

FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.30 P.M. AT FARNHAM ROYAL VILLAGE HALL

Present

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| Paul Rowley (Chair) | Marilyn Rolfe |
| Bob Milne | Richard Thomas |
| Jennifer Quilter | Judy Tipping |
| David Moore | Jigar Trivedi |
| Judith Hall (Clerk) | |

Five members of the public, County Cllr. Dhillon, County Cllr. Anthony and Jack Pearce (Co-ordinator of the Beeches Community Board)

The Chair declared the meeting open at 7.30pm. The meeting was adjourned for OPEN FORUM noted at the end of these minutes. The Chair reconvened the meeting.

21/78/PC Apologies for absence

Clive Robinson

21/79/PC Declarations of Interest

None

21/80/PC To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 26 July 2021

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

21/81/PC Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda - for information only)

The Chairman advised that prior to the meeting all councillors had been provided with a report detailing the items under this section. The report can be downloaded from the Parish Council website.

81.1 Update on Fairfield Lane HMO issues – the report was noted

81.2 Update on Ingleglen and Beeches Road flooding issues – the report was noted

81.3 Update on Buckinghamshire Council's Informal Parking Review – the report was noted and the Chairman added that the Parish Council needed to see what was being included in the consultation before it could comment. Cllr. Dhillon advised that Mark Davis, Buckinghamshire Council's Parking Manager, would be forwarding details to the Clerk.

81.4 Update on cradle swing at Farnham Park Playing Fields – the report was noted

81.5 Update on the Ray Clements' commemorative bench – the report was noted

81.6 Update on Parish Council Email Arrangements – the report was noted

81.7 Confirmation of insurance arrangements for 2021/22 – the report was noted.

81.8 Feedback from the Farnhams' Orchard Day – The Chairman advised that he, Marilyn Rolfe and the Clerk had attended the Farnhams' Orchard Day and asked Michael Mills from the Burnham Beeches Rotary Club, who had organised the event to say a few words. Mr Mills advised that the event had been put together as a pilot scheme as it was 10 years since the Community Orchard had been created and it was felt there was a need to get the community together after Covid19. He was unsure whether the event would be held again as although it was well attended and both the stall holders and commercial businesses would like to come back it does take a lot of organising. The Chairman felt it was a good event and he thanked Michael Mills and the Rotary Club volunteers for organising it. He also thanked Cllr. Dhillon and his wife, Cllr. Anthony and his wife and Joy Morrissey MP for attending the event.

21/82/PC To receive an update from the Co-Ordinator of the Beeches Community Board

Jack Pearce introduced himself as the Co-Ordinator of the Beeches Community Board. He advised that the Community Board is a new Buckinghamshire Council initiative launched in July 2020 and noted that Farnham Royal is part of the Beeches Community Board which also includes Burnham, Taplow, Stoke Poges and Dorney. He confirmed that Cllr. Anthony is chair of the Board and Cllr. Dhillon is vice chair. Mr Pearce advised that last year most of the available funding went towards support and crisis funding for

Covid19 initiatives but this year the Board is looking to support longer term strategies and four action groups have been set up to do this. The actions groups are:

- Wellbeing – mental health, physical health and safety
- Environment – projects such as reducing plastic waste, litter etc.
- Economic Recovery – initiatives to help businesses and offer skills training
- Highways & Infrastructure – projects to improve the highways and infrastructure networks

He continued that for the year April 2021 to March 2022, the Board has total funding of just under £280,000 and online applications are welcomed from parish councils and community groups. He advised that the budget must be committed by the end of March 2022 so applications would ideally be received by the end of February 2022. Finally, he advised that the next meeting of the Community Board is on 28 October 2021 and that the Board produces a quarterly newsletter. He then asked for questions.

Jenny Quilter asked how much of the 2021/22 budget had been committed so far. Mr. Pearce advised that within the next few days it was anticipated that £70,000 of the budget would have been committed. Mrs. Quilter asked whether there was a deadline for submitting projects. Mr Pearce advised that highways and infrastructure projects needed to be submitted by 30 September 2021 but that there was no deadline of other types of projects. The Chairman asked whether the £70,000 of committed projects included the highways projects applied for by the Parish Council and after a discussion it was confirmed that it included the footway extension in Blackpond Lane and dropping the kerbs in Templewood Lane but not the installation of an additional crossing in Farnham Royal as this was not supported by the Action Group. Mr Pearce advised that ordinarily the Board has a cap of £50,000 for any one project.

21/83/PC To receive an update from the Project Working Group and receive recommendations regarding the projects submitted to the Beeches Community Board.

83.1 Jenny Quilter, as Chair of the Projects Working Group, advised that the Group had not met since July 2021 but that a meeting would be held in the next couple of weeks once a date had been agreed. She further advised that in view of the application deadline for highways projects, she and the Clerk had submitted two applications for projects based on the decisions made by the Group at its last meeting. She confirmed that the applications submitted were in respect of reducing the speed limit between the villages and moving the 30mph signs north of Farnham Common further north towards Beaconsfield. Both of these would involve reducing the speed limit on a section of road. Bob Milne asked for copies of the completed applications to be circulated and sought confirmation that a 'SLOW' road marking had been included in the application to move the 30mph signs north towards Beaconsfield. Mrs Quilter confirmed that it was. The Clerk explained that the initial response from the Board Co-Ordinator stated that for a speed limit to be reduced to 30mph, the average vehicle speed on the road currently needed to be 34mph or less so it may be necessary to commission of traffic survey to confirm the current average speed and then install traffic calming measures to reduce the average speed before having another traffic survey and then in the future applying to reduce the speed limit. Jack Pearce confirmed that both Transport for Buckinghamshire and the Police will not support reducing the speed limit until the average vehicle speed is below 34mph as research shows that reducing the speed limit of a road does not reduce vehicle speeds.

83.2 Following a discussion around the nature of the road, the results of the latest Speedwatch session, the types of vehicles using the road, the likely compliance with a reduced speed limit and the costs involved, **it was agreed** that the Parish Council would wait for the formal response from Transport of Buckinghamshire and the projects' cost estimates before making any further decisions regarding the projects.

83.3 With regard to the Farnham Common playground project the Chairman advised that a meeting had been arranged between the Girl Guides, the Brian Jubb Hall and the Parish Council. The Clerk advised that a meeting was also taking place between the Chairman, Marilyn Rolfe and a resident.

21/84/PC To consider correspondence received from residents

84.1 Request to remove vegetation and Bus shelter on A355 near Barn Close

Following a discussion, **it was agreed** that the bus shelter would remain on the basis that it is not unsafe and it was suggested that in an effort to improve the appearance of the bus shelter it could be made into a green bus shelter as an environmental project with the Beeches Community Board. **It was also agreed** that permission would be granted to the resident to remove the vegetation from the verge.

84.2 Request for a commemorative tree in Temple Dell

Following a discussion, **it was agreed** that a policy for dealing with requests for commemorative items was required as the Parish does not have the space to accommodate these requests. The Clerk was asked to thank the family for their kind request and ask whether they would be willing to adopt an established tree or make a donation to a community project. Both would be marked with a plaque.

84.3 Request for reduction in the crown height of trees in Beeches Road

Following a discussion, **it was agreed** that the Clerk would write to the property owners requesting that work is carried out to reduce the size of the trees.

84.4 Request for hedge cutting at the junction of Beaconsfield Road and Farnham Park Lane

Following a discussion, the Clerk was asked to ensure that the hedge was included in the maintenance schedule.

84.5 Request for verge cutting on Purton Lane from Parsonage Lane to Purton Court

Following a discussion, the Clerk was asked to contact our contractor and the relevant landowners requesting that the verges are cut.

84.6 Request for vegetation cutting in the footpath from Purton Lane to the Beaconsfield Road

Following a discussion, the Clerk was asked to ensure that the footpath was included in the maintenance schedule.

84.7 Request to improve streetlighting in Mayflower Way

Following a discussion around the existing lighting, the feeling that if the lighting in Mayflower Way was changed then the lighting in all of the surrounding roads would also need to be changed, the level of complaints received and the likely costs, **it was agreed** that this was not a project that the Parish Council could take forward at this time.

21/85/PC To consider a name for the new access road on the former site of Cut Heath House, Parsonage Lane

Following a discussion, **it was agreed** that the Parish Council would recommend a name that included 'Cut Heath' or a name that included 'Wellington' as recognition of a bomber that crashed near the site during World War II.

21/86/PC To consider relaunching a Neighbourhood Plan for The Farnhams

The Chairman advised that he had asked Jerry Houdret, who was already a member, to reconstitute the Steering Group and that during a discussion with Cllr. Egleton O'Neill Homer had been recommended to assist the Parish as they were already assisting three or four local parishes with their plans. It was confirmed that parish councillors and county councillors can sit on the Group but whoever joins must have the skills, local knowledge and will to complete the plan. The Chairman confirmed that he would sit on the Group and Marilyn Rolfe, as Chair of the Planning Working Group, agreed to sit on the Group as well. He also confirmed that the Clerk would minute the meetings. Following a discussion, **it was agreed** that the Neighbourhood Plan would be relaunched and that O'Neill Homer would be appointed to assist.

21/87/PC To consider what's going on in The Farnhams for Christmas now we are out of lockdown

The Chairman advised that he felt the role of the Parish Council was to make sure parishioners knew all of the activities that were being organised by other groups rather than to organise an event itself. Jenny Quilter expressed her disappointment as when she met with the Chairman and Clerk, they mapped out ideas for a Christmas event that would be held in various places throughout the Parish and would involve local businesses. Some councillors expressed concern about the time it would take to organise such an event and the number of volunteers that would be required. Jerry Houdret handed Mrs Quilter a proposal from the United Benefice and advised that the volunteers were enthusiastic and keen to do something. Following a discussion, **it was agreed** that the Parish Council would review the proposal and go back to the Church.

21/88/PC To review the following policies:

88.1 Signage

The policy **was agreed**.

88.2 Promotional Materials

The policy **was agreed**.

88.3 Communication and Involvement

The policy **was agreed** subject to a minor change to reflect the use of the Parish Council's Facebook page.

21/89/PC Finance:

89.1 To consider frequency of flagpole services

Following a discussion, **it was agreed** that both flagpoles would be serviced annually by a LOLER qualified engineer.

89.2 To consider purchasing Community Speedwatch signs for the villages' entry signs

Following a discussion, **it was agreed** that two signs would be purchased for use on the A355. Bob Milne abstained from the vote.

89.3 To consider purchasing a replacement dog waste bin at Farnham Common Sports Club

Following a discussion, **it was agreed** that a replacement dog waste bin would be purchased

89.4 To consider the purchase of a new basketball net and minor surface repairs at Farnham Park Playing Fields

Following a discussion, **it was agreed** that a new net would be purchased and the minor surface repairs would be carried out.

89.5 To ratify to purchase of a new Community Orchard Information Panel

Following a discussion, the purchase **was ratified**.

89.6 To ratify the purchase of four new defibrillator pads to replace out of date pads

Following a discussion, the purchase **was ratified**.

89.7 To ratify the purchase of a new seat for the chest press machine at the outdoor gym

Following a discussion, the purchase **was ratified**. Richard Thomas agreed to look into the storage of the additional weights being used on the equipment.

89.8 To ratify the purchase of a banner

Following a discussion, the purchase **was ratified**.

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

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

21/90/PC Planning:

90.1 To ratify comments submitted on recent applications

Marilyn Rolfe, as Chair of the Planning Working Group, asked Cllr. Anthony whether, if granted, the three additional homes on the site of Cut Heath House would give rise to a CIL contribution given that there is already permission to build eight homes. Cllr. Anthony confirmed that he would look into it.

The planning comments **were ratified**

90.2 To note recent planning decisions

The planning decisions **were noted**.

90.3 Allerds Farm Appeal

Following a discussion, **it was agreed** that there was no need for a Parish Council representative to attend the meeting on 29 September 2021 as representations had already been made in writing at the time of the planning application and Cllr. Dhillon advised that the Buckinghamshire Council Case Officer would be attending.

21/91/PC Any Other Business (for information only)

91.1 The Clerk asked parish councillors whether they would like to reply to a County Councillor's email regarding 20mph zones for residential areas. The decision was that it would not be appropriate to reply at this stage.

91.2 The Clerk advised that Jigar Trivedi had asked the parish council to consider whether it was able to give any support to the residents in Farnham Royal suffering with severe broadband issues. Following a discussion, Cllr. Dhillon advised that Joy Morrissey had raised the issue in parliament. Marilyn Rolfe advised that she had emailed Swish Fibre who were installing cable in Beaconsfield to see if they would be interested in helping with this issue.

91.3 Judy Tipping advised that at the recent AGM of the Royal British Legion Farnham Common Branch they were all taught how to lower the flag and it was confirmed that Rev'd Chloe Willson-Thomas was not the vicar for the Branch and would not be taking the service on 11 November 2021. Another vicar had agreed to do this.

91.4 Bob Milne asked what had happened about the planters agreed for the war memorial. The Clerk advised that she had contacted the supplier and was just waiting for an installation date.

91.5 Marilyn Rolfe advised that a request for assistance had been received from Fiona De Luca in respect of a project for an outdoor classroom at Farnham Common Junior School and that she was working to obtain the required items.

91.6 Cllr. Dhillon advised that he was meeting with the TfB Local Area Technician on Wednesday 29 September 2021 to review all of the road surfaces in the parish. He asked that parish councillors report any roads of concern to him.

21/92/PC Next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.55pm. The next meeting will be held on 25 October 2021 at 7.30pm at Farnham Common Village Hall

OPEN FORUM

The Chairman invited issues from the public.

A resident of Beeches Road in Farnham Common, wanted to clarify that the sewerage issues discussed at the June 2021 parish council meeting and recorded in the minutes do not affect all residents of Beeches Road as she has lived in the road for 30 years and has had no such issues. Cllr. Dhillon agreed that not all residents were experiencing these issues.

In addition, the resident objected to the road being described at the same meeting and recorded in the minutes as a 'rat run' as she felt this gives the wrong impression of the road.

Jerry Houdret, a resident of Church Road in Farnham Royal, advised that the noticeboard in Farnham Royal had been vandalised twice. The Chairman advised that this had been reported to the relevant contractor.

In addition, Mr. Houdret advised that following a discussion with the Chairman the United Benefice Churches had put together proposals for a Christmas Tree Challenge with activities in Farnham Royal Village Hall on 5 December 2021 and if the Parish Council was looking to arrange something the events could meld together. The Chairman advised that he had heard from Liz Glover about the Churches plan as well and further discussion would take place under item 9 on the agenda.

Finally, Mr Houdret advised that the Chairman had asked him to lead the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and that he had recommended O'Neill Homer assist the Group. He advised that their fees would be paid by the Local Authority. He added that O'Neill Homer will provide guidance on how to prepare the Plan and advised that with a plan in place the Parish Council can claim 25% of CIL monies which could help to fund projects within the parish. He would therefore like to recommend the he is appointed to lead the Group and get the Plan done. Cllr. Dhillon confirmed that the Parish Council would be able to claim 25% of CIL monies once a Neighbourhood Plan had been agreed. He also advised that the Aylesbury Vale Local Plan had been passed and that he felt it was a good plan. He expressed his wish for Farnham Royal to be placed in the same ward as Farnham Common in the future Boundary Commission review of Buckinghamshire wards.

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

Cllr. Dhillon advised that residents who wanted to stay up to date with Buckinghamshire Council news could sign up for information by email.

In addition, Cllr. Dhillon advised that there were two surveys running until 29 October 2021. The first in respect of community safety and the second in respect of Children's mental health.

Cllr. Dhillon continued that the new cardboard bins had a capacity of 45L but if cardboard was too big to fit in the bin it could be put next to the bin and it would be collected. He reiterated that contaminated waste such as pizza boxes should be put in the general rubbish bin and not the cardboard bin.

Finally, Cllr. Dhillon advised that the next meeting with Thames Water to discuss the sewerage issues being experienced by some properties on Beeches Road and Ingleglen is on 8 October 2021 on MS Teams.