

FRPC Parish Council for The Farnhams

Information for the Parish Council Meeting on 29 March 2021

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

3.1 Update on 2021 Elections

The Local Elections are going ahead on Thursday 6 May 2021. The Parish of Farnham Royal is divided into two wards; Farnham Royal North and Farnham Royal South. There are seven seats in Farnham Royal North and four seats in Farnham Royal South making a total of eleven seats/councillors. The Clerk has delivered nomination papers to all those who have expressed an interest in standing. The deadline for receipt of nomination papers (including withdrawals) is Thursday 8 April at 4pm. All nomination papers must be delivered by hand at the Buckinghamshire Council offices in Amersham.

3.2 Update on wild flower verge

In line with the decision of the Parish Council taken on 27 January 2020 the wild flower verge on the A355 will be reseeded ready for another wonderful display this summer. Work will begin shortly.

3.3 Update on future projects

The most recent meeting to discuss the potential parish projects took place on 24 March 2021 where progress was reviewed. The next meeting is schedule for 12 May 2021 and all councillors are reminded that they are welcome to attend. It was agreed at the last meeting that the Group would report back to the Parish Council on a quarterly basis.

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

The Government has confirmed that it will not extend the legislation put in place to allow remote meetings. As a result, remote meetings will not be allowed after 7 May 2021. A copy of the letter issued has been forwarded to councillors separately. The Clerk is currently waiting for further clarification from the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks.

With regard to reopening the office, the Government has stated that working from home should continue until the review of social distancing and other long-term measures that have been put in place to cut transmission has been completed, which should be 21 June 2021.

5 To consider the Draft Parish Charter and any response

The Town and Parish Charter sets out the relationship between Buckinghamshire Council and town and parish councils in Buckinghamshire, to strengthen partnership working and improve services for residents. The Draft Charter has been circulated to councillors separately.

Buckinghamshire Council has worked with a number of clerks and BMKALC over the last 18 months, and the working group are pleased to be able to share the draft charter with councils and councillors, to gather feedback.

Buckinghamshire Council aims to strengthen the relationship between town and parishes and the unitary authority and the charter sets out the commitment of both the principal authority and local councils to working together, the joint principles and respective roles, responsibilities, and expectations. The development of the charter was informed by:

- Best practice elsewhere, with particular consideration to other unitary councils
- Feedback from workshops with town and parishes during the unitary programme
- Partnership working with BMKALC, and a working group of town and parish council clerks who have shared their expertise and vision of a collaborative cultures

The consultation is open until 31 March 2021 and it is anticipated that the charter will become a working document following the proposed roll-out in Spring/Summer 2021.

- 6 **To consider road safety issues on Collinswood Road just before the 30MPH speed limit sign**
Following concerns raised by residents and councillors, there will be a discussion regarding this issue at the meeting.

7 **Finance:**

7.1 To ratify the informal decision to repair the village signs

At the parish council meeting held in February 2021 it was informally agreed that the repairs required to both village signs should be carried out on the basis of the verbal quote received of a maximum of £800 plus VAT per sign. The work is underway and the signs should be ready for installing in a couple of weeks.

7.2 To consider the appointment of AGHS Accounting & Taxation Services to prepare the 2020/21 Annual Accounts

The Parish Council's year end is 31 March 2021 and agreement is being sought to appoint AGHS Accounting & Taxation Services to prepare the 2020/21 Annual Accounts. The Parish Council has used this firm for a number of years.

7.3 To consider the appointment of Azets Audit Services as the Internal Auditor for 2020/21

Agreement is being sought to appoint Azets Audit Services (formerly Wilkins Kennedy) to carry out the internal audit for 2020/21. This will be the third year that the Parish Council has used this firm.

7.4 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.

8 **Planning:**

8.1 To ratify comments submitted on recent applications

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

8.2 To note recent planning decisions

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