

FAWKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 16th January 2020 at 7.30 pm.

Members of the Parish Council:

Cllr Laura Evans (Chair), Cllr Alun Evans (Vice Chair), Cllr Duncan Harker, Cllr Maxine Fothergill, one vacancy

Planning Agenda

Planning applications:

Planning decisions/updates:

Status of caravans at Eureka and The Cabin at Woodlands activity centre as permanent residential addresses. Issues continue to be investigated by Planning Enforcement
Resolved: Cllr L. Evans to draft letter to SDC planning manager regarding Council Tax and planning consent.

Cross Cottages 19/03193/CONVAR: retrospective application re hedges. Noted

Resolved: SDC to be contacted regarding the CiL payment for one of the houses.

West Rays: single story extension: Refused. Planning status of brick wall and gates.
Noted

Parish Council Meeting Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence:

None

2. Clerk recruitment and co-option of new Councillor:

The Chair was pleased to announce that our new Parish Clerk is Laura Marchant. Laura lives in the village, and the committee welcomed her on board. Laura can be contacted via email fawkhampc@gmail.com, tel: 07503651138 or via post at Hillside Cottage, Castle Hill, Fawkham, DA3 7BQ

No councillor applications received before the close of business 10th January and therefore the date has been extended to the 24th January. This post has been advertised via the FPC website, noticeboards and Fawkham Community facebook group.

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.

No members of public present. Apologies received from Cllr L.Harrison and Cllr F.Parkin.

4. 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 adopt-ed Code of Conduct.

No declarations of interest.

5. Approved Minutes:

To approve as a correct record the MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th December 2019, as attached.

Resolved: Minutes Approved.

6. Matters Arising:

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

None

7.VE Day 75:

Update on progress with plans for VE day celebrations in May.

Cllr A.Evans gave an update.

C.Proudfoot to provide a presentation on 7th May 2020 to Steephill Primary school.
Cllr M.Fothergill to liaise with Fawkham Primary school to see if they would like the presentation to be carried out as well.

Cllr D.Harker speaking to church regarding the bells and piper. To chase again.

Cllr A.Evans to speak to Rising Sun Pub with regards to hosting the Nations Toast.

Tea party to take part on Sunday 10th May, Village hall booked incase of inclement weather. Aim is to hold on the church meadow if possible.

Advertise event using mail drop, posters, social media.

Cllr A.Evans to provide action plan.

8. Parish in Bloom:

Cllr M.Fothergill presented an overview of plans and timings for discussion.

Different parish in bloom actions will be sent to the clerk to collate together,. Folder can then be reviewed and assessed against the parish in bloom criteria ahead of the assessment in mid-June - mid-July.

Clerk to submit the Parish in Bloom entry form by the 28th February.

Possibly hold a meeting to gain as much involvement from the community as possible.

Cllr L.Evans to speak to K.Proudfoot regarding her garden open days for snowdrops.

Cllr A.Evans and Cllr M.Fothergill to speak to Steephill and Fawkham Primary school respectively to discuss their possible involvement.

Cllr D.Harker to contact the church with regards to a compost bin.
It was agreed seasonal walks would occur as part of events throughout the year.

9. Local Plan update:

The Planning Inspector has written further to SDC: https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/downloads/file/2870/ed44_inspectors_letter_to_sdc who have responded: https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/downloads/file/2871/ed45_sdc_letter and have issued a press release which concludes: "Cllr Peter Fleming, Leader of the Council, adds: "I will be writing to the Secretary of State on this matter and urgently asking him to intervene. It appears something is very wrong with the system if a council with its communities works hard for four years to produce an evidence-based plan that delivers housing, jobs and infrastructure investment, whilst protecting the environment, only to be halted by a single individual. We will not be withdrawing our Local Plan and the Inspector will produce her report in due course. We will then take the strongest action open to us."

10. Highways:

a. Village gates - have been ordered, delivery expected end January with installation shortly thereafter.

b. Traffic Count - discussion of the results which have been circulated. Unfortunately the counts were not taken in the positions agreed with KCC Highways and was not possible to move them.

Due to time constraints, these will be discussed at the meeting on the 20th February

c. Kent County Council Highways Seminar - written report given by Cllr L Evans.
Key action points for Fawkham:

County eye program is available for fly tipping monitoring, and Lorry Watch is being added to this - investigate with view to adding to FPC website.
Potholes to be repaired/ones that have been repaired to be detailed on the FPC website.
Clerk to action.

A programme of works for 2019/20 recently announced which focuses resources on A and busy B roads. Valley Road is a C road and c. 1 mile is included in this. Monitor. "New Highways Works Requests Information Pack" was circulated to Members.
A copy of the Prince's Countryside Fund's book "The Village Survival Guide" has been ordered.

Clerk to find a copy of the Good Councillors' Guide to Transport Planning Highways.

Highways Improvement Plan to be submitted to KCC Highways annually.

d. Other highways items - see HIP

11. Fawkham Village Hall Kitchen Refurbishment:

A discussion was held on the way forward to progress this.

Resolved: Clerk to take lead on this project going forward following on from the already good work carried out by Cllr M.Fothergill.

Two new quotes are to be obtained for installation of the kitchen, and existing quotes updated where required. A further flooring quote will also be obtained.

12. Finance:

Expenditure and Income

Resolved: Approved and signed.

13. Honour Board:

Cllr Harker updated on progress.

Resolved: Cllr D.Harker to chase quotes. Approximate quotes are £180 + VAT for the board, cost of lettering to be investigated. This item will be moved to the FVH agenda.

14. School Wig Wags:

Cllr Fothergill updated on discussions with the school on the operation of these safety features.

Resolved: Neither of the old boards work; the newer one from 2010 does, but not at school-specific times Cllr L.Evans to contact KCC Highways.

15. Projects and Actions Sheet:

A review of progress of items was held for those not on the agenda, which did not need a decision or agreement on cost. Updated sheet is attached.

16. Correspondence:

- a. A letter has been received from Halstead Green Belt Future Group and forwarded to all by email

Resolved: To be discussed further at the February PC meeting. Halstead GBFG to be informed we cannot make the meeting due to it clashing with FPC finance meeting.

- b. An email has been received from Dartford BC re their Reg 18 consultation on their Local Plan. Comments to be received by 21.2.20 using a response form.

Resolved: To be discussed further at the February meeting.

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.

Resolved: To include Budget forecast review, Precept setting, Planning and Website on the agenda for the additional January meeting on 28th.

Resolved: Cllr D.Harker has spoke to Stephen Billing who has confirmed they will still take receipt of the salt for the salt bins in the village. Cllr D.Harker to speak to KCC and see if we can have the salt delivered straight to the village hall with an extra salt bin

18. Dates for the year 2019/20:

Parish Council Finance Meeting Tuesday 28th January 2020 7.30pm

Parish Council Meeting Thursday 20th February 2020 7.30pm

Parish Council Meeting Thursday 19th March 2020 7.30pm

Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 16th April 2020 TBC (to be held between 1st March and 1st June)

Annual Council Meeting - Thursday 21st May 2020 AGM village Hall - TBC

Fire safety in the Village Hall The village hall does not have a fire alarm system. In the event of a fire or other hazard requiring rapid exit of the building please use either the main entrance or one of the emergency exits. The emergency exits are located at the end of the main Hall nearest to Valley Road (furthest from the main entrance) and in the kitchen at the rear/left of the building. Please make your way to the far side of the Village Hall car park, furthest away from the building. The Clerk will advise if and when it is safe to return to the building.

Meeting Closed at 9.55pm