

FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 25 OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.30 P.M. AT FARNHAM COMMON VILLAGE HALL

Present

Paul Rowley (Chair)
Marilyn Rolfe
Judy Tipping
Judith Hall (Clerk)
18 members of the public, County Cllr. Dhillon and County Cllr. Hogg

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.

21/93/PC Apologies for absence

Bob Milne, Richard Thomas, Jennifer Quilter, David Moore and Jigar Trivedi

21/94/PC Declarations of Interest

None

21/95/PC To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 27 September 2021

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

21/96/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.

96.1 Update on Buckinghamshire Council's Parish Charter- the content of the report was noted as where the comments made during the 'Open Forum' session earlier.

96.2 Update on Buckinghamshire Council's Councillor Code of Conduct 2020 – the content of the report was noted and the Chairman suggested that Bob Milne, Clive Robinson, Jigar Trivedi and David Moore be asked to review the revised Code of Conduct with a view to reporting back to the parish council meeting in November 2021. The Chairman advised that the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils was advising that all parish councils adopt this code of conduct.

96.3 Update on broadband issue being experienced by some Farnham Royal residents – the content of the report was noted and Marilyn Rolfe advised that Swish Fibre appeared really keen and had been in regular contact with her. She advised that the members of the WhatsApp group who had been in contact with her had registered their interest. She also advised that Swish Fibre had been to Hedgerley and were now considering the viability of Gerrards Cross to Fulmer to Farnham Royal and Beaconsfield to Hedgerley to Farnham Royal. She has been advised that it will take two months to complete the pilot review. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council was not endorsing Swish Fibre and that residents needed to satisfy themselves about the suitability of any Swish Fibre services offered.

96.4 Update on Christmas in the Farnhams – the content of the report was noted.

21/97/PC To consider Buckinghamshire Council's Public Consultation on Parking, Movement and Speed Orders

The Chairman noted that the Consultation had been discussed at length during the 'Open Forum'. **It was agreed** that the parish council would submit comments in support of the issues raised by residents at the meeting.

21/98/PC To consider Terms of Reference and membership of the Contracts Working Group

The Clerk advised that Richard Thomas, Jenny Quilter, Paul Rowley, Roger Home and Alan Wright had agreed to join this working group. The membership **was agreed** and so were the terms of reference.

21/99/PC To consider Policies:

99.1 Commemorative Acts Policy (New)

Those present confirmed they had read the draft policy and Marilyn Rolfe advised that she would like to work on some amendments and come back to the November 2021 parish council meeting. This **was agreed**.

99.2 Communication and Involvement policy (Amendments)

The amended policy **was agreed**.

21/100/PC Finance:

100.1 To consider the 2020/21 External Auditor's Report

The content of the report was noted and **it was agreed** that the Clerk would work with the accountants to ensure that they did not include any direct debits that had been allocated on the cashbook but had not been taken from the account at the year end in Box 8 of the Accounting Statements in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for future years.

100.2 To consider the 30 September 2021 Management Accounts

Paul Rowley, as Interim Chair of the Finance Committee, asked those present to confirm that they had reviewed the management accounts and accompanying notes. Those present confirmed they had. Mr. Rowley asked those present whether they had any comments and those present confirmed not. The management accounts **were agreed**. The Clerk was asked to add a note to explain the differences in the brought forward and estimated carried forward annual surpluses, which were caused largely by late invoicing by suppliers and Buckinghamshire Council regarding match funded projects.

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

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

100.4 To approve a budget of £1,000 for expenditure relating to Christmas in the Farnhams

A budget of £1,000 **was agreed** and it was noted that a funding application would be made in due course to Buckinghamshire Council's Welcome Back Fund.

21/101/PC Planning:

101.1 Marilyn Rolfe, as Chair of the Planning Working Group, advised that she had not received confirmation from Cllr. Anthony as to whether the additional three homes now being applied for at the former site of Cut Heath House would trigger a Section 106 contribution. The Clerk offered to remind Cllr. Anthony of this question.

101.2 Judy Tipping advised that neighbours were concerned about a shed in the garden of one of the new houses at the back of Bybend Close. It was noted that this shed has a kitchen and bathroom. Cllr. Dhillon advised that he had complained to Planning Enforcement about the shed last year and they visited the site and served a stop order on the owner. He was unsure of the current position and the Clerk advised that she would attempt to find out.

101.3 To ratify comments submitted on recent applications

The planning comments **were ratified**

101.4 To note recent planning decisions

The planning decisions **were noted**.

21/102/PC Any Other Business (for information only)

102.1 Judy Tipping advised that she thought a car business had started opposite the entrance to Spring Lane and that this was causing a parking issue.

102.2 Judy Tipping advised that the telephone box in Robin Parade is sinking leaving uneven stones.

102.3 Judy Tipping advised that she had been talking to the gentleman engaged by Sainsburys to sweep and tidy outside its shop on The Broadway. She suggested that she explore the idea of all of the shops/businesses engaging him to improve the look of The Broadway.

102.4 The Clerk advised that she had been contacted regarding suggesting a name for the new access road at the former site of the Berkeley Homes offices. Judy Tipping advised that the site used to be home to the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau so a name that included Commonwealth seemed sensible. Those present agreed with the suggestion.

21/103/PC Next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.05pm. The next meeting will be held on 29 November 2021 at 7.30pm at Farnham Royal Village Hall

OPEN FORUM

The Chairman invited issues from the public.

Graham Thomas, a resident from Hill Place, Farnham Common wished to discuss the parking consultation being held by Buckinghamshire Council regarding additional parking restrictions in the parish. He advised that the residents of Hill Place objected to the double yellow lines as proposed in the informal review earlier in the year as there is no parking problem and the lines will increase urbanisation. He advised that they would object again. He asked if the parish council would support the residents' objections. The Chairman thanked the 600 residents who came to the session attended by Buckinghamshire Council in June 2021, which was the only drop in session held in any parish. He confirmed that the parish council objected to the proposals in the informal review and would be objecting to certain restrictions in this consultation. He advised that residents who objected to the proposals contained in this formal consultation needed to reply online. He stated that the parish council would be doing another leaflet drop but this time only to the properties on the affected roads. It is his understanding that the proposals contain measures that create clearways around Burnham Beeches SAC and then seek to deal with Highway Code issues. Cllr. Dhillon advised that he would like to see the double yellow lines in Blackpond Lane and Hill Place removed from the scheme.

In addition, Mr. Thomas asked whether the parish council would advocate for a pilot scheme, which would allow 30 minutes free parking in The Broadway car park. The Chair and Marilyn Rolfe advised that the parish council had looked at this before and the then South Bucks District Council advised that a payment of £52,000 would be required in advance of any scheme and a top up payment may be required at the end. A meeting was held with two District Councillors but they did not support the idea. Cllr. Dhillon advised that the parking referendum conducted two or three years ago by the parish council did not show support for an increase in the precept to pay for 30 minutes free parking in the car park. He advised that Buckinghamshire Council is taking parking in house and is looking to harmonise parking across the county. He reminded those present that there are approximately 25-30 free parking spaces in The Broadway. Dave Morgan, a resident of Green Lane, asked how residents were notified of the referendum. The Chairman advised that it was included in the Farnhams Magazine, voting cards were posted to every home and posters were placed in shops and noticeboards around the parish.

Finally, Mr. Thomas thanked the parish council for its support to fill in the footpath on Blackpond Lane. It was noted that the proposal was being considered for final approval at the Beeches Community Board meeting later that week. The Chairman confirmed that this project had been identified as the parish council's top priority. Cllr. Dhillon advised that there were likely to be a few of issues once work commenced regarding under ground utilities and land ownership but the work was likely to be carried out in Summer 2022.

Linda Harber, a resident of Green Lane, Farnham Common asked why not responding to the proposal for Green Lane in the informal review was not taken as a positive response. She advised that driveways are often blocked by commercial vehicles. The Chairman advised that Buckinghamshire Council assumed that there was no support for the proposals and that they were not wanted as insufficient responses were received.

Cllr. Dhillon advised that he was trying to get any necessary road resurfacing done before the double yellow lines were painted.

A resident of Green Lane stated that if resident parking was implemented as proposed in Green Lane, traffic calming would be required. Cllr. Dhillon advised that this was a completely separate issue which would need to be discussed with the Traffic Calming Team in Buckinghamshire Council. The resident felt it was not joined up to make the road easier to speed on.

Dave Morgan advised that between a garage business and a building company at least 10 vehicles are parked in Green Lane. He asked if these businesses would be able to obtain permits for this number of vehicles. Cllr. Dhillon advised that he didn't think they would be able to and that this was explained to the garage business when they attended the drop in session. He advised those that were concerned about this to make the point in their responses.

Another resident raised concerns about the efficiency of parking enforcement as without this the proposals won't work. Cllr. Dhillon advised that Buckinghamshire Council would try to enforce the restrictions.

Pam Naish, a resident of Green Lane, Farnham Common asked when the 20mph speed limit outside the

Farnham Common infant and Junior schools would be implemented. The Clerk advised that Transport for Buckinghamshire had stated that the work would start mid November 2021. Mrs Naish also asked for the results of any air quality surveys. Cllr. Dhillon advised that the results showed that the air quality was good. Mrs. Naish expressed her surprise at the air quality results as the survey conducted by Burnham Beeches SAC showed a different position. She advised that her concern related to children walking to school along the A355 especially due to their height as they are very close to the fumes.

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

Cllr. Dhillon advised that there was going to be a workshop chaired by an advisor regarding the Parish Charter now called the All Councils Charter and that the document was a memorandum of understanding rather than a legally enforceable agreement. The Chairman advised that at a recent South Bucks Association of Local Councils meeting it was agreed that the Association would sign the Charter on behalf of its members.

Cllr. Dhillon advised that Buckinghamshire Council were currently conducting a survey regarding youngsters and antisocial behaviour.

Cllr. Dhillon also reminded those present that they could subscribe to receive a copy of Buckinghamshire Council's electronic newsletter.

Finally, he advised that the most recent meeting with Thames Water regarding the flooding had taken place and that Joy Morrissey's office will be sending the slides out and had agreed to send the link to the virtual meeting earlier next time.