

## Minutes of the Fawkham Annual Parish Meeting 2021

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021

1. Laura Evans, Chair of Fawkham Parish Council welcomed those attending:  
**Present:** Cllr Laura Evans, Cllr Alun Evans, PCSO Chloe Randall, Gerald Cramp (representing St Mary's Churchwarden), Cllr/District Cllr Maxine Fothergill.
2. **Apologies:** Cllr Duncan Harker, Cllr Jolene Truder, District Councillor Lynda Harrison, District Cllr Faye Parkin, Kent Cllr David Brazier, Jackie West KCC Community Warden, Mandy Bridges Head Teacher Fawkham C.E Primary school, John Abbott Headteacher Steephill School.
3. It was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr A Evans that the minutes of the 2019 meeting would be agreed and signed off by the Chair.
4. Cllr Laura Evans reported on the work of Fawkham Parish Council during the past year. The main areas covered were:

**Lockdown Initiatives** such as a volunteer scheme to help those in need/ self-isolating, and community initiatives such as Fawkham Rocks and VE Day commemorations.

**Planning. Twenty applications were considered during the year.** Cllr L Evans spoke at the Salts Farm planning appeal. The Parish Council were able to get Fawkham Manor Hospital listed in November 2020. The first planning application was refused and the second application is currently under consideration. The Parish Council have been in contact with Laura Trott MP to discuss planning in the gGreen Belt. A meeting is to be arranged later in the year.

**Neighbourhood Plan.** A steering group has been established, following agreement to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan in December, and work has progressed on the evidence base.

**Design and implementation of a new parish council website**

**Parish in Bloom** for which Fawkham was awarded a Silver Award.

**Footpaths.** Parish Council and volunteer residents have been walking the footpaths in the village to ensure that they are properly signed and easy to access.

**Listing of war memorial.** The war memorial was decorated for Remembrance Sunday with poppies knitted by local residents.

**Refurbishment of the Village.** Using a variety of funds the Parish Council totally refurbished the Village Hall during lockdown.

**Next year** there are plans to: continue the work on the Neighbourhood Plan, work with KCC to review the speed limits following traffic counts on Valley Road, hold regular coffee mornings in the Village Hall and to represent Fawkham in the ongoing Local Plan.

Cllr L Evans then summarised the written reports for those who could not attend. These were:

**District Cllr Faye Parkin.** Supported residents with issues such as burglary. Has been working with the Parish Council on trying to prevent fly tipping in the village. Currently working on reviewing the Fireworks law.

**District Cllr Lynda Harrison.** Worked setting up the volunteer team in West Kingsdown during lockdown. Has been supporting the Community Cupboard food bank. As part of the litter picking initiative litter picked with her daughter.

**District Cllr Maxine Fothergill.** Was present at the meeting and presented the following: The biggest challenge has been using Zoom. The most positive aspect has been the heart-warming support from the residents. The biggest achievement was the Village Hall refurbishment. Cllr Fothergill was very proud of the Parish in Bloom although she is disappointed that the Parish Council will not be doing it again this year.

**Kent County Cllr David Brazier.** David was recently returned in the elections in May, with highways, fly tipping and clean Kent on the agenda. He has now become cabinet member for Highways and Transport.

**Jackie West – Community Warden.** Jackie has been working in the community during the covid pandemic. She has found it very rewarding to see how the residents have supported each other.

**Chloe Randall PCSO.** Both Chloe and her colleague Louise started during the Covid pandemic. This has meant that it has been more difficult than usual to develop rela-

tionships in the community. They have been working closely with Jackie West and they were able to support vulnerable people in the community. Fawkham is one of their quietest areas. She encourages residents to report incidents to Kent Police.

### **Mandy Bridges Head Teacher of Fawkham Primary School**

The biggest challenge has been ensuring continuity of education during the pandemic. The most positive aspect has been to see the support provided by parents. Due to the sheer hard work and professionalism of the teachers the children's education has remained of a high standard.

### **Gerald Cramp representing St Mary's Churchwarden**

The biggest challenge has been communicating with parishioners during the pandemic, especially as Rev. Adele Barker had only just joined the Parish. There is a real digital divide between those who can use technology (Zoom etc) and those who cannot. It has been difficult to engage with those who are not online. The Church has successfully conducted services via Zoom and You Tube. The major concern is the need to reengage with those who they have lost contact with. The value of community and caring for neighbours was learned once again.

Full copies of all reports can be found on FPC's website under Annual Parish Meeting.