

FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 28 OCTOBER 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
Mr. Clive Robinson Mrs. Jennifer Quilter (formerly Jebson)
Mr. Richard Thomas Mrs. Judith Hall – Clerk
Three members of the public and District Councillor Marlene Lewis 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.

19/82/PC Apologies for absence

Mr. John Hodges and Mrs. Judy Tipping

19/83/PC Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

19/84/PC To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 23 September 2019

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

19/85/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.

85.1 Update on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – report noted and Mrs. Quilter asked whether there was a programme for implementation. The Chairman advised that the long term plan will come from the recent workshop sessions so the Council needs to wait for the report on the sessions. He advised that the next working group meeting is in two weeks and the first draft of a programme is expected this side of Christmas. The Chairman advised that he felt that the villages were lucky to have Burnham Beeches SAC in close proximity as that was a limiting factor for developers.

85.2 Update on recent traffic survey – report noted and the Chairman advised that the survey ran for two weeks and lots of data had been received from TfB, which needed a lot of interrogation to understand the results. The Clerk was asked to forward the data to all councillors for review. Mr. Milne advised that councillors needed to look at the data and decide what to do with the information. He stated that he has reviewed traffic movements between 10pm and 7am and the results were:

10pm to 12am – an average of 100 cars each way

12am to 2am – an average of 35 cars each way and an average of 5 lorries each way

2am to 4am – an average of 15 lorries each way

4am to 7am – an average of 200 cars each way

In addition, it was clear that the later in the period under review the more vehicles were travelling over 30mph but vehicles travelling southbound were less likely to be speeding with an average of 4 vehicles per hour travelling over 40mph and an average of 2-3 vehicles travelling over 50mph. Those present felt that the lack of speed camera on

the northbound carriageway was a factor in these results and that speeding ceases due to the volume of traffic during the rush hour. Mr. Thomas asked what could be done with the data and the Chairman advised that it would enable credible conversations with TfB.

85.3 Update on the Draft Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan 2036 and Community Infrastructure Levy consultations – report noted.

85.4 Update on community training in the use of defibrillators – report noted and the Chairman advised that there were two attendees in Farnham Royal and Mr. Thomas advised that there were 22 attendees in Farnham Common. The councillors that attended felt that the sessions were really useful and that the trainer was excellent. Mr. Milne asked the Clerk to pass on thanks to the trainer from the Parish Council.

85.5 Update on the BCC Community Boards consultation – report noted and the Chairman advised that there are big issues that need to be ironed out. He further advised that a special meeting of SBALC had been called to discuss these issues and enable a collective response to be sent to BCC.

19/86/PC To consider extension of BCC Highways Devolution Contract

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. The Chairman noted that in essence the position would return to what was originally proposed i.e. a three year term. **It was agreed** to accept the extension offer.

19/87/PC To consider compiling a database of land and commercial property owners within the Parish

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. The Chairman advised that the suggestion had been made to ensure that if there was a problem the Parish Council would have a database of who to contact. He continued that this was well intentioned but that the task is huge. Mr. Home asked why and what the database was needed for, how it would be maintained so as not to become out of date and whether there would be any GDPR issues. He also continued that the information was already held by the Land Registry and asked what was wrong with asking them for information as and when it was required although he acknowledged that there would be a cost. He felt that the intention was laudable but questioned why it was needed. Mrs. Rolfe said that the need came from wanting to know who is responsible when maintenance issues arise on The Broadway. Mr. Home suggested that it would be simpler to ask people when specific needs arise and Mr. Milne asked who needed to know. Mrs. Rolfe used the example of cleaning the gullies outside the shops and cleaning the cigarette butts from the pavement. Mr. Milne advised that knowing the building owners doesn't necessarily help as it depends on the terms of each lease. Mr. Thomas estimated that it would take c. 30-40 hours to compile the database and then an ongoing commitment to keep it up to date and track changes of ownership. Mr. Home suggested asking SBDC Business Rates department for the information. Mr. Thomas felt that if the Parish Council wanted to keep The Broadway clean it can't reply on the shops to do it. Mr. Robinson stated that Costa and La Cantina look after the outside of their shops well. Mrs. Rolfe advised that if the Parish Council wanted to enter Britain in Bloom then these issues would need to be addressed. The Chairman suggested working with Burnham Parish Council to achieve economies of scale and arrange for The Broadway to be cleaned. Mr. Thomas suggested that if this is a service the community want then it needs to be done and the precept needs to be adjusted accordingly. In addition, he stated that if entering Britain in Bloom is agreed then the shop keepers need to sign up to it. Mrs. Rolfe advised that she won't be defeated. Mr. Milne suggested that cleaning The Broadway would be looked at by the councillors working on the Kingsway Green project. **It was agreed** that, at the present time, it would not be practical to compile a database.

19/88/PC To consider participation in celebrations marking the 75th Anniversary of VE Day

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. Mr. Home suggested finding out what the local Royal British Legion branch were doing and then for the Parish Council to throw its support behind them. Mrs. Rolfe advised that Mrs. Tipping was quite involved with the Royal British Legion but that due to recent retirements it was felt that the Group would need a fair bit of support. Mr. Milne suggested also supporting any street party bids and

Mrs. Quilter suggested getting the shops and schools involved. **It was agreed** that the Parish Council did not have the capacity to organise events but should support and promote.

19/89/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.

- 89.1 To consider quotes received for replacing fascia boards and guttering at three bus shelters – report noted and **it was agreed** to instruct Alpha Windows Berkshire Ltd.
- 89.2 To consider entering into a maintenance agreement for the MVAS – report noted and **it was agreed** to enter into a three year maintenance agreement.
- 89.3 To consider amendments to the Playgrounds Working Group Terms of Reference – report noted and the proposed amendments **were agreed**.
- 89.4 To consider recommendations for phase one of the Kingsway Green Project – report noted and Mr. Milne advised that over the last 18-24 months the Parish Council, with the help of a working group, had been looking at various options/designs but agreement had not been possible on a preferred scheme. He further advised that lately, the Group had disbanded for a number of reasons so the project was now being considered by a group of four councillors and it had been decided that the priority was to stop traffic parking on the Green along Kingsway. Mr. Milne stated that £4,000 had been included in this year's budget for the project and was therefore available to be spent by 31 March 2020. Mr. Milne continued that doric bollards had been suggested and then logs/tree trunks laid along the ground but the logs/tree trunks weren't appropriate and the doric bollards were unattractive and suggested six 1.5 by 0.5 metre planters along the border. Mr. Home asked what height the planter was and the Chairman advised they are 75cm so Mr. Home felt that the beds would weigh approx. $\frac{3}{4}$ of a tonne and would therefore be unlikely to be stolen and would be substantial. Mr. Robinson expressed that in his opinion the planters wouldn't look good and doric bollards with plants/hedges would be better. He agreed that the rose beds needed to go. Mr. Milne said that less planters could be used with saplings in between if that was preferred and that the planters would add more colour and planting which would help working towards Britain in Bloom. Mr. Thomas sought clarity on whether the idea was to stop vehicles parking or make the Green look pretty. Mr Chairman advised that both were wanted. Mr. Thomas felt that this was the problem as this would lead to different opinions. Mrs. Rolfe advised that BCC Parking Enforcement had said that they will now monitor the area and that although this won't stop it, it is a step in the right direction. Mr. Home stated that unless there is a real deterrent to parking, drivers will mow it down and asked whether the planters would be permanent or temporary. Mr. Milne advised that they would be permanent with planting and an ongoing maintenance contract. Mr. Home asked whether bollards and flower beds would be more appropriate. Mr. Robinson asked for a cost comparison of bollards and planters. The Chairman asked councillors whether they wanted to stop vehicles or stop vehicles and introduce colour. Mrs. Quilter asked for the meterage and scale of the planter and whether anything in the work of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would help. The Chairman advised that the distance was approx. 20 metres and that the planters proposed were 1.5 metres by 0.5 metre. He also advised that nothing relevant had been brought out by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group's recent workshops. **It was agreed** that costings and images of various options should be prepared and considered at the next Parish Council meeting.
- 89.5 To consider quotes for maintenance to the hedge on the island outside Robin Parade, The Broadway, Farnham Common – report noted and **it was agreed** to instruct Capability Landscapes Ltd but noted that clear instructions regarding the scope of the work should be given to ensure the required results were obtained.

19/90/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.

- 90.1 To approve payments and note receipts, as per the cashbook

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

90.2 To consider the management accounts for the quarter ended 30 September 2019 - report noted and the quarterly income and expenditure figures together with the revised annual forecast were discussed by those present. The management accounts **were approved**.

90.3 Update on 2018/19 External Audit – the content of the report was noted.

90.4 To consider purchasing a new Union flag for Farnham Common – report noted and **it was agreed** to purchase a new flag but for it to be flown for special occasions after which the current flag should be reinstated.

19/91/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.

91.1 To consider comments submitted on recent applications

The Planning Comments **were ratified**.

91.2 To note recent planning decisions

Mrs. Rolfe advised that the recent decision by the SBDC Planning Committee bothers her as neither she nor the Parish Council received notice of the Committee meeting. She continued that Mrs Thorne spoke at the meeting and despite what was said the application was approved and after the meeting SBDC has raised a query about the storage of building supplies as they do not want them stored in the car park. Cllr. Lewis advised that the Planning Officer suggested that on appeal an inspector would have allowed the application. She also confirmed that Planning Officers work in consultation with developers and that Cllr. Bagge is taking the matter forward and feedback will be given. Finally, she apologised that notice wasn't received and advised that management strategies, risk assessments, onerous conditions and ongoing monitoring will all be implemented. Mrs. Rolfe explained that she felt that a dangerous precedent was being set and that an application requiring access from the car park had been submitted and that another eight properties could all apply to do the same thing which would render the car park unusable which is unacceptable as quality of life should always be considered.

The Planning decisions **were noted** and in particular that more are now being withdrawn due to pressure from parishioners and interested parties.

19/92/PC Any Other Business (for information only)

92.1 Mr. Milne advised that a successful meeting to relaunch the Community Speedwatch had been held and c. 15 people had agreed to volunteer with more people suggested. The next step is for the PCSO Caroline Sampson to organise a training session at Burnham. It was noted that the group needs a co-ordinator. Mr. Robinson confirmed that he has access to the systems and the Chairman said that it was good that the core group were residents. Mrs. Rolfe said that she could act as co-ordinator in the short term to get the group started. The Clerk was asked to ensure that Mr. Greatorex, a resident who had previously raised concerns, was made aware of the new group. Mrs. Quilter asked how roads would be selected. Mr. Robinson advised that historically either PCSO Caroline Sampson picked the road or the Parish Council, in conjunction with residents, decided. Mrs. Quilter said that it would be good to be proactive.

92.2 The Clerk asked whether councillors wanted to host a Christmas drinks event this year. After a brief discussion it was decided that this event would not be held this year but that the Parish Council may look to do something different in the future.

92.3 Mrs. Quilter advised that she attended the Beeches Local Area Forum (LAF) meeting on 9 October 2019 and was advised that the costs (PIDs) for the projects submitted would be sent to Parish Councils in December 2019 but the funding would not be available until June 2020. As a result of the delay, it may be possible for Parish Councils to submit more projects for consideration. She also advised that wildflower verges and reporting fly tipping on BCC's online portal Fix My Street (<https://www.fixmystreet.bucksc.gov.uk/>) were discussed.

19/93/PC Next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.15pm. The next meeting will be on 25 November 2019 at 7.30pm at Farnham Royal Village Hall.

OPEN FORUM

The Chairman explained that the time allocation for this section was 15 minutes and that having allowed this to run on at the last meeting, a closer eye would be kept on timing at this meeting. In addition, he advised that once the open forum had finished the public are present to observe rather than contribute to the formal business of the meeting.

Sara Allen, a resident, said that a year ago a developer purchased 1 Fairfield Lane and despite no planning application being made, extensive work is going on including the creation of a large car park space and the conversion of the garage into habitable space. Cllr. Dhillon advised that he was not aware of this issue but that he would talk to SBDC Planning Enforcement. He also stated that it would be possible for the developer to make a retrospective application.

Cllr. Dhillon advised that the application regarding 6 Fairfield Lane is being considered by the SBDC Planning Committee on 13 November 2019. He further advised that following a Freedom of Information Act request, the Police had confirmed that they had attended the address 39 times mostly for missing person reports. He confirmed that he would be working with Philip Norvill and that he would be attending the committee meeting. He was also of the opinion that the planning officer was unlikely to report either in favour of or against the application leaving it completely to the committee. The Chairman expressed concern that SBDC Planning isn't an expert in delivering care and should therefore go to the local mental health regulatory body for recommendations.

Anna Gray, a resident, shared concerns about whether using planters on Kingsway Green as a border along Kingsway was the most effect method of preventing vehicles parking on the Green. Michael Smeaton, a resident, said that since moving to Farnham Common four years ago he had felt Kingsway Green was an eyesore. He suggested low level hedging and pathways and shared his feeling that planters would look unattractive. The Chairman stated that there have been as many ideas as years the project has been considered.

Cllr. Dhillon advised that Ms Adams had met with the portfolio holder regarding home to school transport. The Chairman said that his feeling was that the immediate issue was under control and the issue was planning for the future.

Cllr. Dhillon wanted to make sure that people were aware of the Burnham Beeches 10 year consultation that was currently underway and advised that 70 people attended the session on Saturday and 700 people attended the session on Sunday.

Cllr. Dhillon advised that the officers for the new unitary council had been appointed and that the budget consultation was currently underway. He further advised that the community boards were not written in stone and will take the first five year term to shape.

Cllr. Lewis advised that she was aware of fly tipping in Collum Green Road. Mr. Robinson added that there was also some in Hare Hatch Lane and Mrs. Rolfe confirmed that some was present in Crown Lane.