

FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 7.30 P.M. IN FARNHAM ROYAL VILLAGE HALL

Present

Mr. Paul Rowley (Chairman) Mrs. Marilyn Rolfe
Mr. Bob Milne Mrs. Judy Tipping
Mr. Clive Robinson Mrs. Jennifer Quilter
Mrs. Judith Hall – Clerk
Five members of the public

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.

20/10/PC Apologies for absence

Mr. John Hodges, Mr. Richard Thomas and Mr. Roger Home

20/11/PC Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

20/12/PC To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27 January 2020

Mr. Milne requested an amendment to paragraph 5.2 to better explain what had been agreed. This proposed amendment **was agreed**. In addition, Mrs. Quilter advised that she felt amendments should be made to paragraphs 6.4 and 6.5. It was agreed that she would draft the amended paragraphs, which would then be circulated to councillors for agreement by email.

20/13/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.

13.1 Update on Kingsway Green Posts – report noted and the Chairman advised that the posts were due to be installed this week and that grass seed would be spread in the first instance rather than laying turf. Mrs. Tipping advised that she had seen a tipper lorry parked on the edge of the Green after the disappearance of the cones. Mr. Milne noted that the cones had worked well, which Mrs. Tipping agreed. Mr. Robinson asked whether soil would be added to level up the ground and sought confirmation that 8” posts were being installed. The Chairman confirmed that soil would be added and that 8” posts were being installed. Mrs. Quilter asked whether any feedback, thanks etc. had been given to the group of residents who compiled the survey as she felt it was important to say thank you. Mr. Milne replied that he was not keen as he was not positive about the survey. Mrs. Tipping expressed her frustration with the survey as she felt it had slowed the process down whereas if the interested residents had attended a parish council meeting, they could have expressed their views in the established way. Mrs. Quilter stated that the Parish Council should accept that not everyone can come to a meeting and that various routes were necessary. Mr. Milne suggested that the topic of using Facebook to seek views should be added to a parish council meeting agenda as councillors had different views. Mrs. Tipping expressed her sadness that all councillors are volunteers who often stay at meetings until gone 10pm yet are always getting criticism and reiterated her view that residents should attend parish council meetings to express their views. The Chairman stated that it was necessary

for councillors to have a discussion about how the Parish Council goes forward with social media and that the Council was always happy to hear the views of residents but the Council will make the decision using the views expressed but also wider issues such as health and safety, policy, planning and finances. He added that this topic was discussed at a recent SBALC meeting and there was no consistent approach across the different councils represented so a debate is needed. Mrs. Rolfe noted that the results of the survey should be put into perspective as only 270 comments were received.

13.2 Update on Farnham Common Village Sign – report noted.

13.3 Update on the wild flower verge pilot scheme – report noted

20/14/PC To consider VE Day celebrations

The Chairman advised that he felt it would be a good idea to link village celebrations to the national celebrations at 3pm on Friday 8 May 2020. Mrs. Rolfe advised that Farnham Common Village Hall were planning an event which would include a film and afternoon tea but that this was taking place on Sunday 10 May 2020. Mr. Milne asked why the event was planned for the Sunday and Mrs. Rolfe advised that the organisers felt that a lot of events would be held on the Friday so had picked the Sunday to maximise attendance. The Chairman asked whether the decision on the date was final as if it was held on the Friday, they could join the national celebrations for the toast. Mrs. Rolfe suggested that it could be moved but advised that the village hall did not have a broadcasting license so she would need to research what steps would need to be taken to show the TV coverage. The Chairman asked Mrs. Rolfe if they could work together to arrange the event and Mrs. Rolfe agreed. Mr. Milne asked whether the Royal British Legion had been asked for their plans. Mrs. Rolfe advised that she had and they weren't planning anything. The Chairman advised that he would also see what the three schools were doing.

20/15/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.

15.1 To consider a resident's request to plant one or two trees in memory of parents – report noted and it was agreed that the Clerk would email the family with in principle support but advising that the location and whether plaques could be displayed would need to be agreed. He noted that when the last three trees were planted, the Parish Council received negative comments about their positions. He felt there were two or three places where the trees could be planted. Mr. Milne added that the trees should be native species. Mrs. Tipping stated that there is space in Temple Dell but that she wouldn't want to block the open space. The Chairman advised that he felt Temple Dell, Robin Parade and the south side of Farnham Common Sports Club were possibilities. Mrs. Tipping asked whether the family have expressed any wishes regarding location, which the Chairman confirmed they had not, and then expressed her feeling that Robin Parade would be good. Mr. Milne then advised caution as the land in Robin Parade belongs to the shops unless they were to be planted where the hedge is. **It was agreed** that in principle this was a good idea and that the Open Spaces Working Group would look at this proposal further with the family.

15.2 Mr. Robinson referred to a document previously circulated and asked whether the Parish Council would authorise him to remove the fallen branch on the A355. **This was agreed.** He also noted that the abandoned tyre had disappeared and suggested that it would make sense for a protocol to be established with SBDC/the new unitary authority regarding the removal of small amounts of fly tipping to agree that if cleared by the Parish Council no charge was payable at the local recycling centres.

20/16/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.

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

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

16.2 To review the 2020/21 budget – Mr. Milne reminded those present that at the last meeting it was agreed that the precept would increase by more than the forecasted amount and as such a revised budget had been prepared for this meeting. He shared his personal view that all the increase was doing was creating the required reserves and

that the Council should not save for projects without proper costed plans. The Chairman added that reserves of £91,000 are recommended by national guidance and our internal auditor. Mr. Milne advised the recommendation is six months committed expenditure. Mrs. Tipping stated that the Parish Council should be aware that people in the parish go to foodbanks and that life is not lovely and affluent for all so the Council must be very careful when setting the precept. Mr. Milne advised that Mrs. Rolfe had made the point that the Parish Council precept was not the only element of council tax during the last meeting. Mrs. Rolfe added that there are a lot of people in the villages who are not cash rich and being equity rich is different. The budget **was approved**. Mr. Milne confirmed that the Clerk had sent a schedule of annual financial results but noted that the results for 2019/20 and 2020/21 would change when the relevant audits had been completed.

20/17/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.

Mrs. Rolfe, advised that the working group had responded to most applications and that quite a lot had been received. She made the following specific comments:

Allerds Farm – over 200 documents had been lodged with lots of objections and massive concern regarding the use of green belt land and road access. Mr. Norvill asked whether the barn is listed and Mrs. Rolfe confirmed that it was. Land at Rear of Lantern Cottage - an enormous number of objections including from other developers. There is major concern regarding change of access, flooding and drainage issues.

Mrs. Rolfe also advised that she had received no updates regarding Summerleaze or M & S Groundworks. Mr. Thomas, a resident, advised that the Summerleaze application was being considered by BCC on 23 March 2020. Mrs. Rolfe advised that the M & S Groundworks application was an ongoing issue and although a unanimous decision had been reached it was not final as the applicant can appeal. She also reminded those present that the community needs to object from the start to be included. Mr Thomas, a resident, advised that the time for the public to interject on the M & S Groundworks application had passed but the Summerleaze application was still open and asked whether the Parish Council had discussed the application. The Chairman advised that it had at previous meetings and residents had been rallied to respond as the Parish Council's response does not count towards the number of objections. He also advised that Cllr. Dhillon had discussed the position at the last meeting and had confirmed that he would be attending the meeting at BCC. Mr Thomas, a resident, confirmed that he was working with Cllr. Dhillon. Mrs. Tipping advised that Burnham Beeches have a 560m protection zone around their site so if applications are within that zone, they will respond which will help quite a lot. She noted that the land to the rear of Lantern Cottage was likely to be within that zone. Mrs. Rolfe advised that they had registered an objection around drainage issues. Mr. Robinson advised that a new building had been built at Summerleaze but he had been unable to find any relevant application. Mrs. Rolfe expressed that it would probably be made retrospectively. Mr. Robinson suggested referring the building to SBDC Planning Enforcement as it is not a barn structure. Mrs. Tipping advised that she had been asked by residents of Guardian Court what the concrete wall was at Brackenridge, Parsonage Lane. Mrs. Rolfe advised that it was a workshop and garage positioned on the furthest part of land and not on the boundaries. She added that most of the objections submitted were about planting as trees have been removed.

17.1 To consider comments submitted on recent applications

The Planning Comments **were ratified**.

17.2 To note recent planning decisions

The Planning decisions **were noted**.

20/18/PC Any Other Business (for information only)

18.1 Mr. Milne noted that the glass panel in the bus shelter had been replaced.

18.2 The Chairman raised the idea of an annual or more often spring clean on The Broadway. He advised that Mrs. Rolfe and Mrs. Tipping had been pushing for this to take place and that he had discussed it with Cllr. Dhillon who supported such an event. He further advised that the idea would be to tidy from Robin Parade to The Foresters, on both sides of the road, in Farnham Common and that a plan needed to be devised for what needs doing in Farnham Royal. He continued that the feedback from the NPSG workshops was that there is a strong feeling of community and there are huge amounts of work to be done. Mrs. Rolfe agreed and advised that this was why she had decided

to abandon entering Britain in Bloom this year. The Chairman suggested targeting a weekend before summer to get started and that if the Parish Council was happy this should be delegated to the Open Spaces Working Group to plan and start a campaign to get people involved. Mrs. Tipping also wanted to check that the contractors are doing the right things.

18.3 Mr. Milne advised that he had met the TfB Local Area Technician ("LAT") who reported that the annual clean had been done so he walked with him to show him where there were still issues and it was agreed that an update would be provided but no such update has yet been received. Mrs. Tipping expressed frustration that the precept had been increased but that jobs are still not being done. The Chairman clarified that this work did not form part of the precept and Mr. Milne reiterated that the issues had been brought up with the LAT. The Chairman advised that the plan was for Mr. Milne and the Clerk to meet with the LAT every two months to follow up on issues. Mr. Milne asked the Clerk to chase for an update regarding the gullies.

18.4 Mrs. Tipping raised the state of the drains on Victoria Road and asked whether the road is ever clear of parking to allow a proper clean. She expressed that it would make sense for BCC to put cones from the rectory entrance to the flats with a notice that there is no parking for gutter clearing. Mr. Milne advised that he had visited the spot with the LAT and he advised that the gullies are cleaned once a year and this had been reported to him as done but that he was going to check. Mr. Milne also advised that traffic orders would be required to suspend parking and that road sweeping was carried out by SBDC rather than BCC.

18.5 Mrs. Rolfe asked the Clerk to complain to SBDC/BCC about the flooding in The Broadway car park as it was encouraging people to park in other areas. She advised that she had logged a complaint with BCC and received a call back to say they would deal with it. Mr. Milne advised that the issue was raised with the LAT but he had no idea why the area floods. Mrs. Rolfe advised that she believes it is because the whole area has just one drain which is not functioning properly. Mr. Robinson advised that there are lots of blocked drains in the Parish.

20/19/PC Next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.05pm. The next meeting will be on 30 March 2020 at 7.30pm at Farnham Common Village Hall.

OPEN FORUM

Mr. Foulds, a resident, noted that the travellers had gone from The Broadway car park. Mrs. Rolfe advised that due process has to be followed and as there were only two caravans it took a while but this may have been different if there were five. She continued that it was important to pressurise the new unitary authority to get an injunction and advised that her understanding was that Irish travellers usually arrive in March/April and return home in October after the various fairs they attend have finished but in 2019 they did not return home. Mr. Foulds advised that this was because it had been made a criminal offense in Ireland and asked whether the travellers who have just left the car park could return next week. Mrs. Rolfe advised that they couldn't for anything up to three months.

Mr. Norvill, a resident, advised that the application regarding 6 Fairfield Lane had gone to appeal and all written representations needed to be submitted by 17 March 2020. He also reminded those present that the SBDC Planning Committee unanimously refused the application despite its recommendation for acceptance by the Planning Officer. He also noted that there is an incomplete HMO application concerning 1 Fairfield Lane and another potential application in respect of Farnham Park House for a charity based in Harrow. He had been advised that the Parish Council would be responding to the potential application looking for permission, if granted, to be revoked if any problems were encountered and noted that where care in the community is encouraged it must be done effectively.

Mr Thomas, a resident, first asked whether the meeting would be discussing the Summerleaze planning application. He was advised that this would be discussed later under point 7 on the agenda so he should stay. Mr. Thomas then wanted to raise the issue of air quality in the villages as a result of all of the lorry movements. He advised that Iver is an Air Quality Management Area and asked whether the Parish Council could get a measurement of air quality on the A355 possibly outside the post office which SBDC could then incorporate into an action plan for how to manage the air quality. Mrs. Rolfe advised that she believed the infant school recorded air quality. Mr. Milne asked what the School did with the data and Mrs. Rolfe advised that she didn't know. Mr. Thomas asked whether the equipment

was properly calibrated and she said that it was. She also advised that the Parish Council had done a traffic survey and that there were not as many lorries as you think travelling on the A355 through the villages. Mr. Thomas said that the survey would have shown numbers but not the impact of the vehicles and the level of particulates. Mrs. Tipping said that it was the gravel lorries that were causing the pollution as they are not always covered. Mrs. Quilter advised that the Parish Council would need to tie up with the local authority as it is their responsibility to implement Air Quality Management Areas. The Chairman advised that nothing had been discussed at SBALC and Mrs. Quilter advised that the scheme was DEFRA driven. Mr. Thomas mentioned that the new MP had been photographed with the sign in Iver and Mrs. Rolfe reminded those present that a meeting was being arranged in the village for residents to meet the new MP. The Chairman advised that the infant school was very worried about air quality and Mrs. Tipping asked the Clerk to discuss the matter with the Clerk at Iver Parish Council. Mrs. Rolfe felt that the implementation of an AQMA in Iver was likely to be linked to their campaign for a bypass. Mr. Foulds asked whether the results of the traffic survey could be published in the magazine. The Chairman, supported by Mrs. Quilter, advised that currently the Parish Council only held the raw data which needed to be interpreted as it was not currently in a user friendly format.

The Chairman asked if Mr. Foulds knew who took the abandoned tyre. He advised that it wasn't him and he didn't know but it was gone the morning after the last meeting.