

FRPC Parish Council for The Farnhams

Information for the Parish Council Meeting on 24 January 2022

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

3.1 Judy Tipping retirement

Judy Tipping has decided to retire from the parish council for personal reasons. I'm sure everyone would like to thank her wholeheartedly for all her work over the years to help make the Parish a better place. I am sure we will continue to hear from Judy and I know that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is looking forward to her help with identifying local sites, buildings, parks and monuments that are of community and heritage importance for inclusion on the Buckinghamshire Local Heritage List.

3.2 Update on tree survey

The 2021 tree survey has been conducted. The areas surveyed were Farnham Common Sports Club, Jubilee Copse, Temple Dell and St. Mary's Churchyard. In addition, the arboriculturist has undertaken additional surveys of the oak tree that lost two branches in Ingrams Copse and all trees on the boundaries with other properties at Boundary Copse and Ingrams Copse. The reports have been circulated to councillors.

3.3 Update on Subject Access Request

As parish councillors are aware, the Parish Council received a Subject Access Request pursuant to the UK General Data Protection Regulations. The Clerk was able to provide much of the requested information by the deadline of 17 January 2022 but given the quantum of information requested, the timing of the request (just prior to the Christmas Break) and that this is currently a very busy time of year with budget and precept setting she asked for a one week extension to 24 January 2022.

4 Devolved Services:

4.1 To consider a one year extension to the Local Council Devolution Scheme Agreement with Buckinghamshire Council

The Parish Council entered into a four year Local Council Devolution Scheme Agreement on 1 April 2015. A copy of this agreement has been circulated to councillors. This Agreement was extended until 31 March 2020 and then again to 31 March 2022. Buckinghamshire Council have now issued a further variation extending the agreement to 31 March 2023. A copy of the Variation Agreement has been circulated to councillors.

4.2 To consider an extension to the Parish Council's agreement with Amersham Town Council

The Parish Council entered into a two year contract with Amersham Town Council to provide the services required under the Devolution Scheme Agreement on 1 April 2020. A copy of Amersham Town Council's quote for extending the agreement has been circulated to councillors. A 3% increase has been applied to this year's contract price.

5 Finance:

5.1 To consider the Parish Council's Contribution towards the Blackpond Lane Footway Extension

The Beeches Community Board has written confirming the contribution required from the Parish Council to the costs of this project. A copy of the letter has been circulated to councillors.

5.2 To consider the Parish Council's Contribution towards the Templewood Lane Dropped Kerbs

The Beeches Community Board has written confirming the contribution required from the Parish Council to the costs of this project. A copy of the letter has been circulated to councillors.

5.3 To consider replacing both flag poles

At the recent flag pole services, both flag poles were found to be brittle and it was recommended that they are replaced before the next service. A copy of the quote received has been circulated to councillors.

5.4 To ratify the costs of Christmas in The Farnhams

Carols at The Dell saw approximately 400 members of our community come together to sing a collection of traditional carols and modern festive songs. We were so pleased to be joined by choirs from Farnham Common Junior School and St Mary's Farnham Royal Primary School who enthusiastically performed some of their favourites. Mulled wine, mince pies and children's refreshments were available and Santa even found time in his busy calendar to pop along too. We would like to thank: Burnham Beeches Rotary, Farnham Common Infant School, Farnham Common Junior School, Farnham Common Village Hall, St Mary's Farnham Royal, Tesco, The Farnhams Community Facebook Group, The United Benefice of Farnham Royal and Hedgerley and Santa.

The Parish Council also supported Sue Strange, one of our wonderful residents, with this year's Christmas Trail. We would like to also thank Ashford Kitchens, the Library and Strange Magic Crafts for all their help. The winners of Best Lights, Funniest House and Overall Best House each won a hamper from La Cantina Deli. The winner of Best Shop/Business display won a hamper of festive staff room treats but decided to donate this to a local foodbank. The winners of the Best Baubles and Window Display Drawing each won a personalised drinks bottle.

The costs incurred in connection with Carols at The Dell and the Christmas Trail have now been confirmed and the total is £2,551.53 excluding VAT. A Visa chargeback claim has been submitted to the parish council's bank in respect of the cost of distributing the event leaflets. An anonymous donor has offered £200 and a claim has been made to Buckinghamshire Council's Welcome Back Fund which is a European Regional Development Fund initiative. Whilst they do not cover certain expenses, they have indicated that they should be able to provide £1,451.41 subject to final approval.

5.5 To consider adopting the National Minimum Wage

The National Minimum Wage for those 23 and over is due to increase to £9.50 on 1 April 2022. Although the litter pickers are self employed there has been a suggestion that their hourly rate should be increased from £9.00 so it remains in line with the National Minimum Wage.

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

The cashbook has been reviewed and approved by the Chair of the Finance Committee and has been circulated to councillors separately.

5.7 To consider the December 2021 Management Accounts

A copy of the December Management Accounts and accompanying notes have been circulated to councillors.

5.8 To consider the 2022/23 budget

A copy of the draft 2022/23 budget, considered at the recent Finance Committee meeting has been circulated to councillors. This will be discussed at the meeting.

5.9 To agree the 2022/23 precept

This will be discussed at the meeting.

6 Planning:

6.1 To consider membership of the Planning Working Group

The terms of reference for this working group provide for either four or five members. Currently there are three members so another councillor volunteer is being sought.

6.2 To ratify comments submitted on recent applications

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

6.3 To note recent planning decisions

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