

Information for the Parish Council Meeting on 26 February 2024

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

4.1 Update from the Neighbourhood Policing Team

The Neighbourhood Policing Team will either attend the meeting to provide a verbal update or our Police Community Support Officer will provide a written report for circulation.

4.2 Update on Community Speedwatch

The group continues to conduct sessions at two sites each week.

Since the activity started, the group has recorded 24 motorists who were found to be traveling over the prescribed speed threshold. Details below:

Site	Speeders
Beaconsfield Road	2
Beeches Road	1
Collinswood Road	12
Farnham Lane	7
One Pin Lane	2

Of speeders recorded, the maximum speed on a 40mph road is 51mph with the average speed being 49mph.

Of speeders recorded, the maximum speed on a 30mph road is 43mph with the average speed being 37mph.

Since the last parish council meeting, sessions have been held in Beaconsfield Road, Farnham Lane, Blackpond Lane, Green Lane, One Pin Lane and Parish Lane and the group have received lots of positive feedback.

A new volunteer has also completed her online training and the group looks forward to welcoming her to her first roadside session. A huge thank you for supporting this safety initiative.

4.3 Update on Neighbourhood Plan

The Regulation 14 Formal Consultation finished on 25 February 2024. Several responses have been received from statutory consultees and residents. These will now be reviewed by the Steering Group with the assistance of O'Neill Homer, the appointed consultants. Any necessary amendments will be made and the Draft Plan will be presented at a parish council meeting as soon as possible.

5 Vacant Positions

Following the sad passing of Marilyn Rolfe, there are a number of vacancies and consideration will be given to filling these at the meeting.

- Vice Chairman of the Parish Council
- Member of the Finance Committee
- Member of the Planning Working Group
- Lead Councillor – Planning
- Lead Councillor – Wellbeing
- Representative on the Beeches Community Board
- Bank Account Signatory

6 To consider a new date for the Annual Parish Meeting

Following the decision at the last parish council meeting to hold the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on two separate evenings, the Clerk circulated three potential dates Monday 8 April 2024, Monday 15 April 2024 and Monday 13 May 2024. Based on the responses received and having checked availability at Farnham Common Village Hall it is proposed that the Annual Parish Meeting is held on 8 April 2024.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 20 May 2024 as planned.

7 Projects:

7.1 Update on 2023/24 Projects (including consideration of additional expenditure, where requested)

7.1.1 Highways

- Community Speedwatch

Now the initiative is established, Tony Birkett would like to expand its reach by installing the road signs previously agreed by the Parish Council, subject to Buckinghamshire Highways approval and by providing wheelie bin stickers to willing residents. Further details will be provided at the meeting.

- Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign

The new sign was ordered before Christmas and should be delivered shortly. The Clerk is chasing for an estimated delivery date but is aware there has been a delay at the factory.

7.1.2 Woodlands and Open Spaces

- Boundary Copse

The contractor has advised that the wall repairs and repointing have been completed and Bob Milne has been to site to review this. South Bucks Tree Surgeons Limited have been engaged to fell the trees highlighted by the arboriculturist. The ecology report has been received and circulated to parish councillors separately.

- Woodland Management Plan

Pyramid Consulting, the parish council's arboriculturist, has started drafting the Plan and anticipates sharing a copy with the Parish Council in the next few weeks. Once the Parish Council has reviewed the Plan it will be issued for consultation. It may be sensible to invite the arboriculturist to the Annual Parish Meeting to present the Plan as part of this process.

- Community Orchard

Mark Frater and Dr Helen Read have received the new trees, guards and plaques and are just waiting for drier weather to enable them to complete the necessary work.

- Kingsway Green

The current contractor is unable to install the new paving due to existing work commitments. The Clerk has therefore requested quotes from Amersham Town Council and Progress Services. Following the last parish council meeting, Bob Milne circulated his thoughts for the Green to parish councillors. Katherine Damsell is also proposing that the parish council applies to Thames Water at a cost of £132 to ascertain the work and costs involved with installing a water supply.

- Rectory Close Flowerbeds

There will be a discussion at the meeting about whether any changes should be made to the flowerbeds from 1 April 2024.

7.1.3 Community

- Traders' Association

Tony Birkett will provide an update at the meeting.

- Residents' Association

Tony Birkett will provide an update at the meeting.

7.1.4 Wellbeing

- Farnham Common Playground

The new playground installation is complete and the official opening was held on 14 February 2024.

- Former Guide Hut Site

The site has been rotavated and grass seed has been sown. The noticeboard has been installed and the picnic benches will be installed shortly, the initial date was cancelled due to heavy rain. The Clerk has received a request from a resident for her to plant wildflower seeds on the site.

7.1.5 Any other projects

Any other projects will be discussed at the meeting.

7.2 To consider new project ideas for 2024/25

7.2.1 Contracts

- Protection of Green Spaces

Katherine Damsell has prepared a schedule of the green spaces that the Parish Council either owns or leases from Buckinghamshire Council with a view to understanding the terms of occupation and ensuring they are protected for future generations. BP Collins are currently considering what work is required to review the protection possibilities and their costs for completing the work.

7.2.2 Highways

- Dropped kerbs

Following comments from the relative of a resident, Clive Robinson completed a review of the parish and provided a report detailing opportunities to improve the lives of residents with mobility issues and those with pushchairs. There have been some discussions with Buckinghamshire Highways but no real progress has been made.

7.2.3 Community

- 80th Anniversary of D Day

- Tony Birkett has approached Farnham Common Community Library to discuss holding an exhibition, presentation and Q&A session. He has also approached Caldicott and Farnham Common Junior School about visiting and talking to the pupils. He also plans to approach St Mary's Farnham Royal and Dair House.
- Katherine Damsell is putting together plans for a 1940s style afternoon tea dance in Farnham Common Village Hall on 1 June 2024. She is looking for a band and has discussed catering with Sara Daughtrey of The Beeches Eco Café.
- There has been a suggestion that Union flags should be flown, the same as for the recent coronation. The supplier has provided a quote of £2,280, subject to a small increase in the cost of Buckinghamshire Council permits on 1 April 2024.

- Christmas lights

- As previously reported some of the column decorations in Farnham Common should be replaced. The cost of replacing these with ex rental models would be £1,800. This would result in a saving of £849 for repairing the existing decorations.
- In addition, some of the decorations in the tree in Farnham Royal require replacing. The cost of replacing these with new spheres would be £3,684.
- Katherine Damsell proposes holding a 'switch on' event in Temple Dell one evening. As part of this she is proposing that a Christmas tree is installed in the corner of Temple Dell at a cost of approximately £2,055. Included in this cost are lights and decorations, which would be on a three year rental agreement to allow for a trial period.
- In addition, Katherine Damsell proposes lighting some of the trees towards the front of Temple Dell with coloured flood lights installed in the ground. The cost for each tree is £850. The cost is based on a three year rental agreement for the lights, which will remain in place all year, to allow for a trial

period. Some additional groundworks would be required to dig trenches to bury the electricity cables from the cabinet to the lights.

- CCTV on The Broadway & Playgrounds

Tony Birkett and Cllr. Dhillon have discussed the possibility of installing CCTV on The Broadway and will provide an update at the meeting. This could also be installed at the playgrounds for added security.

- Free parking in The Broadway car park

The lack of free parking in The Broadway car park continues to be an issue for residents, visitors and businesses. Tony Birkett understands that previous discussions with South Bucks District Council and a referendum failed to facilitate an agreement but now there is a unitary authority he would like to look again at whether there is an opportunity for some free parking.

- Community/Volunteer Organisations Event

There are many community organisations and groups within the villages and hosting an event would allow them to showcase all the different activities available to enhance the lives of residents and would provide the organisations and groups with an opportunity to recruit new members and volunteers.

7.2.4 Any other ideas

Any other ideas will be discussed at the meeting.

8 Finance:

8.1 Spending Decisions

8.1.1 To ratify the purchase of replacement heads for two streetlights in Farnham Park Lane

At the last parish council meeting, it was informally agreed that two new heads would be purchased at a cost of £680 each. The decision must be ratified at the next meeting.

8.1.2 To ratify the purchase of replacement pads for two defibrillators

The pads in the defibrillators at Farnham Common Sports Club and Farnham Royal Village Hall expire at the end of February 2024 so four new pads have been purchased (two for each unit) at a total cost of £290.

8.1.3 To consider the purchase of a replacement gyrospiral at Farnham Park Playing Fields

On their first visit, Amersham Town Council, removed the arm of the gyrospiral as there was a crack in the welding. The Clerk was asked to obtain a parts list from the supplier. Unfortunately, the supplier advised that this item is discontinued so the only spares available are bearings.

The supplier stated that due to a 2018 modification to the arm, the new arm can no longer be sited on the extension pole installed at the playground. There are therefore a couple of options.

- 1) Return the unit back to a gyrospiral as it originally was c. £3,000 exc. VAT – subject to the arm and seats being re-usable
- 2) Start again and install a new Hip Hop Unit c. £11,000 exc. VAT – subject to the existing rubber not having PCC edging (the new hip hop free fall area is slightly larger than the old gyrospiral due to standard updates in subsequent years. If the rubber has PCC edging this will need to be broken out and the surfacing extended or overlaid which will incur additional costs

Amersham Town Council are also investigating whether it is possible to reweld the joint.



8.2 To consider payments and note receipts, as per the February 2024 cashbook

The cashbook has been reviewed and approved by Katherine Damsell, as Chair of the Finance Committee and has been sent to councillors separately.

9 Contracts:

9.1 To ratify the addition of Farnham Common Playground to Amersham Town Council's contract

Ratification is not required as this informal decision was ratified at the January 2024 parish council meeting.

10 Planning:

10.1 Update on PL/23/4125/PIP - Land To The North Of Allerds Farm, Crown Lane, Farnham Royal

This planning application was discussed at the last parish council meeting. As agreed, banners were displayed on the corners of Temple Dell and Church Road, posters were displayed on all noticeboards and posts were placed on the Parish Council's website and Facebook page and in the Farnhams Community Facebook group publicising the application. O'Neill Homer was engaged to review the application and prepare comments on behalf of the Parish Council. The comments were submitted on 12 February 2024 as agreed with the Planning Officer at Buckinghamshire Planning. The Clerk also requested that the application was called into the Planning Committee but the Planning Officer advised that this was not possible as Buckinghamshire Councils' Constitution sets out that applications for Permission in Principle (PIP), are excluded from the types of applications that can be called into the Planning Committee. As such, the application could not be called in, and would be determined by the Planning Officer under delegated authority. The application was subsequently refused.

10.2 Update on Land South of Elm Close, Farnham Common

Residents raised concerns that the owner was clearing all the vegetation from a field off the Beaconsfield Road that borders Elm Close. They were concerned for the wildlife living in the field. The Clerk contacted the Tree Officer at Buckinghamshire Planning for advice. He recommended that residents report the felling of trees to the Forestry Commission and removal of hedgerows to Buckinghamshire Planning Enforcement. He also confirmed that with sufficient evidence he could attend to review whether an emergency Tree Preservation Order could be obtained. As a result, the Tree Officer and representatives from the Forestry Commission and Buckinghamshire Planning Enforcement attended the site and eight oak trees are now subject to a Tree Preservation Order.

10.3 To ratify comments submitted on recent applications

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

10.4 To note recent planning decisions

The schedule of planning authority decisions has been sent to councillors separately.