

FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 21st MAY 2018 AT 7.30 P.M. IN FARNHAM COMMON VILLAGE HALL

Present

Mr. Trevor Clapp (Chairman)	Mr. Bob Milne
Mr. Paul Rowley	Mr. Clive Robinson
Mr. Roger Home	Mrs. Marilyn Rolfe
Mr. Richard Thomas	
Mrs. Hilda Holder – Clerk	

Sixteen members of the public including County Councillor Lin Hazell and District Councillors Dev Dhillon, David Anthony and Marlene Lewis.

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30pm. The meeting was adjourned for OPEN FORUM noted at the end of these minutes. The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

18/56/PC To elect a Chairman (and Declaration of Acceptance of Office)

Mr. Milne nominated and Mr. Home seconded Mr. Clapp for chairman. This was **agreed** by a majority with one abstention. Mr. Clapp signed his declaration of acceptance of Office.

18/57/PC To elect a Vice Chairman

Mr. Rowley nominated and Mr. Home seconded Mr. Milne as Vice Chairman. This was **agreed** unanimously.

18/58/PC Apologies for absence

Mr. Hodges, Mrs. Tipping, Mr. Baker and Mrs. Thompson.

18/59/PC To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd April 2018 and Matters Arising

The minutes were **approved** unanimously and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

18/60/PC To appoint members and review terms of reference of the following were agreed

- 60.1 Finance Committee – Mr. Hodges, Mr. Clapp, Mr. Milne, Mr. Rowley and Mrs. Rolfe.
- 60.2 Planning – all councillors
- 60.3 Open spaces working group - Mr. Hodges, Mr. Clapp, Mr. Milne, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Home, Mr. French, Mr. Frater and Ms. Read.
- 60.4 Rights of Way Liaison Group – Mr. Milne and Mr. Home.
- 60.5 Play Area working Group - Mr. Robinson, Mr. Rowley, Mr. Home and Mr. French.
- 60.6 Kingsway Green working group – Mr. Baker, Mr. Clapp and Mrs. Rolfe.
- 60.7 Community Assets Working Group – Mr. Clapp, Mr. Rowley, Mr. Milne and Mr.

Robinson.

60.8 Signage manager - Mr. Clapp nominated Mr. Robinson to this new role and this was approved.

60.9 Farnham Royal Charities – Mr. Hodges, Mr Clapp and Mrs. Rolfe.

18/61/PC To appoint the following Outside Bodies' representatives for the coming year was agreed:-

61.1 Local Area Forum – Mr. Milne and Mr. Robinson.

61.2 Farnham Common Sports Club – Mr. Clapp, Mr. Hodges and Mr. Rowley.

61.3 The Farnhams' Magazine - Mr. Home and Mr. Rowley.

61.4 The Burnham Beeches Consultative Committee – Mr. Milne and Mrs. Tipping.

61.5 South Bucks Association of Local Councils – Mr. Rowley and Mr. Clapp.

18/62/PC To agree meeting dates for 2019

The Clerk had circulated a list of dates before the meeting. These were **approved**.

18/63/PC To agree a donation of £500 to help organise the local Big Picnic Event

This was **approved**.

18/64/PC To approve the proposal for more Christmas lights

This was deferred until the June meeting.

18/65/PC To consider and agree actions recommended by the Open Spaces working group:-

65.1 To engage external services to inspect roads and monitor devolution contract. It was **agreed** that Mr. Milne should explore the possibility and costs of this. District Cllr. Lewis encourage the Council to consider using volunteers.

65.2 To engage a solicitor to write to L&Q about Ingrams and Boundary Copse accesses. A budget of up to £1,000 was **agreed** to allow the Clerk to engage a solicitor to determine the legal position and send a letter to L&Q recording it. Mrs. Rolfe noted other areas of L&Q land had vegetation issues. She would work with the Clerk to write to L&Q about these.

65.3 To agree a programme to cut back hedges under the Devolution Contract. Mr. Milne noted that several verges had overgrown into bushes particularly in Blackpond Lane and on Church Road in Farnham Royal. A suggestion had been made that such bushes be cut back by 0.5 metres either every year or every other year as the case requires. This was **agreed**.

18/66/PC Finance:

66.1 Payments as per the cashbook circulated prior to the meeting were **approved** for payment. Receipts were noted as per the cashbook.

66.2 A new Document Retention policy and Data Management policy re GDPR were **approved**

66.3 Mr. Milne advised he had reviewed the Standing Orders and Code of Conduct. The revised documents circulated to councilors before the meeting were **approved**.

66.4 The Clerk had reviewed and circulated the Asset Register, Risk assessment, Finance Regulations and circulated these prior to the meeting. These were **approved**.

66.5 The Clerk had reviewed the policies of the Council and recommended a change to the policy relating to pre application meetings to reflect what was agreed by residents at the public consultation meeting on 17th April. This was **approved**.

66.6 To review the budget for 2018-19 and ring fence reserves. This was deferred to the forthcoming Finance Committee meeting.

18/67/PC To consider a request by FCSC for a donation of £2,000 towards the destruction of the groundsman's sheds and to discuss signage

67.1 Following debate a donation of £2,000 was **agreed** on the understanding that the FCSC would start to develop a long term strategy for the Club which the Council was happy to assist with.

67.2 Mr. Thomas circulated images of three proposed signs to be placed on the building at FCSC. No objections were raised provided the Club consulted with its neighbours and fed back that consultation to a future meeting

18/68/PC Planning - To note the comments on recent Planning applications and decisions

68.1 Planning comments submitted since the last meeting were **approved**. The Chairman noted that the application to increase the number of houses on an area of the Cut Heath House site was coming before a planning committee shortly. Cllr. Robinson stated the site was Green Belt and therefore needs the Council's resistance. The Chairman referred to documents which state it was not Green Belt but a small part of the access path is on Green Belt land.

68.2 Planning decisions were noted.

18/69/PC Any Other Business / Next meeting

69.1 Mr. Rowley said he had received complaints about the implementation of the signage policy. The Clerk asked him to pass on any complaints to her. Mr. Robinson said he would liaise with the Clerk to chase up a number of responses from Estate Agents. The Clerk was asked to write to Dair house school politely asking them to remove the wooden structure outside their fence.

69.2 Mrs. Rolfe raised the issue which had recently been brought to the Clerk's attention of land and trees being marked up in a field between Blackpond Lane and the A355 alongside the footpath. Two councillors volunteered to take a closer look.

69.3 The meeting closed at 9.40pm. The next meeting would be on 25th June 2018 at 7.30pm at Farnham Royal Village Hall.

NOTES from the public open forum of the meeting

1 Mr. Browning of Parsonage Lane - Is it the Council's policy not to support any inappropriate development in the Green Belt? Chairman – Yes.

2 Mr. Browning - Where is that stated? Chairman – a printed copy of the Parish Plan is in the process of being delivered to every resident with the Farnhams Magazine and will shortly be put up on the website.

3 Mr. Browning -Does the Council have a policy to privately support development of the Green Belt? Chairman – No.

4 Mr. Browning - with reference to the minutes of the 23rd October 2017 meeting, where under planning the chairman advised that he and the clerk had met developers looking to build up to 150 new houses on green belt within the Parish, could the chairman please advise the name of the piece of green belt he met the developers about as it wasn't mentioned? The Clerk's notes do not record the Chairman's response as there was some confusion at this point.

5 Mr Browning - Within the same minutes, the Chairman advised that the SBDC had requested site nominations for the Brownfield Register and it would be prudent for the Council to come up with some suitable sites. The Chairman's own suggestion was to build new flats over the Broadway tyre garage and the adjoining village car park! Fortunately the rest of the Council vetoed this suggestion.

Cllr. Rowley was to co-ordinate the Council's response to SBDC's brownfield register consultation. Nothing was noted in the November minutes about what had been submitted. He had recently asked the Clerk for details and two of the sites were in Green Belt namely the Dell in Farnham Royal and land south of Elm Close. In respect of the latter the Clerk's email had said that the Council did not know if it was a brownfield site or not. It was interesting and very odd that SBDC rejected both sites. Chairman – this was a consultation that arose before the Parish Plan was finalised, all Councillors were consulted and the area of land south of Elm Close was nominated with the caveat that the Parish Council wasn't sure if it was a brownfield site or not. SBDC either concluded it wasn't or it didn't meet their criteria for other reasons.

6 Mr. Browning asked the Council to comment on the fact they met with developers on 11th October 2017 concerning land south of Elm Close and then submitted the brownfield nomination for land south of Elm Close. The Clerk said there had been no correlation between the two. They were two different pieces of land. The land south of Elm Close nominated was a small parcel of land where the sewage works had been proposed. Berkeley Homes option was over Foulds Fields adjacent to but south of that parcel of land. She offered Mr. Browning her full co-operation to satisfy any concerns he may have.

7 Mr. Browning - Residents at the meeting on 17th April had stated 100% that no pre-application discussions should be had with developers if it concerned Green Belt land but the notes of the meeting didn't reflect that. The Clerk responded that although it was clear that an overwhelming number of people took that view and that was agreed – which agreement she had recorded – nevertheless several of those present had put up a different view and she had recorded those too.

8 John Attree of Parsonage Lane said that although he had not been present at the meeting on 17th April there was a large body of opinion that something was going on that was not recorded. He felt there was a lack of accuracy in minute taking and that behind residents backs the Council was in some way trying to get buildings built on Green Belt land. The Council would have a job convincing residents that what it was saying was reliable. He asked the Council to restate its belief that the Green Belt exists to stop Slough's expansion and prevent urban sprawl and no further development. The Chairman agreed that was absolutely right which was why the Council had developed its policy in the Parish Plan and was now championing a Neighbourhood Plan. The Green Belt was under threat and arguments needed to be mounted to save it.

9 Mr. Browning said that residents were terrified of the threat of 150 new houses on Foulds Fields. The Chairman had made no mention of that at the meeting on 17th April. He had in fact promoted his personal view that development was inevitable and we all might as well help the developers. The Chairman said that everyone had the same view and he could only apologise if the minutes didn't tie up well. His view was that everyone should work together. He did not accept residents' suspicions. Councillors

all try their utmost to have a forum that will be beneficial in helping fight against erosion of the Green Belt. The Council was here to work with and not against residents. Cllr. Rowley added that the whole point of the meeting on 17th April was to get the residents views. The decision had been taken at Council that this was an issue for the parish.

10 Mr Browning asked why the content of the Chairman's presentation at the meeting of 17th April had not been specific when the Council knew more details about Berkeley Homes' plans. The Chairman said he had felt there were more global issues to discuss at this stage – that is whether the Council should talk to developers before any application is put in front of us. Mr. Browning expressed his disappointment that the Council didn't realise that residents wanted to hear the specifics.

11 Mrs. Cymz asked the meaning of the word 'inappropriate' in the policy. The Chairman explained that the word and its meaning was set out in the NPPF which sets out policies resisting developments which harm the Green Belt function.

12 Mr. Attree asked whether s.106 contributions could have the effect of making something which was 'inappropriate' become 'appropriate'. The Chairman said that there was no hidden agenda – the Council did not promote development of the Green Belt and the tests in the NPPF were clear. S106 was not a mitigating factor but would follow an application.

13 District Cllr. Dhillon emphasised that the Parish Council was only a consultative body with very little say in the planning process; that the Green Belt was under pressure from Slough and Central Government and encouraged all present to take part in the Neighbourhood Planning process. The Chairman added that if a Neighbourhood Plan was to be prepared there would need to be a forensic examination of areas of Green Belt to test them against the NPPF.

14 Tristan Miles asked if it was possible to have brownfield sites in Green Belt. Cllr. Dhillon said that brownfield doesn't have to be in a built area – it can be adjacent to it in Green Belt. He did not think there were now any brownfield sites left unidentified in the Farnhams.

This concludes the meeting.