

# FAWKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Fawkham Parish Council** meeting held at **Fawkham Village Hall**, on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023** at **19.30pm** to transact the following business.

Grace Champion  
Clerk to Fawkham Parish Council

## Members of the Parish Council:

Cllr Laura Evans (Chair), Cllr James Cherry (Vice Chair), Cllr David Mansfield, Cllr Lucie Sleeman and Cllr Will Johnstone

---

## AGENDA

### 1. Apologies for Absence

**Noted:** Cllr J Cherry (family commitment) and Cllr L Sleeman (family emergency).

### 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 repayment for FPC expenditure awaiting approval.

**Noted:** Cllr L Evans declared an interest in a 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:** no members of public were in attendance. Apologies were received from Dst Cllr Harrison, Dst Cllr E Bulford and Dst Cllr S Malone.

### 4. Planning Applications:

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

(1) **23/02962/FUL - Land North Of Speedgate Hill Fawkham Kent DA3 8NJ**

*Replacement of the existing single operator 15m monopole for a 30.35 dual operator tower with 6 antenna apertures, 5 cabinets and ancillary equipment within the existing compound.*

**Consultation deadline: 10 November 2023**

**Noted:** A summary of the application was given along with the location of the monopole.

After discussion it was agreed that no comment would be submitted. FPC neither support or object to the application.

(2) Reference awaited - Chimmens Solar Farm on land between Horton Kirby and Fawkham Parishes

**Noted:** FPC has been advised by the applicant that the proposal would be submitted by end October, and it is now awaited.

**Noted:** SE/23/03049/DETAIL - Salts Farm - *Details pursuant to condition 2 (samples /materials) of 22/03424/REM.* The Chair also informed the PC that this application had been received today.

The application was discussed briefly and it was agreed that FPC had no comment or response to make on this.

## 5. **Planning Decisions:**

To note planning decisions received from Sevenoaks District Council:

- 22/03612/DETAIL - Former Depot North Of Salts Farm Fawkham Road Fawkham Kent DA3 7BJ Details pursuant to condition 16 (parking) of 22/01550/MMA - **REFUSED**  
**Noted:** The Chair informed the PC that this condition had been refused on technicality.
- 23/02506/DETAIL - Former Depot North Of Salts Farm Fawkham Road Fawkham Kent DA3 7BJ Details pursuant of condition 5 (Landscape management plan) of 22/03424/REM - **GRANTED**
- 23/02482/DETAIL - Former Depot North Of Salts Farm Fawkham Road Fawkham Kent DA3 7BJ Details pursuant of condition 28 (existing and proposed ground levels) of 22/01550/MMA - **GRANTED**
- 23/02515/DETAIL - Former Depot North Of Salts Farm Fawkham Road Fawkham Kent DA3 7BJ Details of the Reptile Receptor Land and Improvement Strategy with respect to Schedule 4 clause (i) and (ii)(in part) of the S106 Legal Agreement for planning permission 22/01550/MMA, a supplemental deed to that agreed in connection with outline planning permission 20/00882/OUT for the erection of 26 dwellings on land at the Former Depot North of Salts Farm - **GRANTED**

**All decisions were noted.**

## 6. **Approve Minutes:**

Proposed: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

**Noted:** It was proposed through the Chair that the minutes be approved and signed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr Johnstone.

## 7. **Matters Arising:**

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

- **Noted:** Salts Farm: The Chair informed the PC that SDC have confirmed that the new road name at Salts Farm depot will be Old Halt Close.
- **Noted:** Replacement Road Name Signs –The Clerk informed the PC that no further update had been received on when the Scudders Hill sign would be replaced.
- **Noted:** Baldwin's Green – The Chair confirmed that she will be meeting KCC in relation to this on 6 November.
- **Noted:** Small Grains. The Clerk informed the PC that the bin had now been moved to its new location.
- **Noted:** Artificial lights at Brandshatch – no further update had been received. The Clerk agreed to email the Dst Cllrs for an update.
- **Noted:** School Footway – The Clerk confirmed that she had still not heard anything further.
- **Noted:** Flytipping in field next to Wilmay Copse –Cllr L Sleeman has now met with Mark Ansdell and will give an update at the next meeting.
- **Noted:** Pothole at FVH car park – the Chair confirmed that the pothole had now been filled.
- **Noted:** Lights at Fawkham Water Pumping Station. The Chair confirmed that the lights are mostly off now which is positive.
- **Noted:** the tidying up of under the Christmas tree was discussed. It was agreed the the quote was a little expensive and the Clerk agreed to go back to the grounds contractor asking for a quote for

a quick tidy under the tree as well as removal of any saplings. It was also agreed that the Clerk would then ask the grounds contractor to keep on top of this area as part of the grass cutting there.

- 8. Local Plan update** - discussion of the draft Plan, and agreement of next steps, including use of agreed budget to fund the Planning Consultant's assistance with FPC's response under the Regulation 18 consultation process.

**Noted:** The Chair notified the PC that the Local Plan documentation had now been published online and that the consultation period for this would run for 7 weeks from 23 November – 7 January. Responses to this consultation can be made via SDC's portal and via email. The Chair gave an in-depth summary of SDC's proposed development strategy, including the stage 2 Green Belt assessment outcome and proposed sites in the local area. It was agreed by all that FPC will send a communication on the Local Plan via both Facebook and the website to keep residents up to date.

**Agreed:** All were in agreement with the proposal to engage the Planning Consultant's assistance with FPC's response using some of the Local Plan budget and that this work will be undertaken in conjunction with Hartley PC, should they be in agreement. The Chair noted that FPC's response on other policies within the Plan is just as important as the development strategy, as these will govern SDC's planning decisions until 2040.

- 9. Neighbourhood Plan - update.**

**Noted:** The Chair noted that the steering group are reviewing the responses from the consultation, and a draft Consultation Statement had been prepared. She also noted that she had met with a representative from HK&SD to provide information on the Neighbourhood Plan process.

**Noted:** The Chair highlighted one response in relation to a "permissive path" along Brands Hatch Road. All agreed the best option would be to ask the land owner.

- 10. Finance Approval**

(a) Expenditure and Income - details to be tabled. Approval of cheques and payments Including (b) update on bank mandate/cards

Payment list summary November 2023		
Date	Payee/For	Amount
31/10/23	Reembrance Wreath & Donation Royal British Legion	£70.00
01/11/23	Repayment L. Evans wood stain Sadolin REPAIRS BUDGET	£24.99
01/11/23	Repayment L. Evans Making Planning Work training TRAINING BUDGET	£39.22
01/11/23	Salix Tree & Garden Services tree work on village green	£288.00

01/11/23	RH Gardening Services Small Grains Inv 49	£125.00
01/11/23	RH Gardening Services 3 Sites (OCT) Grounds Maintenance INV 072	£210.00
01/11/23	RH Village Hall Inv 0004	£200.00
01/11/23	Mazars AGAR Audit Invoice	£378.00
01/11/23	Clerk HMRC Tax & NI payment	£102.20
01/11/23	Clerk Salary - G. Champion	£408.98
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£1846.39</b>

**Resolved:** It was agreed to approve the payments listed in the schedule above. Signed by the Chair and Cllr W Johnstone.

**Noted:** Cllr D Mansfield apologized and noted that he was still having trouble accessing the online banking platform.

**11. Salt bins:** update.

**Noted:** It was noted that the salt had not been received yet. The Clerk agreed to chase this.

**12. Village Green Electricity** - update

**Noted:** The Clerk informed the PC that the new electricity for the village green had now been signed. The Chair notified the PC that the electrical inspection of the cupboard on the green had still not taken place yet.

**13. Footpath checks** – update list

**Noted:** It was agreed that this was a job best to do in spring. Issues with two footpaths were highlighted for reporting to KCC. All councillors agreed to feed back any further issues to the Clerk when they do walk any footpaths. The Clerk agreed to resend the footpath map and list to all.

**14. Vegetation issue behind the hall** – discuss and agree way forward with this maintenance issue.

**Noted:** After checking the land title and following agreement with the Clerk, the Chair informed the PC that the back of hall land is part of the hall's title. It was agreed that this would therefore be discussed on the village hall agenda.

**15. Christmas tree lights switch on** – update.

**Noted:** The new light string is now in place and working. The Chair had contacted the pub and they have agreed to provide mince pies and mulled wine. The Clerk agreed to purchase the selection boxes for the children and do a Facebook post with the details.

**16. Remembrance service** – update.

**Noted:** The Chair advised that the hymn had been changed to *Abide With Me*. Cllr Johnstone agreed to ask the school if they had a PA system the PC could borrow for this event.

**17. Chair and Councillors reports:** to note any items not listed on the agenda.

**Noted:** It was queried if the Clerk had heard anything from SDC in relation to CIL for Salts Farm depot. The Clerk had not and agreed to email SDC to find out the amount due and when this would be received.

**Noted:** The Chair raised that the PC had been approached by another PC asking for information on solar farm community benefit funds. The email was discussed and all were in agreement to respond.

**Noted:** The Chair raised that Fawkham's new Beat Officer, PC Wilson, had emailed the PC to introduce themselves and would like to attend a future meeting. The Clerk agreed to respond with future meeting dates.

**Noted:** flashing wig wags – the Chair confirmed that she has chased KCC on this issue again.

**Noted:** The Clerk informed the PC of an email received from the Hedgehog Highway Project requesting the purchase of hedgehog highway markers for fences. All were in agreement that Fawkham does not have much closed board fencing compared to other parishes and, whilst the PC believe it is a great initiative, it was not felt to be the best use of Parish funds. It was noted that the PC have also been covering this issue as part of planning condition requests.

**Noted:** Cllr D Mansfield noted the poor condition of the roads currently. It was agreed that the Clerk should chase the HIP contact at SDC re FPC's outstanding issues.

**Noted:** The Clerk noted that a resident had approached her in relation to a small strip of land that is not being maintained by SDC. The Clerk agreed to email SDC in relation to this.

**18. 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.

KCC HIP

**Noted:** Damaged sign at Speedgate Hill was raised by Cllr W Johnstone.

**19. Date of Next Meeting:**

To note the next Parish Council Meeting is being held on **7 December 2023** at **Fawkham Village Hall**.

**Noted:** It was noted that this meeting date would need to be changed and that it would be changed on the website once known.

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

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

**Resolved:** The Council resolved to hear the item in a confidential session due to the nature of the content. Cases were discussed and actions agreed.

Meeting closed: 21:14