

FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 26 OCTOBER 2020 AT 7.30 P.M. VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING

Present

Mr. Bob Milne (Chairman) Mrs. Marilyn Rolfe
Mrs. Judy Tipping Mr. Roger Home
Mrs. Jennifer Quilter Mr. Richard Thomas
Mrs. Judith Hall – Clerk
Five members of the public, County Cllr. Dev Dhillon and County Cllr. 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.

20/94/PC Apologies for absence

Mr. Paul Rowley, Mr. John Hodges and Mr. Clive Robinson

20/95/PC Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

20/96/PC To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5 October 2020

The minutes were **approved** and **it was agreed** that they would be signed by the Chairman the next day.

20/97/PC Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda - for information only)

97.1 Update on Community Payback projects – Mr. Home reported that the work to clear Footpath 4 commenced this morning and is scheduled to continue until Thursday. The rest of the work, being the footpath to the north of Millwood Nursery, will be completed this winter. Mr. Home also advised that BC have not yet provided a date for the completion of the vegetation clearance along the A355 that they agreed to carry out and that TfB are now not replying when he is asking for a date for the work to be carried out. Mrs. Tipping advised that when she was walking through the footpaths from Blackpond Lane to Green Man Hill and Green Man Hill to Purton Lane they are all overgrown with nettles. The Chairman advised that this was being dealt with but Mr. Home corrected his understanding as the Clerk had sent letters to residents about Footpath 5 and the residents were starting to deal with the overgrown vegetation there. Cllr. Dhillon thanked those involved for their efforts regarding footpath 5 as he felt there had been a huge improvement. Cllr. Dhillon also advised Mr. Home to contact Cllr. Naylor regarding the vegetation clearance along the A355 as he is the lead member for TfB.

97.2 Update on Covid19 community efforts – The Chairman asked Mr. Thomas to provide an update. Mr. Thomas advised that 66 volunteers are still part of the group and that there is currently little work involved in looking after people with the virus but David Banks is now using the group for foodbank purposes. He advised that David Banks is the Governor for disadvantaged pupils at the Farnham Common Infant and Junior schools. The Covid Support Group is looking at possibilities for free school meals for children with volunteers offering food parcels to children and others as well. The Governors are particularly concerned with free school meals for disadvantage children at all three schools. The Chairman asked whether this initiative was just for half term. He confirmed initially it was but that they were also looking potentially at a Christmas hamper for those in need. It was agreed that the Group is a fantastic force for good in the village. Mrs. Rolfe advised that the Farnham Royal Charities were looking at the possibility of starting a food bank in the Parish and suggested that if David Banks let them know of a need they may be able to help. David Banks thanked everyone for their suggestions and help. Cllr. Dhillon stated that no children should go without food and advised that the Woodstock café in Burnham was happy to issue vouchers, that there is a local emergency programme to help and that he can arrange a food parcel for them. He also advised that he will raise the issue of Christmas hampers and toys with BC and see whether there were any laptops

and/or iPads in BC that could be used. David Banks advised that the equipment is needed as three year groups (c. 180 children) are excluded due to Covid 19 and the school is short by 70-90 laptops. Cllr. Dhillon also advised that any self isolating family on low income and/or certain benefits can apply for £500 from BC.

20/98/PC To consider a timetable for returning to face to face meetings and reopening the office

The Chairman recommended continuing with virtual meetings and that the Clerk continued to work from home and **this was agreed.**

20/99/PC Beeches Community Board

99.1 To receive updates from the Sub Groups

99.1.1 The Young - Mrs. Rolfe advised that the Group was still discussing what direction to go in and advised that the Group wants to get in contact with the children that don't belong to Guides, Scouts and youth clubs etc. and is still discussing how to do that. The Chairman asked if there had been any discussions about spending this year's budget. Cllr. Dhillon advised that he chairs that sub group and that £2,500 was going to be awarded to Dorney Youth Club leaving nearly £34,000 available so if there are projects in the Farnhams that need funding, applications should be made.

99.1.2 Highways & Infrastructure - Mr. Home advised that there had been a lot of talk and discussion in the sub group but not many outcomes. He advised that all project funding applications for next year (2021/22) needed to be submitted by the end of October 2020 and that the applications were processed online. These would then be assessed throughout the winter with the work being carried out next summer. He also clarified that all projects irrespective of the availability of match funding needed to go through this process and that the budget for this year (2020/21) was £46,000 across five parishes. Finally, he advised that there was no indication of next year's budget so he had no idea if the applications being submitted will be approved. The Chairman asked Cllr. Anthony, as Chair of the Community Board, to comment. He advised that councillors shouldn't worry about the 31 October 2020 deadline too much as the committed expenditure date is 31 March 2021. The Chairman asked whether the budget would be £46,000 again next year and Cllr. Anthony advised that he didn't know. The Chairman also asked whether applications for big projects also needed to be made through the Board and Cllr. Anthony advised that the Board was not just to spend the limited budgets held but also about representing parishes to BC to get the support needed for bigger projects. The Chairman welcomed this support. Mr. Home advised that the other point he had taken away was that high reliance was being placed on S.106 funding, which for our parish may not generate much and he expressed his opinion that experience doesn't appear to match Cllr. Anthony's belief that BC will listen to parishes' needs. Cllr. Dhillon clarified that the 31 October 2020 deadline date came in as he was persistent that an early date was needed to carry out the projects by the end of March 2021. He advised that any projects too expensive to be funded from the Community Board can go to the BC Cabinet for funding from capital funds. He advised that the Head of TfB is Cllr. Naylor so nothing is stopping the Parish Council from writing to him. Those present were reminded that the Community Board considers what is best for the community not individual parishes. Mr. Home stated that the parish needs to keep applying pressure as its been ignored for so long. Cllr. Anthony acknowledged that as the Community Board is very new it can't do much retrospectively but with one voice, he believes it will be much more influential going forward and that it will be hard for BC to not go ahead with our requests.

99.1.3 The Elderly - The Chairman provided an update from Mr. Rowley which advised that the Group had received a presentation from Age Concern and had discussed local groups. It was felt that there was a need to community Covid19 support groups to continue up to Christmas and the Chairman advised that Mr. Rowley wanted to ask whether the volunteers in the Farnhams Community Support Group would stay until Christmas. Mr. Thomas didn't think they were going anywhere so if there is a need people will still be in place to help but stressed that the volunteers can't be used as a catch all for all sorts of jobs.

99.2 To consider projects for submission – Mr. Home advised that the following projects had been suggested:

- A pedestrian crossing on Farnham Lane (estimated cost £80,000 – £100,000)
- Footpath extension in Blackpond Lane (previously applied for in 2018 but was not approved due to £70,000 cost)
- Move dropped kerbs in Templewood Lane approximately 20 metres further from the junction with A355 (lots of comments from schools and parents concerned about pedestrian safety. Estimated cost £15,000 – £20,000)
- A solution to the flooding outside Broadway Tyres (currently there is no cost estimate as the problem and solution have not yet been identified)

Mrs. Tipping suggested that the flooding outside the tyre centre was a drainage issue from the pavement and car park as although there is a manhole cover in the road, there is no drain underneath it. The Chairman agreed but advised that diagnosing and solving the problem should be left to TfB. Cllr. Dhillon advised that TfB will assess costs and find solution(s).

Mrs. Rolfe asked Cllr. Dhillon about the car park drainage system and he advised that TfB are currently investigating the link of drains under the car park.

The Chairman asked for the items from the last minutes i.e. the bi-directional speed camera outside the former garage and the crossing or island by Fairfield Lane or further towards Farnham Royal to be included in the potential project list. Mr. Home thought that these items tie up with Active Travel Strategy being put together and suggested building a list of projects and then deciding priorities. The Chairman stated that the project regarding the dropped kerbs in Templewood Lane was added very quickly and that the other potential projects had not really been discussed. Mr. Home advised that this project would satisfy the conditions of the available S.106 money and when added to the crossing and footpath extension applications would give a range of spending prices. The Chairman asked those present whether they agreed with the four projects outlined for 2021/22 and **they were agreed**. The Clerk reminded those present that there was still money available for 2020/21 so applications could still be made for this year.

99.3 To consider request for 2020/21 match funding

Those present were advised that Stoke Poges had been awarded £6,000 and Burnham had been awarded £4,000 for similar projects to ours outside the infant school for which we had been awarded £5,000. Cllr. Dhillon was asked where the balance of the Community Board's budget was being spent for this year. He advised that there was still £20,000 available for highways and infrastructure projects, £10,000 for projects involving the elderly and £30,000 for projects involving the young. Mr. Home asked Cllr. Dhillon to advise if those balances had to be spent this financial year or could be claimed towards one of the new projects being applied for in 2021/22. It was felt that to protect the funds they should be spent or at least committed by the end of this financial year. Cllr. Dhillon advised that Dropmore School have now applied for a similar scheme to the one outside the infant school. The Chairman advised time is running out for applying for these funds and that councillors need to think of projects for the young. He suggested that maybe David Banks could help. Cllr. Anthony stressed that it was very important to think of the elderly and the young as well as we can get diverted into looking at infrastructure only.

20/100/PC Finance:

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

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

100.2 To consider the 30 September 2020 quarterly Management Accounts

The Chairman asked those present whether they had had an opportunity to review the quarterly management accounts previously circulated. Those present confirmed they had. The Clerk and Chairman made the following observations:

- The cost of the arboricultural work is significantly higher than anticipated.
- The decision to replace both noticeboards not just one had increased the associated costs.
- The decision to give The Farnhams Magazine a grant had increased expenditure in this category.

The Chairman advised that another Finance Committee meeting had been scheduled for November to review the 2021/22 budget and begin discussions regarding the 2021/22 precept.

The management accounts **were approved**.

100.3 The Chairman wished to discuss the following items:

100.3.1 The contractor carrying out the arboricultural work had advised that due to a typographical error in his quote the cost of the work to one tree had been included at £50 when it should have read £500. He was therefore seeking an increase in his price of £450 plus VAT. Whilst councillors expressed their disappointment in this error, especially Mrs. Quilter, the increase **was agreed**.

100.3.2 The contractor carrying out the arboricultural work had also identified additional work costing £450 plus VAT in respect of the removal of a fallen tree at FCSC and the removal of a hanging limb and snapped hanging branch at Temple Dell. This additional work **was agreed**.

100.3.3 The contractor currently installing the Christmas lights had advised that BC had replaced five columns and taken the socket outlets and control gear for the Christmas lights. The cost of replacing these would be £1,550 plus VAT. **It was agreed** to replace these but the Clerk was asked to follow this up with BC. Mrs. Tipping expressed her displeasure at the position.

20/101/PC Planning:

101.1 To ratify comments submitted on recent applications

The Planning Comments **were ratified**.

101.2 To note recent planning decisions

The Planning decisions **were noted**.

101.3 Mrs. Rolfe, as Chair of the Planning Working Group, advised that the major priority is for members of the council to look at Pinewood Studios' plans for an amusement centre with potentially 2million visitors each year which she feels will affect the roads. From the comments she had read there is great concern in the wider community. She advised that comments were due to BC by the end of the month. She also advised that the developer who had applied to BC for an easement over the car park had requested an opportunity to speak to

parish councillors. It was suggested that he be invited to attend a working group meeting and that all councillors would also be invited to attend that meeting. Cllr. Dhillon asked that county councillors were also invited. **This was agreed.**

101.4 Cllr. Anthony advised that the previous rule that any application with 10 objections would automatically be considered by the BC Planning Committee no longer stands and if the Parish Council wants an application referred to the BC Planning Committee it must ask a county councillor to call it in.

20/102/PC Any Other Business (for information only)

102.1 Mr. Home asked whether the Parish Council wants to carry on with the Active Travel strategy. It was agreed that a Zoom meeting would take place before the November 2020 parish council meeting. Mr. Home advised that the draft strategy is aspirational and suggested that the Parish Council needs to look at funding. He advised that the Parish has the second to lowest precept of its Community Board neighbours.

102.2 The Chairman advised that permission had been given by Farnham Royal Village Hall for the defibrillator to be installed and that the contractor had been instructed to do the work.

102.3 The Chairman also asked for nominations for who would lay the remembrance wreaths and posies. Those present were advised that Mrs. Tipping was taking the old wreaths down tomorrow. The Clerk advised that she would check the arrangements for Remembrance with Mrs. Leister-Crowe but it was agreed that the Chairman would place the posies on the war graves, that Mr. Rowley would lay the wreath at Farnham Royal (if he was unavailable Cllr. Dhillon volunteered to step in) and that Mrs. Tipping would lay the wreath in Farnham Common.

102.4 Cllr. Dhillon advised that the appeal regarding 6 Fairfield Lane had been approved by the Inspector.

102.5 Cllr. Dhillon advised that the SBDC Local Plan had been withdrawn by BC partly because of its apparent lack of engagement with Slough Borough Council and also as the Secretary of State wants a Buckinghamshire wide plan by 2024 so BC decided to use its resources to come up with a county wide plan rather than fight about the SBDC plan. He further advised that there is some protection granted by current policies including Green Belt and the National Planning Policy Framework.

102.6 Cllr. Dhillon also advised councillors that there is a Government planning white paper consultation ongoing and BC was submitting a robust reply to protect the green belt.

20/103/PC Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.15pm. The next meeting will be a virtual meeting on 23 November 2020 at 7.30pm. Details will be published with the agenda.

OPEN FORUM

David Banks, on behalf of Governors of Farnham Common Schools, thanked everyone for the role they played in reducing the speed limit outside the school and ultimately saving lives.

Darren Gittins, a Farnham Common resident, brought up the issue of parking in Green Lane and advised that he had been a resident for 15 years and was very fed up. He advised that the parking in Green Lane is unacceptable at weekends predominantly due to people visiting Burnham Beeches SAC. He advised that parked cars are blocking pavements, are too close to junctions and that residents are having altercations with drivers. He expressed his opinion that the situation has got worse since Burnham Beeches SAC started charging for parking and that the parking is dangerous and troublesome especially for children and elderly residents. He stated that he has written a letter which has been countersigned by 11 residents, which he will post to Cllr. Dhillon and some of the Parish Council. The Chairman invited Cllr. Dhillon to comment. He advised that he had anticipated that there would be a problem as the same had been experienced at Dorney and he wanted a meeting to swiftly resolve things. Mark Davis, the Parking Manager at BC, advised that he could issue a Parking Order stating that nobody can park a car either side of Hawthorn Lane or Green Lane but he was concerned that this would upset residents who park their cars on the road. It was agreed that he would keep looking for a solution but, in the meantime, two months ago, it came to light that Burnham Beeches had approached BC, which Cllr. Dhillon wasn't aware of, as they wanted to place some parking restrictions around Burnham Beeches. BC Officers said it was not possible to include only the perimeter roads but that any plans needed to include Beeches Road, Hawthorn Lane and Green Lane plus those on the Burnham side. Cllr. Dhillon advised that he had previously advised Andy Barnard (Superintendent of Burnham Beeches SAC) that a huge problem would be caused by the charging plans. He also advised that he had received emails from a couple of residents which he forwarded to Mark Davis and after looking this weekend he will approach Mark Davis again and see whether cones or a Parking Order can be made available although he was aware that some

residents may not be happy with a Parking Order. Mr Gittins took Cllr. Dhillon's point regarding a Parking Order but expressed that his concern is the section between Hawthorn Lane and Blackpond Lane and Kingsway and his belief is that if double yellow lines were painted the problem would be rectified and there would be no objection from residents. Cllr. Dhillon advised that he was happy to take the proposal forward but suggested that the only issue is that putting lines there will cause the traffic to simply move and then we will have the same problem in another area. Mrs. Rolfe suggested resident only parking. The Chairman asked Cllr. Dhillon who was responsible for parking decisions in BC and he confirmed it was Mark Davis. He also advised that there may be a little left in the Community Board budget to fund double yellow lines. David Banks asked what the objection was to a clear way as the school Governors are concerned as children cross the road there and Andy Barnard had told him that Burnham Beeches had offered money for that scheme. Cllr. Dhillon advised he was aware of the funding offer but that he couldn't say too much about that but that the funds were limited. Mrs. Quilter mentioned that Andy Barnard had spoken at a recent meeting about clear ways but Cllr. Dhillon advised that Andy Barnard only wants very limited roads included.

George Chapman, one of the local co-ordinators for Neighbourhood Watch, advised that it seems co-operation and co-ordination with the Covid 19 Community Group volunteers would be a good idea to widen the remit and benefit the community. He also advised that he had a personal idea to discourage travellers in the car park and that he would be happy to meet Cllr. Dhillon on site to see if he agrees it is an economic way of preventing travellers from staying in the car park. The Chairman suggested Mr Chapman emailed Cllr. Dhillon directly.