common resident, advised that BCC had washed its hands with school transport and announced that there are no more bus places for this year's Year 7 starters. She stated that this was a dire situation for Farnham Common, Farnham Royal, Hedgerley and the surrounding area as there was no facility for children to get to school. She wanted to raise the issue with the Parish Council.

Galit and Siobhan, Farnham Common residents, advised that the school transport situation was ridiculous and had

been discovered by accident through discussions on a WhatsApp group when members were discussing that no one had heard from BCC. The issue was then brought up with other Farnham Common residents. Parents and carers then started chasing BCC and two weeks before the start of the school year it was announced that spaces on buses were not available. Since this discovery, parents and carers have been met with deafening silence. Parents and carers have therefore been forced to look at other options as BCC have advised that it is the parents' responsibility to ensure children can travel to school, which the parents agree but they believe that BCC has a duty to provide safe alternatives. Parents are looking for an interim solution with bus companies and are continuing to talk to BCC but no answers have been received to legitimate questions. The Chairman clarified that it was good to make the Parish Council aware but stated that he assumed she was asking the county councillors for help. Galit and Siobhan thanked Cllr. Dhillon for his help. Cllr. Dhillon advised that he was aware of the problem and had tried to take it to the local forum but nothing was taken forward by BCC. He also advised that he had taken the matter to the Children Select Committee and that he had two concerns. Firstly, that the closest secondary school is Khalsa Secondary Academy which has an ethos that means families may not choose to apply there and secondly there is also no safe route to the school. It was acknowledged that due to the selective system, families hadn't taken places at their closest school but it was felt that the children still have a right to safe public transport and 100 more places were needed. Cllr. Dhillon advised that he had another meeting the next day and would be seeking an adequate solution. He advised that almost all Dorney students now had places so he would be focusing on Farnham Common and Farnham Royal students and would ask BCC representatives to complete the journey with him. He also advised that he had met the Headteacher of Burnham Grammar School. He felt that going forward it would be best for BCC to talk to primary schools so they can match services to need. The transfer from primary to secondary school is stressful and problems such as those being experienced with transport takes all the buzz away. Cllr. Dhillon advised that the Leader of BCC had stated that he was assured all was in order with school transport but Cllr. Dhillon stated that he felt BCC should have known what was coming. Cllr. Dhillon acknowledged that BCC wants to save money but stated that cutting school transport was not the way. Siobhan wanted to highlight that Mark Shaw at BCC had asked for parents to provide data including SEN and looked after children which she felt would breach safeguarding and GDPR if given. The Chairman advised that the group seemed organised and asked whether they felt the current situation had been dealt with and it was now an issue for the future. Galit advised that this was not the case but an interim solution had been found with a private coach company but the group had to commit for one year. She advised that the Group wanted to sit with stakeholders to come to an agreement with common sense ideas and to form a taskforce to get the ball rolling. It was felt that if the group know how many children would be affected in 2020/21 (88) and 2021/22 (131) then BCC should know. Cllr. Dhillon advised that if the private bus company went bust the kids would be stranded whereas if BCC were providing the transport, they would have an obligation to replace the service. Siobhan mentioned that Lin Hazell hadn't replied to anything which she found upsetting and disheartening. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council can support but the issue sits with BCC. Mrs. Rolfe asked whether the Group had managed to find all of the students that were without places as Lin Hazell tried to sort the problem last year but was only able to find approx. 15 students. Siobhan advised that some families had made other arrangements and some SEN students have not yet attended school. Mr. Thomas asked whether there was a legal requirement for BCC to provide school transport. Cllr. Dhillon advised that the requirement was only to provide transport to the nearest school and Emma advised that she had been told that there was no legal requirement.

Cllr. Dhillon thanked councillors and residents who had attended his curry lunch, which raised £3,080 for the local branch of Macmillan.

Cllr. Dhillon advised that the Burnham Recycling Centre had been saved despite losing c. £56,000. He advised that it had been saved as if closed, the payment from Slough Borough Council would have stopped.

Cllr. Dhillon raised the issue of travellers in the public car park and advised that he had spoken to the Parking Manager at SBDC to find out why they aren't ticketed. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Dhillon for everything he did during the recent occupation of the car park and advised that he had seen the ticketing officer issue a ticket to them.

Cllr. Dhillon advised that the skip and fly tipping in Blackpond Lane had gone and concrete blocks had been put in

place of them.

Emma asked whether anything could be done about the Big Issue seller as she felt he is unpleasant, steals and begs despite having been seen paying for things on a credit card. Mrs. Rolfe stated that he gets picked up in a Mercedes. The Chairman stated that he would be licensed by the Big Issue and Mr. Home felt that it would be worth contacting the Big Issue as sellers are not supposed to beg whilst selling the publication.

Mr. Norvill raised the state of the edge of Kingsway Green and requested that steps were taken to prevent parking. The Chairman advised that this was in hand.