

Information for the Meeting of the Parish Council on 25 November 2024

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

4.1 Update on road safety initiatives (Community Speedwatch & MVAS)

- Community Speedwatch

The group continues to conduct sessions at two sites each week, subject to the weather. Since the activity started in July 2023, the group has recorded 202 motorists who were found to be traveling over the prescribed speed threshold. Details below:

Beaconsfield Road	3
Beeches Road	5
Collinswood Road	170
Farnham Lane	12
One Pin Lane	10
Parish Lane	1
Templewood Lane	1

Of speeders recorded, the maximum speed on a 30mph road is 56mph with the average speed being 40mph. The maximum speed was recorded on Collinswood Road. The maximum speed on a 40mph road is 52mph with the average speed being 50mph. The maximum speed was recorded on Parish Lane. In addition, we have been notified that two of the vehicles reported did not have a MOT, two were not taxed and one had a statutory off road notification (SORN).

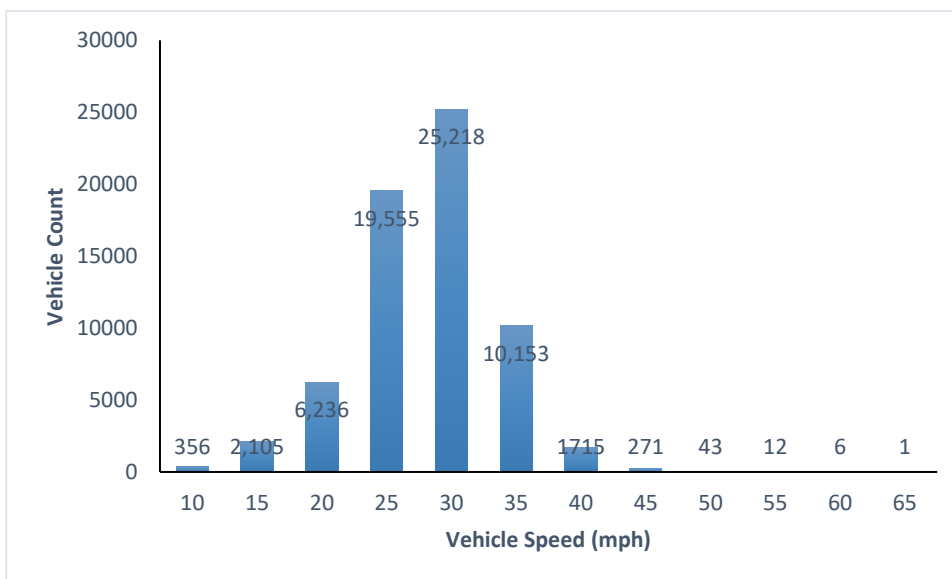
This initiative has provided much needed data to the Police and they are considering whether it would be appropriate to use a speed detector camera van on Collinswood Road.

Since the last parish council meeting, sessions have been held in Beaconsfield Road, Beeches Road, Blackpond Lane, Collinswood Road and Farnham Lane. A huge thank you to the volunteers for supporting this safety initiative.

- Update on Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs

Both signs are moving around the villages to remind road users to slow down but also to record speed and volume data, which will be shared with Buckinghamshire Highways and the Police when discussing road safety and traffic calming initiatives.

The latest data download provided the following results at One Pin Lane, which has a speed limit of 30mph, from 23 September 2024 to 7 November 2024.



You may recall that the posts used at some of the approved sites required securing into the ground. This work has been completed and the Clerk is now working with the contractor to agree a schedule for moving the signs around the villages.

4.2 Update of antisocial behaviour in footpaths FAR/6 and FAR/7 in Farnham Royal

On 20 November 2024, the Clerk met with Sophia Comer (the new Manager of the Beeches Community Board) about the application for the balance of funds required to purchase and install the K Barriers.

Currently, the proposed application would not pass the due diligence phase as neither Buckinghamshire Council nor the Parish Council are accepting responsibility for maintenance or liabilities going forward. The applicant, as part of the online application, must provide various documents including evidence of public liability insurance to cover any liabilities arising from the K Barriers. Sophia Comer has suggested a way forward.

It is suggested that the effected residents form a residents' association, which would then be the entity making the application, picking up maintenance responsibilities and any future liabilities. The Association would obtain public liability insurance and other standard policies all of which should be straightforward to arrange.

Cllr. Dev Dhillon, Paul Rowley and the Clerk met a representative of the effected residents on 22 November 2024 to discuss this suggestion and he has agreed to discuss it with the other residents.

4.3 Update on claim received from Cllr. Clive Robinson

A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

4.4 Update on work to a tree in Ingram's Copse

The safety work required to reduce an early mature oak tree to create a monolith at 4 meters due to significant crown dieback was completed on 18 November 2024 at a reduced price of £1,480 plus VAT.

4.5 Update on Kingsway Green flowerbeds

Katherine Damsell and the Clerk met with the contractor on 18 November 2024 to discuss the flowerbeds. It is proposed that there will be three flowerbeds (as illustrated in blue below).



The Contractor has offered to provide a plant list to the parish council, for review, prior to any planting taking place.

The Clerk has spoken to Cadent Gas Limited who have advised that they are due to complete the repairs to the main gas pipe on Kingsway Green on 29 November 2024. This has been reported to the contractor.

The contractor has advised that it would be sensible to allow for a 15% increase in the quote provided for planting the flowerbeds in case planting is delayed until Spring 2025, due to adverse weather, and plant costs have increased. This increases the quote from £1,250 to £1,437.50.

In addition, the contractor has advised that the maintenance cost has increased slightly due to higher overheads. The contractor has provided an updated monthly maintenance cost that includes the flowerbeds on Kingsway Green and the shrub beds and bulbs at Rectory Close. This is detailed under 6.1 below.

4.6 Update on Design a Christmas Bauble competition

The competition will launch on Wednesday 27 November 2024 to coincide with turning on the Christmas lights and installation of the Christmas tree. The competition will be promoted with posters in our noticeboards, on social media and in newsletters issued by the Farnham Common Village Schools and St Mary's Farnham Royal C of E Primary School.



In addition, the parish council has a stand at Farnham Common Sports Club's Christmas Fayre to hand out entry forms, which can also be downloaded using a QR code and from the parish council's website. The rota for the stand is below:

10am - 11am (Set Up only)	11am - 12noon	12noon – 1pm	1pm - 2pm	2pm – 3pm	3pm-4pm (Clear Up only)
Judith	Judith	Jenny	Tony	Bob	Bob

There are five age groups: under 4 years, 4-7 years, 8-11 years, 12-17 years and Adults. The winner of each age group will receive a £50 gift card and the runner up will receive a £25 gift card.

Official competition post boxes will be in Farnham Common Community Library and Farnham Common Junior School. Farnham Common Infant School and St Mary's Farnham Royal C of E Primary School have also been asked to have a post box and the Clerk is waiting for their reply. Entries must be posted before 5pm on Monday 16 December 2024. All entries will be considered by the appointed panel on 18 December 2024 and the prize winners will be announced on Friday 20 December 2024.

5 Appointments:

5.1 To consider the appointment of Paul Rowley as Co Lead Councillor for Communities

Paul Rowley has expressed an interest in working with David Moore for the benefit of residents, businesses, organisations and clubs within the parish.

6 Projects:

6.1 Woodlands and Open Spaces

- To consider clearing rose beds at Rectory Close and laying turf ready for bulbs

Following previous discussions, when Katherine Damsell and the Clerk met the contractor for Kingsway Green, these beds were discussed. It is proposed that the rose beds are cleared, levelled and turfed ready for bulbs to be planted in 2025. The cost is £375 plus VAT.

- To consider tidying the shrub beds at Rectory Close

Following previous discussions, when Katherine Damsell and the Clerk met the contractor for Kingsway Green, these beds were discussed. It is proposed that the tree saplings are removed from the shrub beds and that the shrubs are pruned and trimmed. The cost is £325 plus VAT.

The contractor has quoted £205 per month, starting once the flowerbeds on Kingsway Green have been planted, to include pruning, weeding, mulching, edging and dead heading the shrub beds at Rectory Close and strimming the bulb areas once they have died down. This figure also includes weeding, trimming, dead heading, feeding and edging the flowerbeds on Kingsway Green.

6.2 Community

- To consider Buckinghamshire Council's Agreement for free parking sessions in The Broadway car park

The Agreement has recently been received from Buckinghamshire Council and a copy has been circulated to parish councillors separately.

7 Contracts:

7.1 To consider whether to express an interest in Buckinghamshire Highways Devolved Services for 2025/2026

The Highways Devolution Officer at Buckinghamshire Highways has recently issued their invitation to express an interest in Buckinghamshire Highways Devolved Services for 2025/2026. The updated schedule of works required under Devolved Services has been circulated to parish councillors separately but includes:

- Limited tree works to remove a hazard or visibility issue
- Issuing requests to residents to cut back hedges
- Cleaning and minor repairs to street signs
- Siding out footways
- Controlling and reducing weeds
- Cutting grass verges (as frequently as necessary, generally 2-3 times per year)
- Removing illegal fly posters and banners from street furniture
- Removing graffiti from street furniture
- Managing charitable signs and event signage

The deadline for expressing an interest is 16 December 2024.

By way of background, the parish council entered into Devolved Services on 1 April 2016 but withdrew from the agreement in 2022 as the cost of carrying out the work (c.£30,000) exceeded the contribution received from Buckinghamshire Council (c.£9,000).

Since handing back the services to Buckinghamshire Council, many complaints have been received from residents regarding both safety concerns and the general appearance of the villages.

8 Consultations/Public Notices:

8.1 Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings

The Government is consulting on introducing powers for local authority members (parish councillors) to apply for a

dispensation to attend formal council meetings remotely and vote by proxy in certain circumstances. A copy of the consultation questions has been circulated to parish councillors separately and they are encouraged to review these prior to the meeting so that the parish council's response can be agreed for submission before the deadline on 19 December 2024.

8.2 Disposal of Farnham Park Playing Fields by way of a minimum of 25 year lease

Buckinghamshire Council acting as Trustee of Farnham Park Sports Field Charitable Trust has given notice that the Charity proposes to dispose of Farnham Park Playing Fields by way of lease for a minimum of 25 years. They have advised that they want to see the playground remain on site into the long term, as it is important for local people's health and wellbeing.

Members of the public and the parish council are invited to make representations on the proposed leasehold disposal by close of business on 9 December 2024.

8.3 Farnham Common Community Library Vision Survey

Farnham Common Community Library is currently in the process of reviewing and updating its strategy plan and has issued a 'Future Vision Survey'. The Clerk has received a request for parish councillors to complete the survey to help validate and shape the plan for the next 5 years to ensure the library remains a successful and valuable resource for the local community.

9 Policy Review

9.1 Social Media Policy (Amended)

At the last parish council meeting, Katherine Damsell agreed to review the policy and return to this meeting with any amendments. A copy of the amended policy has been circulated to parish councillors separately.

10 Requests for Commemorative Items

10.1 Royal British Legion bench

The Farnham Common Branch of the Royal British Legion would like to donate a memorial bench to the parish council. It has been suggested that the bench could be installed on the Farnham Pump Green in Farnham Royal. The parish council would be responsible for obtaining permission, installation and ongoing maintenance.

10.2 Tree in Community Orchard for Alan French

The Clerk has received a request from the friends of Alan French for a memorial tree in his name in the Community Orchard. The Community Orchard was a special place for Mr French as he worked hard to bring it into being. The friends have suggested a 'Basil's Burnham Beauty', which is a recently rediscovered local apple variety.

11 Finance:

11.1 Spending Decisions

- To consider quote for watering flowerbeds on Kingsway Green for the first year until they are established

When Katherine Damsell and the Clerk met the contractor, he advised that it would be sensible to water the new planting once a week from 1st May 2025 until 31st August 2025 to help them establish themselves. The cost is £60 per visit totalling £960.

- To consider quote for new cupboard in parish council office

One of the clerk's agreed objectives is to purchase new units to house the more general parish council equipment that is currently stacked in the corner of the office. Having looked at the option available, it is proposed that a wardrobe with sliding doors (as shown below) is purchased from Ikea. The size is 200cm(w) x 66cm(d) x 201cm(h).



The cost is £375 plus £45 delivery.

The Chairman is arranging assembly free of charge.

- To consider £200 contribution towards a picture wall at Farnham Common Village Hall

Following the sad passing of Marilyn Rolfe, the trustees of Farnham Common Village Hall decided to create a history gallery along the hall's corridor walls, which they will dedicate to Marilyn at an event on 26 January 2025. All parish councillors are invited to this event which starts at 3pm.

Following discussions, the trustees would like to include some of the pictures recovered from the Stag and Hounds Public House prior to its recent refurbishment. They have asked for a £200 contribution to the costs of curating and mounting the gallery.

- To ratify the purchase of a body camera for the Community Speedwatch team

At the last parish council meeting it was agreed that the Clerk would obtain quotes for a body camera and that these

would be reviewed by councillors on email with this informal decision being ratified at the next parish council meeting.

The purchase of a Spikecam 4K body camera for £62.49 plus VAT was informally agreed and must now be ratified.

11.2 To consider the draft budget for 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

The draft budget was reviewed at the Finance Committee meeting held on 8 November 2024. The meeting agreed to recommend it to the parish council at its next meeting. A copy of the draft budget has been circulated to parish councillors separately.

11.3 To consider payments and note receipts, as per the November 2024 cashbook

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

12 Planning:

12.1 To ratify comments submitted on recent applications

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

12.2 To note recent planning decisions

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