

# FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 29 APRIL 2024 AT 7.30 P.M. AT FARNHAM ROYAL VILLAGE HALL, FARNHAM LANE, FARNHAM ROYAL, SL2 3AX**

## **Present**

Paul Rowley (Chair)  
Tony Birkett  
Katherine Damsell  
Bob Milne  
David Moore  
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 and advised that prior to the meeting all councillors had been provided with a report giving information on agenda items. The report can be downloaded from the Parish Council website or a hard copy is available upon request.

## **24/34/PC Apologies for absence**

Jenny Quilter

## **24/35/PC Declarations of Interest (not already disclosed)**

None

## **24/36/PC To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2024**

Bob Milne requested that 'smaller' was removed from the sixth line of paragraph 27.1 (Reserves). This was agreed and the minutes were **approved**. It was **agreed** that they would be signed by the Chair.

## **24/37/PC Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda - for information only)**

### **37.1 Reserves Policy**

Bob Milne wished to record that he meant to say, at the last meeting, that reserves should be between three and nine months of net revenue expenditure with an optimum of six months.

### **37.1 Update on Community Speedwatch**

The content of the report was noted.

### **37.2 Update on Neighbourhood Plan**

The content of the report was noted and the Parish Council thanked Steve Stagg for his presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting.

### **37.3 Update on office lease**

The content of the report was noted and Katherine Damsell reiterated that the landlord had been asked to provide further information regarding the service charge invoices received.

### **37.4 Update on fence damaged during tree work in Jubilee Copse**

The content of the report was noted.

### **37.5 Update on anti-social behaviour in Blackpond Lane**

The content of the report was noted and the Chairman added that not all residents in Blackpond Lane are affected by this behaviour but those that are, experience a significant level of distress. The Clerk presented a report prepared by Clive Robinson and those present thanked him for his report.

### 37.6 Update on replacement timber for basket swing at playground in Farnham Park Playing Fields

The content of the report was noted and the Clerk advised that she had now received a quote of c.£2,000 plus VAT from Wicksteed Leisure Ltd for the replacement timber, including installation in approximately eight to ten weeks. To ensure the replacement is carried out as soon as possible those present agreed to accept the quote, albeit this informal decision will need to be ratified at the May 2024 parish council meeting.

### **24/38/PC Policies:**

#### 38.1 Biodiversity Policy (New)

David Moore, as Lead Councillor for Environment, advised that all town and parish councils have a duty to consider within their powers, what actions and policies they put in place to consider biodiversity. He continued that to this end he had drafted a Biodiversity Policy, which included an action plan, based on the template provided by the Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils and would like feedback from other councillors. Those present felt that further work was required to the action plan to ensure it related specifically to this parish and it reflected the policies in the proposed Neighbourhood Plan. The Biodiversity Policy was **agreed and adopted** but the action plan will be brought to a future meeting once further work had been carried out. The Chairman agreed to work with David Moore and if possible, Jenny Quilter and the Burnham Beeches SAC Rangers

### **24/39/PC Finance:**

#### 39.1 To consider increasing the litter pickers' hourly rate to reflect the increased National Minimum Wage

It was **agreed** that the hourly rate paid to the litter pickers from 1 April 2024 would increase to £11.44 in line with the National Minimum Wage.

#### 39.2 To consider next steps for gyro spiral in playground at Farnham Park Playing Fields

The content of the report was noted and it was **agreed** that the unit should be repaired rather than replaced at a cost of c. £3,000 plus VAT. Katherine Damsell, as Lead Councillor for Finance and Contracts, added that the Clerk was trying to arrange a meeting with Farnham Park Sports Fields Charity/Buckinghamshire Council to discuss the terms of the licence under which the playground occupies its location.

#### 39.3 To consider purchasing two new Union flags

It was **agreed** that two new Union flags would be purchased at a cost of £295 plus delivery and VAT.

#### 39.4 To consider payments and note receipts, as per the April 2024 cashbook

The Clerk advised that the service charge invoices received were on hold pending receipt of the further information requested from the landlord. The payments **were approved** and the receipts **were noted**. Katherine Damsell, as Lead Councillor for Finance and Contracts, advised that the accounting records for 2023/24 were with the accountants who were preparing the Annual Accounts ready for the internal and external audits in the coming months.

### **24/40/PC Planning:**

#### 40.1 To ratify comments submitted on recent applications

The Chairman advised that many of the recent applications were seeking to increase the number of bedrooms and therefore capacity in properties within 500 metres of Burnham Beeches SAC and as a result he had asked the Clerk to clarify with Buckinghamshire Council whether this breached the Supplementary Planning Document. The planning comments on the circulated schedule **were ratified**.

#### 40.2 To note recent planning decisions

Bob Milne asked why the Parish Council did not object to PL/24/0267/FA Peveril 36 Rosewood Way Farnham Common for construction of a detached dwelling house with integral garage and new vehicular access (revision to approved scheme PL/23/2561/FA) particularly as it is likely to be within 500 metres of Burnham Beeches SAC. Tony Birkett, as Chair of the Planning Working Group, advised that this application just sought to vary the entrance to the driveway. The planning decisions on the circulated schedule **were noted**.

### **24/41/PC Any Other Business (for information only)**

41.1 Katherine Damsell asked for further information regarding the Thames Water flooding issue raised by a resident at the Annual Parish Meeting. David Moore advised that there was a Thames Water Action Group who had met a few times but not since early 2023. He continued that this work was being led by Cllr. Dev Dhillon, Joy Morrissey MP, the Chairman and some of the residents of Beeches Road and Ingleglen. The Chairman added that according to the surveys carried out by Thames Water, the required work would impact a much larger area of Farnham Common than just Beeches Road and Ingleglen and

the cost would run to many millions.

41.2 Bob Milne asked Tony Birkett for the next steps for the potential initiative to fund 30 minutes free parking in The Broadway Car Park. Tony Birkett advised that he would bring a proposal to the June 2024 parish council meeting.

41.3 Tony Birkett advised that he had spoken to Matthew Barber, the Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley Police at the Annual Parish Meeting and Matthew Barber had suggested working with the Police to integrate the systems. He added that whilst he felt there was benefit in looking for a system that could be integrated, he would not want the involvement of third parties to slow down the progress of this potential project.

41.4 Bob Milne expressed that the Parish Council needed to progress the work started on performance managing of its contracts. Katherine Damsell, as Lead Councillor for Finance and Contracts, acknowledged there had been a delay and agreed to progress this work and bring it back to a future parish council meeting as soon as possible.

41.5 Katherine Damsell provided an update regarding the 1940's Tea Dance planned for 1 June 2024 from 1.30pm. She advised that she and the Clerk had worked out that the hall could comfortably seat 60 when allowing for a dance floor and disabled access. She confirmed that The Polka Dots had been booked to provide the entertainment and that Sara Daughtrey of The Beeches Eco Café, who catered the recent Annual Parish meeting, was providing the afternoon tea and a cash bar. She continued that some bunting, tablecloths and table flowers had been purchased. She also advised that there would be some professional dancers to encourage guests to start dancing and that fancy dress was not required. Tony Birkett offered to circulate the poster to his Residents' Association contacts and put them up in local shops and businesses. Katherine Damsell advised that The Polka Dots required a cash payment on the day of the event and that she would settle this personally and claim the cost back as an expense. Those present were happy with this.

41.6 Tony Birkett advised that his 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D Day exhibition, talk and Q & A session were going ahead in the library during the first week of June 2024 and discussions were ongoing with Signature and McCarthy & Stone regarding talks for their residents.

41.7 Bob Milne expressed that he thought the Annual Parish Meeting was very good this year but he did not feel that the speakers sitting at the front with their backs to the projector screen worked and this should not happen in the future. The Chairman agreed.

41.8 Bob Milne reported that the long wooden bench and rubble in the ground previously within the boundary of the Guide Hut had still not been removed. The Clerk agreed to speak to the contractors.

41.9 The Clerk advised that the St George Flag was flying in Farnham Royal for St George's Day and asked those present whether they were in favour of this taking place. Those present were in favour and felt that the same should happen in Farnham Common. The Clerk stated that she would review the existing arrangements as she believed the Royal British Legion flew a special flag on ANZAC day in Farnham Common but not in Farnham Royal. She advised that she would include this matter on the agenda for the Annual Meeting so arrangements could be agreed for the next twelve months.

#### **24/42/PC Next parish council meeting:**

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

The next meeting is the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 20 May 2024 at 7.30pm at Farnham Common Village Hall

#### **OPEN FORUM**

No comments