

FAWKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Fawkham Village Hall, Valley Road Fawkham on **Thursday 18th July 2019 at 7.30pm.**

Members of the Parish Council:

Cllr L Evans (Chairman), Cllr Duncan Harker, Cllr A Evans, Cllr M Pearsall and Cllr M Fothergill.

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Pearsall

Planning:

SE/19/01823/FUL Land adjacent to Little Scudders Scudders Hill:

Demolition of existing stable building. Erection of a detached single storey dwelling house. Replacement entrance gates and associated landscaping. Members noted a comment has been sent to SDC.

Members of the Public: There were no members of the public present

Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations declared

Approved Minutes:

To approve as a correct record the MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th June 2019, It was proposed through the Chair that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting and any recommendations thereby implemented.

Matters arising:

Lorry Watch

The scheme had been approved and the Chairman would circulate a timetable for the members and clerk to sign up to taking part.

Skips

There had been one skip identified using the Valley Road the matter had been referred to the Skip Company for them to now take disciplinary action.

Hedge along front side of Village Hall wall:

It had been requested that the Clerk contact the Contractor and ask for a quote to cut back the hedge from the front wall as it was touching the wall. The contractor would need to cut a 12" slice to bring the hedge away from the wall, this is estimated to cost day rate of £360, work was expected to last 1-2 days maximum. Clerk to forward information to the next Hall meeting for discussion there were currently no signs of damp against the hall wall.

Clerk's conditions of employment:

The Clerk formally accepted terms and conditions and returned duly signed her contract with pay adjustments as discussed at the June meeting.

RECEIVED

Pension:

Cllr A Evans continued to work on the NEST pension Scheme to enable the Clerk to join a pension Scheme as agreed at June's Parish council meeting. Grievance and appraisal policy to be looked at and reported back to Full council.

Highways improvement plan:

Cllr L Evans had previously circulated the completed Highways improvement plan to KCC they have acknowledged receipt of the form and have asked what financial contribution the Parish Council would be prepared to make. Following discussions at last month's Parish council it was formally proposed by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Harker that Fawkham Parish council would be able to contribute £3,000 for the gates if this was not covered by CIL money (the Clerk continued to chase SDC for a decision) with an additional cost of up to £500 be paid for 7.5 tonne signage.

ALL IN FAVOUR.

Trees on Green:

Cllr A Evans to chase the contractor for prices for trees to be surveyed on the green opposite Rising Sun.

Correspondence:

A.Hartley Parish Council

A letter had been received from Hartley Parish Council which was circulated to members. Members agreed that a joint working party to explore Hartley and Fawkham being part of the AONB would be a good idea. Members agreed that the Clerk would make contact with Hartley and express the Council's interest in a joint project. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

B.Citizens advice:

A letter had been received asking members for consideration to make a donation to the Bureau. Councillors noted the contents of the letter but were not minded to make a donation at this stage. **RECEIVED**

C) Code of Conduct training

The following had been received from SDC Legal department

Following on from the May elections, I now intend to arrange a training session for Parish and Town Members in relation to Codes of Conduct and Standards.

SDC expect this to take place on 17th September in the Council Offices, with a 6pm start. SDC will provide further details nearer the time. **RECEIVED**

D) Road Works _ changes to Scratchers Lane and Gorse Hill junction:

The purpose of the scheme is to improve road safety at the junction and reduce collisions at this location. The main issues at the junction are confusing layout and lack of conspicuous warning signage. The scheme will improve the layout of the junction by remodelling the traffic islands, changing the entry point for traffic turning right from the A20 into Scratchers Lane, introduction of yellow backed give way signs and further enhancements to the signage at the junction. This is also an opportunity to provide information signs on the A20 to HGV drivers of the weight limit in Fawkham.

KCC are looking to start construction of the scheme during August/September 2019 and would welcome your views any comments. The works will be undertaken using a road closure of Scratchers Lane between the A20 Gorse Hill and Gabriel Spring Road and two-way signals on the A20. During the road closure, traffic will be diverted along Scratchers Lane > Fawkham Road > A20 London Road > Scratchers Lane. Signage will also be included advising lorries of a weight restriction for lorries, to avoid then travelling down through Fawkham on unsuitable roads for their size and weight. **NOTED**

Risk Assessment:

The Risk Register was circulated to members and it was proposed through the Chair that the document be formally adopted. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

Village Hall report:

Update received from the treasurer and Chairman of the Village Hall. The treasurer reported no major changes from the last month's report, except one or two payments for the hiring of the hall. There had been only one volunteer step forward to offer to help the Hall Committee, but with no position of authority. Was agreed that Cllr Harker and Cllr L Evans would represent the Parish Council at the next meeting on 8th August where the matter would be discussed further. Members would also discuss the kitchen and the future of the Hall Committee at the next meeting and update members at the next PC meeting in August. It was hoped that Cllr Harker would speak to Jenny Bradbury from Communities Rural Kent and ask for guidance as no new committee members had come forward.

Action Plan:

Gates:

This was discussed as matters arising.

Floral Fawkham

Cllr Fothergill commented she had met with Kent Wildlife Trust regarding a wild flower planting in Fawkham. The matter was discussed with concerns over long term maintenance with contractors raised. Cllr Fothergill commented that the Trust will come and give talks and it was agreed that it may be something that could be incorporated into the open sessions that were hoped to be planned for October for members of the

public to attend. Talks would cost £70 per session. The council were informed. Leaflets were circulated regarding encouraging wildlife in rural gardens and bug hotels. Cllr L Evans commented that when the green opposite the Rising sun had received tidying and re varnishing of benches and electricity box more bulbs would be planted at the end of benches. Cllr Fothergill commented she had a meeting with RHS on 5th August to discuss the South East in Bloom competition that they organise.

AGREED

VE DAY

VE day celebrations was also a future project that would be placed on the August Agenda - looking to involve the local schools

Walks in Fawkham

This is something that could be publicised at the Open session and contact Mr Barry from the Ramblers Association who may be able to assist when a date and format has been agreed. These would be nice in the Springtime.

Cleaning Group

The village green outside the Rising Sun would be tackled as the next area, including benches and electricity box. Clerk to look into obtaining quotes to remove the small front bench under the electricity wires.

Quiz:

Cllr Harker and Cllr A Evans expressed an interest in organising one for the village perhaps in January February time.

Website:

The Clerk had scanned and emailed the copies of declarations of office and these would be placed on the website. It was noted that Cllr Pearsall had not fully completed his declarations and the Clerk would now post these to him to complete.

Clerk would also check the time of meetings being published on the website. The new time is 7.30pm

Cllr Fothergill would provide an email address for the webpage but all calls to her from the public would be made through the Clerk using the Parish phone number.

Finance - Expenditure and Income:

It was noted that there had been no income in July

It was proposed though the Chair that cheques totalling £821.08 should be paid.

ALL IN FAVOUR

Annual return as the Turnover was less than £25,000 the external auditors have offered an exempt return. The Chairman and the Clerk duly signed the exemption certificate and the Clerk would post to the LK little John auditors.

RECEIVED

Fawkham through the ages:

Members are to discuss the possibility of this event being organised and how it might run. To be placed on August Agenda.

Christmas lights:

James Hollands had kindly supplied the details of the company we who supplied the lights purchased by the Parish Council in 2016 for the tree on the green outside the rising sun. Previously 30 metres of multi coloured led string lights were purchased along with cabling for the sum of £152.92 there would be additional costs an up to date price and also for installation. Looking back through papers the installation was £400, The Clerk would look into the webpage further for more up to date prices to be discussed at the August or September meeting.

AGREED

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

Community transport:

Cllr Fothergill would get information about the Community hopper bus that could be used when visiting the Cottage day centre so that as a Council we could advertise to residents.

Mobile Library

Cllr L Evans will visit the library to find out more so that as a Council we can advertise the service to residents.

Speed Limits outside the Primary School:

CLr Fothergill reported she would be looking at the Speed limit and requesting a reduction of the speed of cars passing the school particularly during the morning and afternoons when children are arriving and leaving school to 20MPH (as District Councillor)

Dates for 2019/20

Parish Council Meeting Thursday 15th August 2019
Parish Council Meeting Thursday 19th September 2019
Parish Council Meeting Thursday 17th October 2019
Parish Council Meeting Thursday 21st November 2019
Parish Council Meeting Thursday 19th December 2019 TBC
Parish Council Meeting Thursday 16th January 2020
Parish Council Meeting Thursday 20th February 2020
Parish Council Meeting Thursday 19th March 2020
Annual Parish Council Meeting Thursday 16th April 2020

Meeting closed at 21.45