



# FAWKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Fawkham Village Hall on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 at 7:30pm to transact the following business.

Grace Champion  
Clerk to Fawkham Parish Council

Members of the Parish Council:

Cllr Laura Evans (Chair), Cllr Maxine Fothergill, Cllr Will Johnstone, Cllr James Cherry, Cllr Laura Marchant

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## AGENDA

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Fothergill (work) and Cllr Cherry (Councillor training).

### 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.

**Noted:** Cllr L Evans declared a pecuniary interest in repayments for FPC expenditure awaiting approval.

**Noted:** Cllr L Evans declared an interest in a planning application and planning enforcement case being discussed due to it being a neighbouring property.

### 3. Public Session

Parish Council meetings are open to the public. In accordance with the Standing Orders, thirty minutes are allocated 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 Parish Council meeting. The Council may enter closed session at the end of the meeting to discuss a confidential item, members of the public still present will be asked to leave.

**Noted:** Three MOPs were present, including District Cllrs Harrison and Bulford.

### 4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

**Resolved:** One small amendment was made to the minutes and it was then proposed through the Chair that the minutes be approved and signed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr Marchant.

### 5. Matters Arising: Matters arising relating to the Minutes, not on this agenda.

**Noted:** Baldwin's Green – Cllr L Evans noted that she was still awaiting a further response from KCC Cllr D Brazier.

**Noted:** FPC salt bins. Cllr L Evans confirmed that she had chased this item this week.

**Noted:** Small Grains. The Chair informed the PC that FPC's grounds contractor had carried out their first additional cut to the green at Small Grains. The Chair also informed the PC of the reasons received from SDC for the delay in them removing the pile of garden waste at Small Grains. The Clerk confirmed that the abandoned car had now been removed and the rubbish pile outside of the bungalow had also been removed by West Kent HA very quickly.

### 6. Planning Applications:

To agree the Parish Council's responses to the following planning applications:

**23/00477/CONVAR - Eureka Manor Lane Fawkham Longfield Kent DA3 8ND**

Variation of condition 17 of 22/01464/FUL for 'Cessation of the existing use, clearance of the existing built development and the erection of 3no. detached dwellings with enhancements to the landscape and ancient woodland. Associated parking and landscaping.' to read: "Prior to any of the permitted dwellings reaching the damp proof course level the existing buildings shown on drawings 2272/30/001A, 2272/10/100A, 2272/30/002B and 2272/10/000B shall be demolished and all the resulting materials removed from the site.

**Consultation deadline: Wednesday 29 March 2023.**

**Resolved:** The application was discussed and it was agreed by all that the PC would not object to this application.

**SE/23/00578/LDCEX - Carters Cottage Valley Road Fawkham, Kent DA3 8NL**

Confirmation that use of land as residential garden is lawful.

**Consultation deadline: Wednesday 5 April 2023.**

**Resolved:** Members discussed this application, with points covered including that the application site appears to form part of a paddock/agricultural field to the rear of the residential curtilage. It was noted that two neighbours have objected to the granting of the LDC. FPC discussed the evidence put forward by the applicant and does not think it meets the requirements of the NPPG. Members then voted unanimously to object to this application.

**7. Planning Decisions:**

To note planning decisions received from Sevenoaks District Council

**22/02599/FUL - Land North West Of Horton Wood Canada Farm Road South Darent**

Installation of a solar park to export up to 49.9MW (AC) electricity, including solar panels, inverter cabins, associated infrastructure and associated hard landscaping. **GRANTED**

**22/03228/HOUSE- Fawkham Hall Scudders Farm Valley Road**

Demolition of existing single storey side extension and infill and erection of: (1) two-storey side extension; (2) infilling of existing front porch with replacement glazed roof; (3) infill single storey rear extension to provide separate bedroom to annexe outbuilding. **GRANTED**

**22/03367/DETAIL - Hatchfield Lodge Valley Road Fawkham Kent DA3 8PB**

Details pursuant to condition 10 (external lighting) and condition 11 (ecological enhancement) of 22/02284/FUL. Approval of Details **GRANTED**

**8. Finance Approval**

Expenditure and Income - details to be tabled. Approval of cheques and payments.

| Fawkham Parish Council 23rd March 2023 Payment List |   |                   |         |
|---|---|-------------------|---------|
| Date  | Payee/For   | Budget taken from | Amount  |
| 23/03/23  | Clerk Salary - G. Champion                          | salary/TAX/NI     | £408.78 |
| 23/03/23  | HMRC Tax & NI payment                               | salary/TAX/NI     | £102.40 |
| 23/03/23  | L Evans Repayment - Zoom - Jan, Feb, March Invoices | MISC & repairs    | £44.37  |
| 23/03/23  | L Evans Repayment - wildflower seeds                | Projects          | £30.00  |
| 23/03/23  | Clerk Repayment - stamps booklet                    | Stationery        | £50.98  |

|          |  |                        |                  |
|----------|--|------------------------|------------------|
| 23/03/23 | Clerk Repayment - printer paper                                | <b>Stationery</b>      | <b>£7.00</b>     |
| 23/03/23 | Clerk Repayment - ink cartridges                               | <b>Stationery</b>      | <b>£28.74</b>    |
| 23/03/23 | CIL Expenditure donation to St Marys for car park resurfacing. | <b>CIL expenditure</b> | <b>£3,000.00</b> |
| 23/03/23 | Clerk FVH Hours (FPC INV 04) - G. Champion                     | <b>salary/TAX/NI</b>   | <b>£200.75</b>   |
| 23/03/23 | HMRC Tax & NI payment FVH hours                                | <b>salary/TAX/NI</b>   | <b>£50.00</b>    |
|          | <b>Total</b>   |                        | <b>£3923.02</b>  |

**Resolved:** It was agreed to approve the payments listed in the schedule above.

**9. Wessex Solar Deed of Agreement**

**Proposal:** To discuss, review and agree that the Clerk formally signs the Deed of Agreement in relation to the Community Funding to be received by the Parish in relation to this development, for which planning permission has been granted.

**Resolved:** After reviewing the document, all Councillors were in agreement for the Clerk to formally sign the Deed of Agreement. The Deed was signed by the Clerk and witnessed by the Chair. The Clerk will send both signed copies to Wessex Solar who will send back a full signed copy for the safekeeping of the PC. Funds are not expected to be received for at least 12 months.

**10. CIL**

**Proposal:** to purchase a litter bin for Small Grains @£300 + £100 installation (ex- VAT) with ongoing cost to empty of £1.80 per week.

**Resolved:** It was proposed by the Chair that the PC goes ahead with the purchase, seconded by Cllr Marchant. The Chair proposed the bin being emptied every month or less and for this to be in line with the other bins in the village. The Clerk agreed to contact SDC to confirm these arrangements.

**11. Public Footpath SD163 at Fawkham**

**Proposal:** To discuss and agree any representation or objection to the two orders received from KCC in relation to public footpath SD163. Deadline for a response is 28 April 2023.

**Resolved:** This proposal had previously been discussed in draft form. The footpath and the final diversion route were discussed and all councillors were in agreement that the PC would not object to this change.

**12. Artificial Lights**

Update on progress and any further proposals.

**Noted:** The Chair informed the PC that she had received a response from the PA of the CEO at Southern Water informing the PC that the issue had been looked into and that there is currently no switch to turn off the lights. Southern Water will arrange for an engineer to put in a switch in due course so the lights can be turned off.

**Noted:** Dst Cllr Harrison informed the PC that Brandshatch have changed one light already and were looking into the other lights on the site. The Chair showed Cllr L Harrison and Cllr E Bulford a visual night light map from CPRE showing the high level of light pollution from the site and both Councillors agreed to show the image to Brandshatch to promote further improvement/changes to the light pollution there.

**13. Defibrillators**

AED training update.

**Noted:** It was agreed that the Clerk would do a reminder on Facebook for the upcoming training session closer to the event.

**14. Local Plan**

Update.

**Noted:** The Chair provided the PC with an update. A DCAC meeting had been held which included discussion of the pros and cons of the current Local Plan systems vs. The proposed new system. A second Reg 18 including Green Belt sites is awaited in the autumn.

**15. Neighbourhood Plan**

Update.

**Noted:** The Chair informed the PC that a steering group meeting would be taking place next week to discuss the structure and format of the Plan document.

**16. HIP Meeting**

Update.

**Noted:** The Chair informed the PC that herself and the Clerk would be meeting KCC Highways next week to do an hour's tour of Fawkham showing first-hand the current HIP issues in the parish. The Chair and the Clerk will feed back at the next PC meeting.

**17. Asset Register**

Discuss and agree arrangements to review the assets on the register during April, ready for sign off at the annual council meeting in May.

**Noted:** The Clerk reminded the Councillors of the asset list that had been circulated to all and agreed to send this again. The Chair noted that it is favourable to sign the asset register off at the next meeting and so reminded the councillors to send their comments to the Clerk.

**18. KCC: Kent Communities Programme Consultation**

Proposal: Discussion and agreement on response.

**Resolved:** It was agreed that the PC would respond to this consultation with their concerns in relation to the proposed closure of children's centres at both New Ash Green and West Kingsdown, particularly as most local bus services have been terminated.

**19. Community Events:**

**His Majesty The King's Coronation** - update on plans and next steps.

**Noted:** The Chair provided a brief update on the coronation event. The Clerk agreed to set a date this week for a zoom meeting to discuss the details with the resident volunteer group.

**Noted:** The Clerk proposed using the surplus "Small Grains" budget to pay for the event and this was agreed by all and therefore no gofund me is needed on this occasion.

**Noted:** Cllr Johnstone proposed asking the pub if they wanted to be a part of the event. The Clerk then suggested also asking the new café at Speedgate and all agreed.

**Easter** – Proposal: discuss and agree to use up to £30.00 from the community events budget for easter eggs.

**Resolved:** It was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Marchant to use £30.00 from the community budget for Easter chocolate.



**Noted:** The Clerk volunteered to purchase the Easter chocolate and put this out on Easter Sunday AM for the resident children of Fawkham.

**20. Chair and Councillors reports:**

To note any items not listed on the agenda.

**Noted:** The Chair informed the PC that SDC had agreed reviewed status with the Government and Fawkham Parish is now classed as a designated rural area which means affordable housing contributions can be sought on developments of 6-9 units.

**Noted:** Cllr Marchant raised a query with the wooden posts with reflectors on Castle Hill that are broken and agreed to report these to KCC.

**21. 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 cannot guarantee inclusion on the proposed agenda.

None.

**22. Date of Next Meeting:**

To note the next Parish Council meeting is being held on **Wednesday April 19th 2023 at 8:30, following the Annual Parish Meeting at 7:30** at Fawkham Village Hall.

**Noted:** It was agreed that the July and August meeting dates would need to be changed to accommodate Councillor holidays.

**23. Confidential Item - Planning/ Planning Enforcement:**

Proposal: to review, update and agree actions for cases.

**Resolved:** A numbers of items were discussed and actions agreed.

**The meeting closed at 21:05.**