

FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7.30 P.M. VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING

Present

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

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.

21/10/PC Apologies for absence

Mr. John Hodges, Mrs. Judy Tipping and Mr. Clive Robinson

21/11/PC Declarations of Interest

Mrs. Quilter declared an interest in the discussion that took place in Open Forum regarding the parking restrictions currently in place in Beeches Road as they are near her home.

21/12/PC To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25 January 2021

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

21/13/PC Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda - for information only)

13.1 The Chairman advised that the Clerk had responded to the individual who had made a Freedom of Information Act request asking whether the Parish Council has any byelaws relating to the use of UAVs (drones) from its land. The response advised that the Parish Council does not have a policy or byelaws relating to the use of UAVs from its land as these would be set by Buckinghamshire Council but any operator must comply with The Air Navigation Order 2016 and Regulations (CAP393).

13.2 The Chairman asked the Clerk for an update regarding the lamppost that had been knocked over in Kemsley Chase. The Clerk advised that an invoice for £120 was included in this month's cashbook in respect of the costs incurred and she was awaiting confirmation from the contractor that no further costs would be incurred before submitting a payment request to the delivery company.

13.3 The Chairman asked what the current position was with the issues reported by the Chiltern Society regarding the footpaths in the parish. The Clerk advised that they had been referred to the Rights of Way Team at Buckinghamshire Council who had replied. Mr. Home advised that the issue regarding Footpath 4 related to the positioning a 'no cycling' sign. The Clerk advised that BC had said that the signs where a matter for TfB and TfB had suggested this was devolved to the Parish Council under the terms of the Devolution Agreement between the parties. Mr. Milne felt that this was not the case. Mr. Home continued that the issue with Footpath 5 related to overgrown vegetation and advised that the Parish Council wrote to the relevant resident in October 2020 asking for their hedge to be cut but the resident had called the Clerk and advised that the work could not be carried out due to an ongoing police investigation and an injury to one of the residents. Mr. Home advised that the Parish Council needed to write again but that it would be necessary to seek assurance from Buckinghamshire Council that it would support this action in case enforcement was required in the future.

13.4 The Chairman confirmed that the issue of charging points for electric vehicles had been deferred for future years.

13.5 Update on Commemorative Bench – the report was noted and Mr. Milne expressed his disappointment with the choice of bench and the process. He also advised that he would not like the bench

by Kingsway Green on the A355 to be swapped with the bench currently at the back of the Green. Those present did not object to his suggestion.

13.6 Update on the installation of the new noticeboard – the Clerk advised that the contractor had confirmed that the noticeboards would be installed during the first week of March 2021 and asked if a councillor was still happy to meet the contractor to agree the new location in Farnham Royal. Mr. Milne advised that he and the Chairman had been and agreed a location and he was happy to meet the contractor. The Clerk also advised that the contractor had requested that the Parish Council write to the resident who lives behind the Farnham Common noticeboard to advise them that the trees behind the noticeboard may require a little trimming to allow the installation of the new noticeboard. The Chairman advised that if the Clerk forwarded the letter to him, he would deliver it and speak to the residents.

13.7 Update on 2021 Local Elections – the report was noted and the Clerk confirmed that she would circulate the required documents to councillors. Mr. Milne reminded those present that the parish was now only divided into two areas rather than three as in previous years. The Clerk advised that she had been approached by two individuals interested in becoming parish councillors and that the Chairman had been approached by another.

13.8 Update on conifers planted along the A355 – The Chairman advised that he had met the gentleman who planted the conifers and he had agreed to remove them before the next parish council meeting.

13.9 Update on St Mary's Churchyard path repairs – the report was noted. Mr. Milne asked whether there would be any cost to the Parish Council and the Clerk confirmed that the costs were being met by Buckinghamshire Council directly.

13.10 Update on the village signs – the Clerk advised that the repairer had provided a cost estimate of no more than £800 per sign to include a new post if necessary and that he had advised that the work would take about one month to complete. It was felt that the work should be completed and the decision should be added to the agenda of the next parish council meeting for ratification. Mr. Milne advised that he felt the location of the Farnham Common sign may need to change slightly to avoid any interference with Remembrance Services.

13.11 Update on allotments – The Chairman advised that the position regarding allotments is that there is an agreement with Stoke Poges Parish Council which allows residents to apply for one of their allotments but due to Covid19 demand has risen and there is a waiting list. He continued that the Parish Council does not have any land that could be used as allotments.

13.12 Update on litter issues – The Chairman advised that the issues identified were more to do with the area between the Beaconsfield Services and the Parish border so were outside the immediate remit of the Parish Council. He continued that the Clerk has written to Buckinghamshire Council about the issue and is awaiting a reply. He advised that the Parish Council's role was to apply pressure to Buckinghamshire Council and our local county councillors. Mr. Home advised that it was his understanding that Buckinghamshire Council has a legal duty to clear litter and residents have successfully taken Buckinghamshire Council to court in the past.

13.13 Update on flooding issues – please refer to the discussion in Open Forum below which was principally about the issues being faced by Ingleton and Beeches Road rather than other general flooding in the Parish. Thanks were given to Cllr. Dhillon for his help with this.

13.14 Update on future projects – The Chairman advised that although everyone is invited to the projects meetings a group including the Chairman, Mr Milne, Mr Home, Mrs Rolfe and the Clerk had met on Friday 19 February 2021. The Chairman further advised that he had produced a blank project document which could be used for each project to keep them on track, review each project monthly and then report back to the Parish Council. Mr. Milne felt that the document, in its current form, was a bit too complicated and the Chairman agreed it could be simplified. Mr. Milne requested that the current identified projects were circulated to all parish councillors once the Clerk had updated the spreadsheet.

21/14/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**. It was also agreed that this item would be discussed every month but it was likely to be the Autumn before face to face meetings took place again.

21/15/PC To consider a proposal for village decorations to celebrate the Royal Birthdays in 2021

Following a discussion, it was felt that the quote provided of £3,740.66 was more than could be justified in the current climate and the proposal **was rejected**.

21/16/PC Finance:

6.1 To ratify the following:

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

The Chairman used his allowance to arrange the purchase of a card, a gift and gift wrap. The total spent was £73.95. This expense **was ratified**.

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 with an estimated cost of £750. Both of these expenses **were ratified**.

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

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

Mr. Home advised that he is urging the Probation Service to send the invoice for the Community Payback Supervisor's fee before the year end.

21/17/PC Planning:

17.1 Mrs. Rolfe, as Chair of the Planning Working Group, advised that she would be looking at the applications submitted in respect of 50 Crispin Way as she had spoken to a concerned neighbour earlier in the day.

17.2 The Chairman advised that he was surprised the planning application concerning land at Cobblers Close was permitted but it appears from the report that the land isn't in the Green Belt.

17.3 To ratify comments submitted on recent applications

The Planning Comments **were ratified**.

17.4 To note recent planning decisions

The Planning decisions **were noted**.

21/18/PC Any Other Business (for information only)

18.1 Mr. Home advised that the Randall family have offered to mow the verges on both sides of the A355 to the north of the 50MPH sign and as the verges are outside of the Devolution Agreement between Buckinghamshire Council and the Parish Council the Clerk has asked the TfB LAT if he is happy with this arrangement. Mr. Home confirmed that the Randall family would remove broken branches etc. and he wanted to see if any parish councillors objected to such a plan. He expressed his opinion that if the verges are mowed it may discourage litter in the area.

18.2 Mr. Milne asked Mr. Home how happy he was with the east side of the A355 that Buckinghamshire Council had just cut. Mr. Home advised that he had raised the work with Joe Connolly (TfB) as cut branches had fallen and been left on the path.

18.3 Mr. Milne asked what was happening with the new war memorial planters. The Clerk advised that now the work on the holly tree and the path repairs in St Mary's Churchyard had been carried out she would approach Mr. Houdret to discuss the plan.

18.4 Mr. Milne raised a training email he had received to his parish council email address as it appeared to be a scam and suggested that if any other councillors received the same email they should just delete it.

18.5 Mrs. Rolfe raised the positioning of the front fences of the Farnham Common House bungalows as the properties are now being let and the owners have taken 1-2m of the verge. The Clerk reminded Mrs. Rolfe that the matter had been referred to Planning Enforcement but that they are currently very slow.

18.6 Mr. Thomas reported that antisocial behaviour had been taking place at FCSC with a vehicle practicing doughnuts in the car park. As a result, the Club was fitting an ANPR camera that can record at night. He continued that there had also been some antisocial behaviour on the tennis courts but that this had been picked up by the security cameras and the police had visited the culprits at home and issued yellow cards to them. Mr. Thomas added that the cameras were quite old and needed upgrading. The Chairman asked when the facilities would be reopening. Mr Thomas advised the Club would be back up and running as soon as the restrictions were lifted. The Chairman thanked the club for supporting the community during the pandemic.

18.7 Mr. Home advised that he had visited Boundary Copse and forwarded a reported to the Clerk which she was asked to circulate.

21/9/PC Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.55pm. The next meeting will be a virtual meeting on 29 March 2021 at 7.30pm. Details will be published with the agenda.

OPEN FORUM

The Chairman invited issues from the public but none were put forward.

The Chairman asked County Councillor Dhillon if he had any information or issues to share.

Cllr. Dhillon advised that it was a pleasure to join the Chairman to recognise one resident's 100th Birthday.

Cllr. Dhillon also advised that he had noticed when walking and on social media that some of the cones placed in Hawthorn Lane and Beeches Road had been taken away. He confirmed that they had been reordered and will be replaced but in the meantime the notices still say parking restrictions are in place. He also advised that he had received quite a few calls about cars parked within the restricted area and reminded people that they must call 101 if cars are parked on the pavement as this is classed as an obstruction. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council would include this request on its website, Facebook Page and share it on the Community Facebook page. The Chairman asked when the current parking restrictions would end and Cllr. Dhillon advised they were due to end at the end of August 2021. He continued that this date was chosen as there appear to be ongoing discussions between Buckinghamshire Council and Burnham Beeches SAC. Cllr. Dhillon confirmed that he has advised Buckinghamshire Council that nothing should be agreed before consultation with local county councillors, the parish council and local residents. Mrs. Quilter asked if the cones were supposed to be all the way up Beeches Road as the notices are not clear. It was agreed that currently there are no cones on the right-hand side of the road so this is where the parking occurred last week. Cllr. Dhillon offered to ask for the cones to be extended. Cllr. Dhillon was asked to clarify where the parking restrictions are on the roadsides in local roads.

Cllr. Dhillon advised that at the recent Beeches Community Board meeting there had been a discussion regarding the coffee shop at Burnham Beeches SAC as three families had travelled by car from Wembley, Farnham Common and Aylesbury to meet. Cllr. Dhillon advised that the visitors were approached by a Ranger but the Rangers have no power to enforce the restrictions.

Cllr. Dhillon advised that there has to be an AGM of the Beeches Community Board to bring the Board to account and report what has been delivered for the community during the year. He continued that all of this year's projects had come from members of the public, such as Mr. Chapman.

Cllr. Dhillon raised the issue of flooding at Ingleglen and Beeches Road and confirmed that Joy Morrissey MP had contacted Thames Water and that two of the directors at Buckinghamshire Council, Richard Baker and Ian Thompson are also in contact with the Environment Agency to apply pressure. One of the directors is responsible for planning and will be looking at applying extra pressure on utility companies when considering new planning applications to ensure that their existing infrastructure can actually take the additional demand. Mrs. Quilter asked if Thames Water will be added to the discussion and Cllr. Dhillon confirmed it would as it was looking at 5-7 years to complete the necessary work due to the significant cost involved which was not acceptable. The Chairman advised that he had been in contact with Cllr. Dhillon and that Buckinghamshire Council is engaging with Thames Water due to Environmental Health concerns.

Cllr. Dhillon also acknowledged that there had been two nasty incidents on The Broadway.

Cllr. Dhillon advised that he had received emails from a lady asking for a link to be added to the Parish Council website for claiming Universal Credit. Cllr. Dhillon agreed to forward the relevant email to the Clerk.

The Clerk advised that she had received a message from Cllr. Lewis who was unable to attend this meeting but would like to inform councillors and residents that a few weeks ago she was asked to recommend recipients who could benefit from funds lying in one of the Hedgerley Fighting Funds. She recommended home schooling in the form of digital devices and technical support. The main beneficiaries from her recommendation were the Farnham Common Schools with some funds also being given locally for the same purpose and to support and extend home learning during the lockdown. The total sum given was £3,942.