



FAWKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held remotely by video link following agreed legislation on Tuesday 15th December 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, 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:

Comment: Cllr A.Evans was absent for the start of the meeting but entered the meeting at 8.15pm.

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.

Comment: Cllr L.Evans declared an interest in reclaiming expenses in the finance item.

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.

Comment: D Cllr L.Harrison and KCllr D.Brazier were both present at the meeting. One member of the public entered the meeting at 8.10pm. D Cllr F.Parkin sent her apologies as for not attending due to internet issues.

Comment: Cllr L.Evans read out an update from DCllr F.Parkin in her absence.

1. Review of Firework Law & Chinese Lantern Ban. After chasing this up with Laura Trott MP, Cllr F.Parkin received an update that with so much man power dealing with Covid and Brexit issues at the moment and so much Legislation to go through this a topic will receive her urgent attention early 2021.
2. Fawkham Wildlife Group. After Cllr F.Parkin having regular talks with her contact at Kent Wildlife Trust, Fawkham Wildlife Group will be launched sometime in January

for residents/schools to join and showcase the efforts they have made to support and engage with wildlife, birds, insects and bees.

3. Fawkham Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. After Cllr F.Parkin received structural advice from Neighbourhood Watch she has decided to launch Fawkham Neighbourhood Watch early 2021 after she has held discussions with FPC and David Brazier.

KCCllr D.Brazier gave an overview of how lorries will be stacked in required due to Brexit from January 2021.

4. Planning applications:

Site: Halehurst Fawkham Green Road Fawkham KENT DA3 8NW

Development: Extension into the loft of the main house, two dormers to front elevation. Rear hip to gable.

Ref: 20/03036/HOUSE

Note: Whilst FPC have no objections they would expect SDC to ensure all policies, plans and drawings are adhered to and that the dormer windows are below the existing ridge line.

5. Planning decisions/updates/notices:

Ref: 20/02218/HOUSE

Site: Crispins, Valley Road Fawkham

Granted

Noted

Cllr L.Evans informed the PC that the appeal for the Salts Farm application will now only be based on green belt approval.

6. Planning Enforcement

To discuss current planning enforcement cases.

Comment: Cllr L.Evans informed the PC that DCllrs F.Parkin and M.Fothergill have raised/chased a number of planning enforcement issues at SDC and are awaiting full responses .

7. Approve Minutes:

Proposed: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 19th November 2020, as attached.

Resolved: It was proposed through the Chair that the minutes be approved and signed by the Chair. All Agreed. Signing will take place at the next face to face meeting of the Council

8. Matters Arising:

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

Comment: Cllr L.Evans informed the PC that;

- Additional Christmas lights had been purchased for the Christmas tree and installed
- The PC are participating in the advent windows on display in the local area, ours will be displayed this Friday the 18th December in the window of the Village Hall
- KCCllr D.Brazier had looked into the possibility of Fawkham Parish being added to the electric charging point scheme however it is too late currently. KCCllr D.Brazier hopes

that KCC will have some more funding next year to allow more points to be installed in Kent.

9. 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.

Note: Cllrs D.Harker and M.Fothergill agreed to ring Lloyd's Bank to try and resolve the

Payment list summary

Fawkham Parish Council December 2020 Payment List				
Date	Cheque No./ Online payment	Payee/For	Amount	Entry Number
15/12/20	Online	Clerk Salary	£468.39	60
15/12/20		R.H gardening services - 3 sites cutting	£200.00	61
15/12/20		R.H gardening services - final leaf clearance	£105.00	62
15/12/20		G.Cooke Fire door installation	£815.00	63
15/12/20		G.Cooke Manhole	£430.00	64
15/12/20		L.Evans expenses - scarecrow presents	£25.50	65
15/12/20		L.Evans expenses - advent window	£28.83	66
15/12/20		L.Evans expenses - stationary NP leaflets stamps	£44.90	67
15/12/20		L.Evans expenses - stationary NP leaflets instaprint	£37.16	68
15/12/20		Xmas lights - L.Evans expenses	£99.99	69
		Total	£2254.77	

online access issues.

10. Highways Maintenance Issues

Updates including Three Gates Road and Valley Road resurfacing

Comment: Cllr L.Evans updated the PC on current highways maintenance issues.

- Cllr L.Evans advised that DCllr F.Parkin had asked FPC to look into the possibility of Three Gates Road being resurfaced. Photos were submitted by Cllr J.Truder and after a visit from Kent Highways they decided that the road was not bad enough for resurfacing but that some pot holes will be addressed. Cllr L.Evans will chase KCC with regards to answers to the questions re WigWags.
- There has been no further update with regards to the 2021/2022 HIP.
- Cllr L.Evans provided an update on the flooding issues. The road will be closed December 12-13th to investigate back from the soak-away to try to find the gully/drain believed to be sited south of the school.

- Valley Road resurfacing that took place was sub-standard in execution. Large areas of new surface stripping from the old surface. Attempts have been made to rectify but it was deemed too cold/wet to do. Road condition is now worse than before resurfacing in places and may present risks to users. A further email has been sent to urgently flag with KCC and a response is awaited. KCCllr D.Brazier agreed to chase a response if Cllr L.Evans does not hear back.

11. Neighbourhood Plan

Proposed: To discuss whether, based on the feedback received and research into the concept, FPC proceeds with the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan, and the resulting increase to precept required. Discuss next steps

Note: This agenda item was proposed by Cllr L.Evans to be moved to after agenda item 14, seconded by Cllr D.Harker, to allow all Cllrs to be present. This was agreed.

Cllr L.Evans had circulated a document with an overview of the work and local community engagement that has already taken place. A leaflet had been distributed to all houses in the village in November which outlined what a NP is, the benefits and the implications, including cost. Three Facebook posts were made asking residents to look out for the leaflet, two emails were sent to Fawkham residents on the PC distribution list, and two subsequent Zoom meetings for residents were held on the 3rd and 10th of December to discuss the idea, answer questions about it and listen to residents comments and views. 12 letters/emails/messages were received from households in favour of preparing a plan, and four from residents objecting to the idea.

Cllr D.Harker summarised his view of the PC creating a NP. He said that he was personally in favour of development and the village moving forward but only if those developments are considered. He stated that he was in favour of creating a NP as he feels it will give residents a better voice and anything that can provide this is worth creating, although the amount and cost of work creating a NP is not forgotten, the positives outweigh the negatives.

Cllr M.Fothergill summarised her view of the PC creating a NP. She stated that she was personally in favour of creating a NP and felt that a NP would be good for the Village.

Cllr J.Truder stated that progress cannot be stopped but it should however be in keeping and sympathetic to the surroundings.

Cllr A.Evans discussed some of the negative feedback that had been received in response to creating a NP:

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- Two letters of objection/concern were received from the principal land owners' family
- Comments were received that a NP would add an additional level of bureaucracy and would be a waste of money. If the NP is to go ahead for Fawkham Cllr A.Evans stated that the PC should always have this in mind and ensure that value is being added and that it is not just an additional level of bureaucracy; the PC must convince residents they are getting value for their council tax.
- Comments were received from the principal land owner in the village with concerns on the timing of creating a NP. The PC are however at this stage asking for feedback from residents only.

Cllr L.Evans provided an overview of her thoughts on the creation of a NP. She stated that she thinks a NP is a good idea but that we need to get enough people actively involved

and hopefully hold face to face meetings. She had some concerns over cost/time. She informed the PC that we now have been advised of the tax base used to calculate Council Tax which is very slightly down from last year but only makes a very small difference by a matter of pence to the Band D figure.

Cllr D.Harker said that the community survey carried out in 2019 had a 62% engagement rate and he results followed a similar theme. This should give the PC good assurance that it understands the “temperature” of the village.

Cllr A.Evans also thinks the PC are in tune with the village and stated that the PC needs to deliver if it raises Council Tax in order to receive the required 50% “yes” vote in a referendum.

Cllr M.Fothergill felt confident the PC would get support from the village during the time the NP is created, especially once the PC is able to actively engage more with the village through face to face meetings.

Resolved: A vote was held and it was unanimously agreed and carried by all Cllrs to go ahead with creating a NP.

Cllr L.Evans stated that in January’s meeting the budget and precept will be discussed greater depth.

Clerk will email SDC to inform them of the PC’s decision to create a NP. Residents will also be informed of the decision via Facebook, emails and the Fawkham website page. Cllr L.Evans will contact Hartley PC to inform them of the decision.

12. Grounds Contracts re-pitching

Proposed: To discuss quotations received (see below) and agree a grounds contractor for 2021/2022

- Quote A - General maintenance £395, Additional Visit £175, Grass cutting £200 (All work + VAT)
- Quote B - General maintenance £360, Additional Visit £340, Grass cutting £95 (VAT not applicable)
- Quote C - General maintenance £185, Additional Visit £110, Grass cutting £100 (VAT not applicable)

Resolved: It was agreed and seconded by all to continue the contract with RH Garden Maintenance (Quote C). They provided the most competitive quote and the PC have generally been happy with their previous work, with a couple of items on the work schedule to be discussed with them.

Note: Public member entered at 8.10pm

13. Fencing (adjacent to school path)

To discuss

Comment: Cllr D.Harker reported that he had met with G.Cooke and they had discussed the fencing. It was agreed to try and get G.Cooke to measure and provide a quote in January for the fence works.

Note: Cllr A.Evans entered at 8.15pm

14. Chair and Councillors reports:

To note any items not listed on the agenda

Comment: Cllr L.Evans informed the PC that all CIL to date has been spent and a CIL report has been submitted for 2019/2020. DCllrs are chasing SDC with regards to outstanding CIL money owed for Trinity House. The Clerk has also recently attended a CIL training course.

Cllr L.Evans was recently contacted by Cllr L.Manston of Ash-cum Ridley PC to look to build PC links over common issues.

15. 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 cannot guarantee inclusion on the proposed agenda.

None

16. Dates for the year 2020:

Parish Council Meetings -

Thursday 21st January 2021, 7.30pm

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.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.