

FRPC Parish Council for The Farnhams

Information for the Parish Council Meeting on 22 February 2021

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

3.1 Update on Commemorative Bench

The purchase of the following bench, which matches one already on the Green, has been agreed. It will be installed by the new flowerbed at the back of the Green and will back onto Kingsway facing towards the oak tree.



3.2 Update on the installation of the new noticeboard

A verbal update will be provided by the Clerk.

3.3 Update on 2021 Elections

Elections are still planned to go ahead on Thursday 6 May 2021, there has been no further update from Government

The following elections are due to take place:

- Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
- Buckinghamshire Council
- Town and Parish Councils

Key Dates for Electoral Process (* Provisional Date & Time)

Monday 22 March - Publication of Notice of Election (local elections)

Monday 29 March - Publication of Notice of Election for PCC

Thursday 8 April, 4pm - Deadline for receipt of nomination papers (including withdrawals) and notification of appointment of election agent

Friday 9 April, 4pm - Names of candidates standing for election published

Monday 19 April - Deadline for registering to vote

Tuesday 20 April, 5pm - Postal Vote application deadline (including postal proxy)

Tuesday 27 April, 5pm - Proxy vote application deadline

Tuesday 27 April - Notice of Poll

Thursday 6 May Polling Day 7am – 10pm

Thursday 6 May Verification, 10.15pm *

Friday 7 May Principal Election Count, 10am *

Friday 7 May/Saturday 8 May (10am) - Town & Parish Council Counts*

Thursday 3 June - Delivery of return as to election expenses

Town and Parish councils will be invoiced the proportional costs relating to their council election once the polls are completed. Costs will vary depending on whether a council has a contested or un-contested election.

3.4 Update on confers planted along the A355

A verbal update will be provided by the Chairman.

3.5 Update on St Mary's Churchyard path repairs

The Cemeteries Manager at Buckinghamshire Council has confirmed that the repairs were completed last week. A picture is below:



3.6 Update on the village signs

The Clerk has now been able to discuss the repairs to the village signs with the original contractor. The contractor will provide a quote for the work necessary once he has collected the signs and considered their condition. It is hoped that further information will be available at the meeting.

3.7 Update on allotments

The Clerk notes that there has been an increase in demand for allotments since the initial lockdown in March 2020. The Parish Council, however, does not own any land which can be used to create allotments and therefore has an agreement with Stoke Poges Parish Council which allows residents to apply for one of their allotments. Unfortunately, there is a waiting list for these allotments.

3.8 Update on litter issues

The Clerk notes that some residents have raised concerns about the amount of litter on the side of the A355 between the Beaconsfield Services and the Parish. Unfortunately, this is outside of the Parish Council's control but representations have been made to Buckinghamshire Council and this continues to be monitored. The Parish Council does not recommend that individuals or groups of individuals take steps to collect the litter themselves due to health and safety concerns.

3.9 Update on flooding issues

The Clerk notes that there have been several reports of flooding and associated issues in the villages recently and reports that these matters have been referred to Buckinghamshire Council as they are outside the control of the Parish Council. The Parish Council is able to support residents with these issues and dialogue with Buckinghamshire Councillors continues.

3.10 Update on future projects

A small group of parish councillors are meeting on Friday 19 February 2021 to discuss the

suggested projects. Whilst it is early days, the Chairman is keen that matters progress with the appropriate stakeholders and undertakes to report progress at each parish council 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 To consider a proposal for village decorations to celebrate the Royal Birthdays in 2021

It has been suggested that in an effort to lift everyone's spirits the villages should be decorate to celebrate the Queen's 95th Birthday and the Duke of Edinburgh's 100th Birthday later this year. Our usual contractor has provided a proposal and quote. The proposal is to hang flags and bunting from all of the streetlight columns usually used for the Christmas decorations. This is more than used in previous flag displays in the villages as a result of feedback regarding the impact of previous displays. The quote has been circulated to councillors.

6 Finance:

6.1 To ratify the following:

6.1.1 the purchase of a 100th Birthday gift for a resident

The Chairman was contacted by Farnham Common House with a request to wish one of the residents a happy 100th birthday. The Chairman used his allowance to arrange the purchase of a card, a gift and gift wrap. The total spent was £73.95 and this is included in the Clerk's expenses claim.

6.1.2 the decision to carry out work on the Parish Council's website

Following a review of the Parish Council's website it was identified that some of the information requires updating. The website designer has agreed to carry out the work and provide training to the Clerk and a councillor on the updated version of the programme. The cost of this work and the training is £360.

In addition, the website designer has agreed to carry out the work required by the Accessibility Guidelines as set in the Public Sector Bodies Accessibility regulations. The Guidelines require the Parish Council to take four steps as follows:

1. Conduct an audit
2. Make a plan to fix any accessibility problems
3. Publish an Accessibility Statement
4. Make sure new features are accessible

The estimated cost is £750.

6.2 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.

7 Planning:

7.1 To ratify comments submitted on recent applications

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

7.2 To note recent planning decisions

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