

FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 28 MARCH 2022 AT 7.30 P.M. AT FARNHAM COMMON VILLAGE HALL

Present

Paul Rowley (Chair)	Marilyn Rolfe
Bob Milne	Richard Thomas
Clive Robinson	Judith Hall (Clerk)
County Cllr. Dhillon	

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.

22/21/PC Apologies for absence

Jenny Quilter and Jigar Trivedi

22/22/PC Declarations of Interest

None

22/23/PC To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 21 February 2022

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

22/24/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.

24.1 Update on Community Board Review by Buckinghamshire Council Select Committee

The Chairman advised that this had been discussed during the Open Forum noted at the end of these minutes but added that the Parish Council received an invitation to attend the meeting, which he did. He felt it was a well represented group that was looking into the issues with Community Boards. He advised that a report will be prepared by the Select Committee and will be circulated to parish councillors in due course.

24.2 Update on follow up Subject Access Request – the content of the report was noted and the Clerk confirmed that all of the requested information that she had been able to locate had been provided.

24.3 2022/23 Budget – Bob Milne queried whether the revised 2022/23 budget had been circulated and requested that a copy was sent to him.

24.4 Farnhams Magazine Accounts – Bob Milne advised that he was disappointed with the level of information provided as it was less than in previous years. The Chairman advised that he asked the Group for the same information as previously supplied but acknowledged that less was provided. It was felt that as the Parish Council had not made the grant and the Magazine Committee had decided not to reapply to the Parish Council for funding it was not necessary for them to provide such detailed information.

22/25/PC To receive a report from the Projects Working Group

The Clerk advised that the following projects/potential projects were discussed at the working group meeting held on 25 March 2022:

- Parish Office
- Farnham Common Playground
- Guide Hut
- Woodland Management Plan
- Carols at the Dell 2022
- Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- Farnham Royal Archive
- Creating Wilder Road Verges
- Temple Dell
- Boundary Copse
- Dropped Kerbs at Templewood Lane
- Footway Extension on Blackpond Lane
- A355 Speed Reduction (various ideas)
- Speedwatch
- Flower Beds in Rectory Close
- Website Improvements

The Clerk confirmed that minutes of the meeting would be issued to parish councillors shortly.

Marilyn Rolfe expressed her frustration that having contacted the person in Buckinghamshire Council who promoted the 'Creating Wilder Road Verges' project the Clerk had been told to register interest through the Transport for Buckinghamshire Local Area Technician which she felt would delay things. Bob Milne added that the situation is not joined up. The Chairman felt that all parish councillors needed to understand what these wilder verges would look like. Bob Milne advised that notes which contain the presentation slides are being sent to all parish councillors so if they are interested, they should have a look. He continued that as cutting the verges is being taken over by Buckinghamshire Council, the question to them is whether they would carry out a pilot on some of the verges in the Parish to see what they look like. Marilyn Rolfe suggested that parish councillors need to make a list of the verges that should be suggested. Bob Milne noted that some new equipment would be needed but he assumed Buckinghamshire Council has it. Marilyn Rolfe advised that by adopting wilder verges Weymouth Town Council reduced its grass cutting costs by £500,000 as only two to three cuts are required a year. The Chairman expressed his opinion that it is really about what the verges will look like and whether parishioners will be happy with that. Marilyn Rolfe felt the project results were impressive.

25.1 Queen's Platinum Jubilee – following discussions at the Projects Working Group meeting it was proposed that the Parish Council should purchase bunting which would be given to all shops and businesses along The Broadway, the Farnham Pump Superstore and the Dukes Head to be displayed over the celebration Bank Holiday weekend. In addition, banners should be purchased for display at Temple Dell and on the Pump Green in Farnham Royal. It **was agreed** that a detailed proposal would be issued to parish councillors for consideration by email. Richard Thomas suggested that many residential roads will be holding their own street parties. It was noted that the Parish Council was planning a tree planting event for later in the year as part of The Queen's Green Canopy and that the project to improve Boundary Copse is also being carried out as a Platinum Jubilee project.

25.2 Flower Beds in Rectory Close - following discussions at the Projects Working Group meeting it was proposed that the Parish Council should clear the flower beds, top up the soil and sow wild flower seeds with spring bulbs also being planted in due course as is done on Kingsway Green. In addition, the shrubs to the right of the entrance to Rectory Close should be pruned, ideally to a maximum height of 3ft, to create a better shape and safer space. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council had received a donation of £1,000 which could be used to fund the project. Bob Milne advised that he had spoken to a resident in Rectory Close and they were in support of the proposal. Marilyn Rolfe suggested grassing over the beds as an alternative option. The proposal was detailed above **was agreed**.

25.3 Guide Hut – the Chairman advised that the Parish Council had applied to the Beeches Community Board for the sum of £2,675.99 to fund the purchase of a metal outdoor storage shed and base and to hire a skip at the Brian Jubb Hall. It was reported that the area had been cleared by volunteers at the Brian Jubb Hall and the Guides are using volunteers for the installation of the base and shed. Marilyn Rolfe, who had attended the Wellbeing Action Group when the application was considered and recommended for acceptance, expressed that she believes that the application will be accepted. The Chairman therefore proposed that the Clerk email Andy Chapman, the Beeches Community Board Coordinator, to see if any objections have been received and if not, the Parish Council will place the necessary orders. He disclosed that the Parish Council's exposure would be £2,675.99. Bob Milne asked whether Buckinghamshire Council may refuse to forward the funds even if the Beeches Community Board had agreed the application. Cllr. Dhillon did not think that would happen. Bob Milne then sought confirmation from the Chairman that the laying of the base was the responsibility of the Guides. The Chairman confirmed it was. The proposal **was agreed**.

22/26/PC To consider a request to move a streetlight by the entrance to the former site of Cut Heath House, Parsonage Lane

The Chairman confirmed that if approval was given there would be a condition that the Parish Council's streetlight contractor was used to move the streetlight and the developer would need to meet all associated costs to include any SSE costs. The Chairman advised that having looked at a picture of the location he would suggest that the streetlight was moved 10-12ft further north on Parsonage Lane. Clive Robinson suggested that a councillor should meet the developer and contractor on site to agree the new location and it should be marked with a painted cross on the ground so there is no confusion. This **was agreed**.

22/27/PC To consider a response to the consultation on warding arrangements for Buckinghamshire Council

The following response **was agreed**:

The Parish of Farnham Royal is made up of Egypt, Farnham Common and Farnham Royal. It therefore makes no sense to councillors and residents for Farnham Royal to be in a different Buckinghamshire Council ward. The Parish Council believes that Egypt, Farnham Common and Farnham Royal should be in the same ward.

22/28/PC To review the following policies:

28.1 Expenses

Bob Milne requested a review of the wording of this policy to clarify whether travel costs incurred in carrying out contract management inspections within the Parish could be claimed. It **was agreed** that such costs could be claimed. The Clerk was asked to update the policy accordingly. Bob Milne also requested that the policy was amended to permit claims for reasonable car parking within the Parish. Currently the policy only allows reasonable car parking outside of the Parish. This proposed amendment **was not agreed**. The updated policy will be considered at the next parish council meeting.

28.2 Dignity at Work/Bullying and Harassment

This policy **was agreed**.

28.3 Grants

This policy **was agreed**.

28.4 Information and Data Protection

This policy **was agreed** but it was noted that a new Data Protection Officer was required. It was suggested that David Moore should be asked to take on the role.

22/29/PC Finance:

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.

29.1 To consider quote for repairs to the Christmas Lights

The repairs to the Christmas Lights **were agreed**.

29.2 To consider the appointment of AGHS Accountants to prepare the 2021/22 Annual Accounts

The appointment of AGHS Accountants **was agreed**.

29.3 To consider the appointment of Azets as the 2021/22 Internal Auditor

The appointment of Azets Audit Services **was agreed**.

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

The Chairman noted that expenditure was higher than usual this month as all suppliers had been chased for outstanding invoices up to the end of the financial year, 31 March 2022. He confirmed that he had carried out the random checks required under the Finance Regulations. The payments and receipts, as per the cashbook, **were agreed**.

22/30/PC Planning:

30.1 To ratify comments submitted on recent applications

Marilyn Rolfe drew particular attention to the following applications:

30.1.1 PL/21/4910/VRC Langdale, Farnham Park Lane, Farnham Royal seeks to remove a condition that the property could only be occupied by persons involved in agriculture. The Working Group is recommending an objection to this application for the reasons stated on the schedule of comments.

30.1.2 PL/22/0215/FA Land at Farm Cottage, Collinswood Road, Farnham Common seeks to develop three new detached dwelling. The Working Group is recommending an objection to this application for the reasons stated on the schedule of comments. In addition, it was noted that the application had been called in to the Buckinghamshire Council Planning Committee.

30.1.3 PL/22/0216/FA Greenways, Beeches Road, Farnham Common seeks to build a single storey detached annexe in the rear garden. The Working Group is recommending an objection to this application for the reasons stated on the schedule of comments.

30.1.4 PL/22/0469/FA 20 Mayflower Way, Farnham Common seeks to obtain permission for a front porch already built but does not deal with the loss of hedges and resultant change in street scene previously reported to Planning Enforcement. The Working Group is recommending an objection to this application for the reasons stated on the schedule of comments.

30.1.5 PL/22/0749/VRC Cut Heath House, Parsonage Lane, Farnham Common seeks to adjust the turning head and shift the footprints of eight detached units. The Working Group is recommending an objection to this application for the reasons stated on the schedule of comments.

The planning comments on the circulated schedule **were ratified**

30.2 To note recent planning decisions

Marilyn Rolfe drew particular attention to the following decisions:

30.2.1 PL/21/4349/FA Beech Glen, Egypt Lane, Farnham Common had been refused.

30.2.2 PL/21/4700/FA 19 Grange Gardens, Farnham Common had been withdrawn.

30.2.3 PL/21/4048/FA 50 Mayflower Way, Farnham Common had been withdrawn.

The planning decisions on the circulated schedule **were noted**.

30.3 Bob Milne raised the aerals that have been erected at Ponds Wood, Collinswood Road, Farnham Common. He continued that two new permanent aerals had been installed and the mobile aerial for which planning permission has been refused is still there. The Clerk confirmed that the matter had been reported to Planning Enforcement. Bob Milne asked Cllr Dhillon whether enforcement issues go to the Buckinghamshire Council Planning Committee. Cllr. Dhillon confirmed that they did and suggested sending details to Cllr. Anthony and Cllr. Egleton. He continued that if an application was called in to the Planning Committee the ward councillors, the parish council and residents can speak for three minutes each so nine minutes in total.

22/31/PC Any Other Business (for information only)

None

22/32/PC Next meeting

The meeting closed at 8.55pm. The next meeting will be held on 25 April 2022 at 7.30pm at Farnham Royal Village Hall

OPEN FORUM

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

Cllr. Dhillon advised that the budget for the Beeches Community Board for 2022/23 is just over £100,000.

Cllr. Dhillon advised that Buckinghamshire Council will start to collect nuisance cars after five tickets have been issued but cars parked obstructing pavements are still to be reported to the Police.

Cllr. Dhillon also reminded those present to submit comments on the Boundary Commission consultation on warding arrangements for Buckinghamshire Council.

The Chairman advised that he attended a Select Committee in Aylesbury to review the effectiveness and suggest changes to the Community Boards. He understood that different groups were invited on different days. Cllr. Dhillon advised that he and Cllr. Anthony had met with the cabinet member at Buckinghamshire Council who is responsible for Community Boards several times and it was recognised that public engagement is not what was expected. It was envisaged that the Boards would see different groups working together to share knowledge and come up with ideas. Cllr. Dhillon believes that if projects are more expensive than the Community Board can afford the Board should be able to go to the cabinet member and make a case for Buckinghamshire Council to provide the funds from elsewhere. He feels that playground funding should come from wellbeing funds in Buckinghamshire Council. Marilyn Rolfe asked whether funds could also come from s.106 receipts. Cllr. Dhillon thought so subject to any attached conditions but advised that this would now be CIL money. Marilyn Rolfe would like a list of s.106 monies that are available. Bob Milne expressed that the Boards have not worked as expected. Cllr. Dhillon advised that he always states that parishes should not have to match fund but if parishes want to that's fine. Bob Milne felt that Transport for Buckinghamshire did not appear to feel that way. It was stated that projects to address safety issues should not be paid for using limited Community Board funds. The Chairman thought that this is probably what will come out of the review. He advised that one suggestion was regarding Transport and Infrastructure projects. It was felt that there should be a Transport and Infrastructure Group in the Community Board but that due to the cost of the projects all funding must come from outside of the Community Board. Parishes should use the Community Board to identify these needs but not to fund projects. Cllr. Dhillon acknowledged that parish councils cannot just keep putting precepts up during times of financial hardship and efforts should be made to ensure that Transport for Buckinghamshire is spending all of its budgets. The Chairman advised that there was quite a diverse view about Community Board Chairman and Co-ordinators at the meeting. The Chairman summarised that there will be a report which once received will be circulated to all parish councillors for review and comment. Cllr. Dhillon also raised Devolved Services and the difference between the cost of maintaining the services and the funds provided by Buckinghamshire Council.

Cllr Dhillon advised that he would be Chairman of Buckinghamshire Council carrying out ceremonial work for the next year. Those present congratulated him and gave their best wishes for a good year.