

# FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 27 JUNE 2022 AT 7.30 P.M. AT FARNHAM ROYAL VILLAGE HALL, FARNHAM LANE, FARNHAM ROYAL. SL2 3AX**

## **Present**

Marilyn Rolfe (Chair)  
Bob Milne  
Jigar Trivedi  
Judith Hall (Clerk)

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.

## **22/59/PC Apologies for absence**

Paul Rowley, Richard Thomas and Jenny Quilter

## **22/60/PC Declarations of Interest**

None

## **22/61/PC To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2022**

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

## **22/62/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.

62.1 To note outcome of Buckinghamshire Council's On Street Parking Review – the various new restrictions were read from the Information Report by the Chair.

62.2 To note concerns regarding HGV traffic on Parish Lane – a full discussion regarding the issue took place during the Open Forum noted at the end of these minutes.

62.3 To note the receipt of the Annual Playground Inspection reports – receipt of the reports was noted and it was confirmed that any required repairs would be carried out as soon as possible. The Clerk advised that she would meet shortly with the maintenance contractor to take this forward.

Jigar Trivedi left the meeting at 8.10pm. The meeting was then inquorate and as a result no further business could be conducted.

## **22/63/PC Next meeting**

The meeting closed at 8.15pm. The next meeting will be on 25 July 2022 at 7.30pm at Farnham Common Village Hall.

## **OPEN FORUM**

Mr Philip, a resident of Farnham Common, raised his concern about the state of the grass verges by the traffic lights at the One Pin Lane junction of the A355 and stretching down to Drew Meadow. His plea is to somehow get an earlier date for Buckinghamshire Council to cut the grass as the next scheduled cut is not until September 2022. He believes that the current plan of fewer cuts will cost a lot more than carrying out more regular cuts.

The Chair advised that Buckinghamshire Council has a schedule for grass cutting and whilst some councils carry out five cuts a year Buckinghamshire Council carry out three in April, June and September although the timetable may vary slightly. She continued that this is one of the reasons the Parish Council registered an interest in joining the Buckinghamshire Council wild flower verge pilot scheme but Buckinghamshire Council have said the Parish is not suitable at this time due to its size and a lack of places to tip the cuttings. The Parish is therefore left with just the three cuts.

Mr Philip advised that he was interested in the wild flower pilot and asked who was in charge of this at Buckinghamshire Council. The Chair advised that the clerk would provide this information to him by email.

Bob Milne advised that Buckinghamshire Council believe that wild flower verges will be cheaper but it does require some investment in the beginning. He continued that the idea is that the verges will only be cut two/three times a year but the cuttings will be collected. He expressed his belief that there are plenty of places to tip the cuttings in the Parish and that Buckinghamshire Council needs to be persuaded to include the Parish in the pilot.

Mr Philip asked who cuts the grass between the M40 and the speed reduction at the entrance to Farnham Common. The Chair advised that this was done by Buckinghamshire Council and a resident. Bob Milne advised that residents are now cutting the verges outside their homes, which is actively encouraged in Stoke Poges.

Mr Philip expressed that he is sceptical and cynical about wild flowers as selecting the right flowers is a gardener's job. The Chair advised that the first pilot was in Weymouth and over five years the council saved £500,000. It's a gradual process and by year five there should be a reduction in costs and an improvement in the area.

Mrs Hurst, a Farnham Common resident for 46 years, raised the issue of HGVs using Parish Lane and wanted to emphasise how very dangerous the situation is. She advised that there are hundreds of movements a day and that many of the HGVs are speeding and due to their size are over the central road markings encroaching on the oncoming lane. She noted that the surface of Parish Lane and Collum Green Road are being damaged, which is causing difficulties for other road users. She also pointed out that the junction at the top of Parish Lane is a nightmare as two lorries can't pass causing traffic difficulties morning and night.

She continued that it was her understanding from posts on Facebook that Parish Lane is not the approved route. The Chair agreed that Parish Lane was not the approved route stating that contractor vehicles travelling to and from the new country park and/or Wexham Golf Course must use the M40 and/or the M25 and to access the M40 they should be using the A355 and Park Road. She felt it was an issue that should be referred to Planning Enforcement at Buckinghamshire Council and noted that there were two areas in Parish Lane where the road had subsided. She advised that according to the planning documents c.440 vehicle movements were expected per day between 7am and 5pm excluding Sundays and Bank Holidays when movements are not allowed. Mrs Hurst advised that HGVs are using the road as early as 5.45am.

Mr Struck, a resident of Hedgerley, agreed that the damage to the road surface and the speed of the HGVs were both dangerous. He felt that the speed limit should be reduced to make the road safer for pedestrians.

Bob Mile advised that the damaged road surface should be reported on <https://www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk/> with photographs. The Chair advised that there had been 70 reports this week and the more reports the better.

Mr Beagle, a Farnham Common resident, advised that he litter picks his local area and wanted to make councillors aware of a biohazard and hazard to nature. He reported that there is a massive amount of litter with over 150 bottles in the undergrowth by the bus stop on the A355 just north of the junction with Spring

Lane. He asked whether there were any plans to install a bin at the bus stop. Bob Milne advised that he needed to report the problem on <https://www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk/> with a photograph. Mr Beagle shared James T Wilson's Broken Window theory and expressed his view that South Buckinghamshire is the worst kept area which is embarrassing and sad.