

FRPC Parish Council for The Farnhams

Information for the Parish Council Meeting on 25 January 2021

3 Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda - for information only)

3.1 Update on Community Payback projects

As you are aware, over the last few months volunteers from the Thames Valley Community Payback Scheme have undertaken work to clear vegetation from two footpaths in Farnham Common. Starting in late October the footpath from Hammond End to Egypt Lane, Right of Way FAR/4/1 was cleared of encroaching shrubbery and vegetation. Subsequently, work started to clear the footway on the west side of Collinswood Road (A355) north of Millwood House Nursery. After the A355 was re-aligned in the early 1970s, the old road and footway became largely unused and overgrown. The Payback Team has reinstated the footway to provide a safe pedestrian route to the footpath which links the A355 with Egypt Lane and the path through to Egypt Woods. Work took place on Mondays and second Sundays. It was arduous and was completed by the end of December. The old road surface was covered in years of debris and vegetation that required removal to reveal a pavement. It would be good to think of other suitable projects around the Parish that could be suggested to the Scheme.

3.2 Update on Kingsway Green Project

The new flowerbed, which is kindly being sponsored by an anonymous donor, has been created on Kingsway Green. In addition, daffodil and crocus bulbs have been planted so there will hopefully be some colour appearing shortly.

3.3 Update on the installation of the defibrillator at Farnham Royal Village Hall

The Farnham Royal defibrillator has now been installed on an outside wall at the Farnham Royal Village Hall and is fully operational. The Clerk has also updated the address with the South Central Ambulance Service with whom the unit is registered.

3.4 Update on the installation of the new noticeboards

The new noticeboards have now been manufactured and installation is expected in about four weeks.

3.5 Update on 2021 Local Elections

The National Association of Local Councils has advised that on 13 January 2021, Cabinet Office minister, Chloe Smith MP responded to an urgent question in the House of Commons and confirmed May's local elections will go ahead as planned, but this would be kept under review. The Association has asked the government to make a swift decision should this situation change. Our Chairman is sceptical that these elections will take place.

3.6 Update on Covid19 Support Group

A verbal update will be provided during the meeting.

4 To consider a timetable for returning to face to face meetings and reopening the office

It was agreed that this item would be reviewed every month. The guidance from the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks remains unchanged, they strongly advise parish councils to continue to meet remotely, without the need for face-to-face contact. Government advice is people may only leave your home for work if you cannot reasonably work from home. Employers and employees should discuss their working arrangements, and employers should take every possible step to facilitate their employees working from home, including providing suitable IT and equipment to enable remote working.

5 Finance:

5.1 To consider the December 2020 Management Accounts including:

The December 2020 Management Account and Notes have been circulated to councillors for review prior to a discussion during the meeting.

5.1.1 Granting Farnham Common Sports Club an additional three month rent free period.

At the Parish Council meeting held on 5 October 2020 it was agreed that due to the financial impact of Covid19 the Parish Council would grant a three month rent free period in respect of the rent due for the period 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020. It is now proposed that due to the ongoing impact, a further three month rent free period should be granted in respect of the rent due for the period 1 October 2020 to 31 March 2021. The rent is usually paid in two six monthly invoices for £500 each so the effect of the rent free periods would be to reduce the annual rent from £1,000 to £500.

5.1.2 Waiving charges to the businesses who ordinarily contribute to the hanging baskets along The Broadway.

Previously some of the businesses along The Broadway have reimbursed the Parish Council for the cost of any hanging basket outside their property. It is proposed that due to the financial impact of Covid19 the Parish Council waives the outstanding and future charges in this regard. The hanging baskets will be removed in May/June 2021 as part of the Parish Council's revised plans.

5.1.3 Carrying out the work identified in the December 2020 Arboriculture Report by the end of March 2021 and if relevant, the quotes received.

For the last few years the annual tree work has been carried out in the Autumn/Winter of the following year. It is proposed that, going forward, the work identified in a December report will be carried out between January and March of the following year i.e. before the following nesting season. It is felt that this is a more proactive approach and will ensure matters are dealt with in a more timely fashion. The financial effect of this is that two years' worth of work will be invoiced this financial year creating a cost that is significantly more than estimated. The December 2020 Arboriculture Report and copies of the four quotes received have been circulated to councillors for review prior to a discussion during the meeting.

5.2 To consider the 2021/22 budget and projections for 2022/23 and 2023/24

The 2021/22 budget and projections for 2022/23 and 2023/24 have been circulated to councillors for review prior to a discussion during the meeting.

5.3 To agree the 2021/22 precept

This item will be discussed during the meeting.

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

The cashbook has been reviewed and approved by the Chairman of the Finance Committee and has been circulated to councillors.

5.5 To consider the following expenditure:

5.5.1 Replacement seat for the Spring Turtle at the Farnham Royal playground

It was noted on the Annual Playground Inspection Report that the seat for the Spring Turtle was broken. A quote of £117.00 plus VAT has been received from the supplier for a replacement seat.

5.5.2 Replacement saddle seat for the chest press machine at the Farnham Common Outdoor Gym.

It was noted on the Annual Playground Inspection Report that the saddle seat for the Chest Press machine was broken. A quote of £89.00 plus VAT has been received from the supplier for a replacement saddle seat.

5.5.3 Installation of the old Farnham Royal noticeboard at the public conveniences in Farnham Common

Councillors will be aware that the noticeboard in Farnham Royal was removed due to the redevelopment of the property on which it was installed. A new noticeboard has been purchased for Farnham Royal and it is proposed that the old noticeboard is installed on the public conveniences in Farnham Common for the purpose of displaying information regarding local businesses and community events. The cost of cleaning and installing the noticeboard is £210 plus VAT.

6 Planning:

6.1 To ratify comments submitted on recent applications

The schedule of comments submitted to the planning authority has been circulated to councillors.

6.2 To note recent planning decisions

The schedule of planning authority decisions has been circulated to councillors.