



FAWKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held remotely by video link following agreed legislation on Thursday 21st January 2021 at 7.30 pm to transact the following business.

Laura Marchant
Clerk to Fawkham Parish Council

Members of the Parish Council:

Cllr Laura Evans (Chair), Cllr Alun Evans (Vice Chair), Cllr Duncan Harker, Cllr Maxine Fothergill, Cllr Jolene Truder

Parish Council Meeting Agenda

During the period of Government restrictions due to Coronavirus, agenda items are being limited to those that are critical and/or can be actioned under the restrictions.

1. Apologies for Absence:
Cllr J.Truder

2. Declarations of Interest for items relating to the Agenda:
Councillors to make any declarations that may be required by virtue of the Parish Council's adopted Code of Conduct.
None

3. Members of the Public:
The Council's meetings are open to the public, however, only the first half hour is given for members of the public to raise any matters and partake in discussions. There are no further opportunities for members of the public to speak during the full Parish Council meeting. At the end of the agenda items the public will be asked to leave if the council will be discussing confidential matters.
Apologies received from Cllr F.Parkin and Cllr L.Harrison who were both in other SDC meetings.
KCCllr D.Brazier and one member of the public were present.

Comment: MOP asked if anyone had any updates on the condition of the person involved in the recent RTA on Valley Road, and what was being done in terms of traffic calming. Cllr L.Evans responded that she had heard they were doing better than expected after such a bad accident, and outlined the work the PC is undertaking with KCC Highways on the Highways Improvement Plan for Fawkham

Comment: MOP asked if FPC had committed to the NP. Cllr L.Evans responded that the PC unanimously agreed to create a NP and that this had been communicated on the website and via Facebook. MOP asked questions regarding the reasons for creating a NP, and .

Cllr D.Harker gave an overview of the PC's reasons as to how they came to the unanimous decision to create a NP.

MOP asked if anything was being done about an alleged unauthorised development. Cllr L.Evans advised that a Planning Enforcement officer had attended the site but could not see the development. MOP said it was quite obvious where the development was. Cllr L.Evans will send further information to the enforcement team.

KCCllr Brazier mentioned that he was looking into whether funds may be available for an electric charging point to be installed in Fawkham, if a suitable location could be found.

4. Planning applications:

Ref: SE/20/03772/HOUSE

Site: West Minch, Castle Hill, Hartley, KENT, DA3 7BG

Development: Erection of a summerhouse/storage building

Comment: FPC has no objections and asks SDC to ensure SDC Green Belt policy is adhered to. The building is to be located more than 5m from the main house and is within the size allowed according to SDC planning policy GB3.

5. Planning decisions/updates/notices:

Appeal Ref: APP/G2245/W/20/3260956

SDC Ref: SE/20/00882/OUT

Site: Salts Farm Depot, Fawkham Road, Fawkham, Kent

Development: Outline planning application for the erection of 26 dwellings with some matters reserved.

Update: the appeal start date of 9th March was noted

SDC ref 20/03642/LBCALT.

Site: Fawkham Manor

Comment: Since the agenda was published both SDC's Conservation Officer and the Victorian Society have submitted comments under the Listed Building Consent which is due to be determined on 5th February.

Comment: Development at Halehurst, Fawkham Green road, ref 20/03036/HOUSE has been granted.

Comment: Several planning enforcement investigations are ongoing and updates are being sought by DCllr F.Parkin and DCllr M. Fothergill.

6. Approve Minutes:

Proposed: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th January 2021, as attached.

Resolved: It was proposed by Cllr L.Evans and seconded by Cllr D.Harker to approve the minutes.

7. Matters Arising:

Matters arising relating to the Minutes, not on this agenda.

None.

8. Finance Approval
 Expenditure and Income - details tabled.
 Approval of cheques and payments

Resolved: Expenditure and Income reviewed, invoices reviewed and approved by all. Online payments will be approved and authorised as per FPC financial regulations.
 Comment: Cllr L.Evans informed the PC that the clerk had reclaimed a VAT refund of £3114 and that a grant of £900 had been applied for and received from KCC to pay for the development and first year's cost of the new website.

9. Budget and Precept 2021/22
 Proposed: To discuss and agree the annual budget for 2021/22 and the consequent level of precept to be set

Resolved: Cllr L.Evans summarised the budget and precept document which had been examined in detail in November's meeting, including the calculations used to obtain the new precept figure. It was explained that SDC had set the tax base slightly lower than the previous year due to extra relief funds needed for the pandemic. All agreed to set the precept at £25,855.

Cllr L.Evans explained that the original budget had shown a small negative figure for Income minus Expenditure, however with the £900 grant from KCC for the new website this figure is now positive.

Payment list summary

Fawkham Parish Council January 2021 Payment List				
Date	Cheque No./ Online payment	Payee/For	Amount	Entry Number
21/01/20	Online	I.marchant expenses - Zoom subscription - Oct-Jan	£57.56	70 - 73
21/01/20	Online	I.marchant expenses - Lebra phone subscription	£15.00	74-76
21/01/20	Online	clerk salary	£468.39	77
		Total	£540.95	

10. Highways Improvement Plan
 Update

Comment: Cllr L.Evans gave the public attending an overview of HIPs. Cllr L.Evans informed the PC that we had recently heard back from KCC who plan to do a desktop study and site visit regarding the speed limits and to undertake further traffic surveys. They will also be reviewing signage the whole way along Valley Road. It was concluded that this will be carried out in April with the findings reviewed and fed back to the PC at the end of May. Cllr D.Harker asked if KCC will also survey the weight of vehicles using Valley Road. Cllr L.Evans confirmed that this would be the case.

The PC discussed communicating the HIP in more detail to local residents explaining the issues and proposed solutions in the HIP. It was agreed to communicate details using the website and Facebook ahead of February's meeting, asking for questions and comments by email which could be discussed at that meeting, which would have a focus on Highways issues.

11. Highways Maintenance Issues

Update on flooding/drainage work

Comments: Cllr L.Evans offered her thanks to resident Lawrence Moss, who helped KCC Highways relocate two gullies and a chamber which drain into a soakaway in the field south of Fawkham Primary school, which were not included on their records. These have now been cleared and should hopefully help to assist in reducing flooding along Valley Road.

At the Sun Hill junction along Valley Road KCC have advised that the line running from the last gully across the road to the soakaway may have been damaged, which would hinder the drainage of flooding. Work will be carried out to investigate and excavate the carriageway to repair/replace any damaged sections identified; this work is currently programmed for 28th January.

Thames Water has also informed the PC that the manholes which were covered over during the resurfacing of Valley Road have now been uncovered and work will be carried out on the 11th February to remove the tree roots which are blocking the drains in that location.

12. Neighbourhood Plan:

Proposed:

- To update on actions taken since the last meeting
- To discuss and agree the Terms of Reference for the Steering Group (previously circulated)
- To agree the initial appointments to the Steering Group
- Outline of next steps

Comment: Cllr L.Evans provided an update to the PC on the progress and next steps of creating a NP for Fawkham. An application to SDC has been made to designate the whole parish as the area covered by the NP and neighbouring councils have been advised of FPC's intention to create a NP.

Resolved: The terms of reference for the steering group were discussed and proposed for agreement by Cllr L.Evans, all present agreed.

Resolved: Initial appointments to the NP Steering Group were discussed and proposed for agreement by Cllr L.Evans, all present agreed

Comment: Cllr L.Evans informed the PC that the next steps were to hold the first meeting of the Steering Group, to create a high level project timeline and other project management processes and to start the process of gathering information for the evidence base.

Note: DCllr L.Harrison entered the meeting and confirmed that West Kingsdown PC had been advised that Fawkham are preparing a NP.

13. Planning for the future white paper

Proposed: To discuss any update received from Laura Trott MP in response to our letter of October 2020/agreement to chase for a response

Resolved: As no response has been received since the holding reply of 1st November, it was voted and agreed by all present to send an email to chase for a response by Laura Trott MP.

14. Community Ideas

Proposed: To discuss and agree community ideas for the village

Resolved: A discussion was held initiated by Cllr D.Harker who informed the PC of various 'days' coming up in the year such as World Wildlife day, recycling day etc. Various ideas were suggested for helping to increase community spirit and provide activities for children and adults during lockdown. Ideas included grow something you can eat, grow some wild flowers, draw/paint a landmark or scene in Fawkham, Easter -themed painted stones, tallest sunflower/runner bean. Cllr M.Fothergill said agreed to publicise the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch which was taking place at the weekend. Cllr L.Evans offered to run a runner bean competition in March/April.

Cllr L.Evans suggested small prizes and costs could be funded from the community event budget. DCllr L.Harrison mentioned that anyone can collect compost for free from the compost bins at West Kingstown burial grounds.

15. Parish in Bloom

Proposed: To discuss and agree whether to enter Parish in Bloom in 2021 with a fee of £50, plus associated budget, including a discussion on potential initiatives/actions.

Resolved: After a discussion of the pros and cons of entering Parish in Bloom in 2021, it was decided that due to uncertainty of what actual community activities could take place to contribute to the Parish in Bloom portfolio, and the fact that it would now be quite hard for schools to take part, FPC would not enter the competition this year but would revisit it next year in 2022.

16. Chair and Councillors' reports:

To note any items not listed on the agenda

None

17. Open Forum for Councillors to raise matters to be placed on the next agenda:

Members are asked to consider agenda items for the next meeting. The details of the agenda item will be sent to the Clerk by the Thursday (one week) before the published meeting. Late details will not guarantee inclusion on the proposed agenda.

Note: Cllr A.Evans mentioned the HIP being discussed in detail at the next meeting

18. Dates for the year 2020:

Parish Council Meetings -

Thursday 18th February 2021, 7.30pm

Thursday 18th March 2021, 7.30pm

The Annual Council Meeting (ACM) will be held once face to face meetings resume.

All meetings will be held virtually via Zoom until face to face meetings resume.