

FAWKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Fawkham Parish Council** meeting held at **Fawkham and Hartley Church Centre, Ash Road, Hartley**, on **Thursday 4th April 2024** at **20.30pm** 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

Noted: The meeting started earlier at 20:00. The public session and planning was moved to the end of the meeting to allow time for any residents to be at the meeting in time to add their input if they wished.

1. Apologies for Absence
None.

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 an interest in a planning enforcement case 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: KCC Cllr D Brazier, Dst Cllr S Malone, Dst Cllr E Bulford and Dst Cllr L Harrison were all in attendance. One MOP was in attendance.

4. Planning Applications: to agree the Parish Council's responses to the following planning applications:
None

Noted: The Chair noted a planning application that had been received since the agenda was published:

24/00580/WTPO - The Lodge Fawkham Manor Farm Manor Lane Fawkham Kent DA3 8ND.

Various works to trees.

The Chair provided details of the application. One reason for the tree works was due to poor street lighting and this application relates to a private road. All were in agreement that FPC would like to comment objecting to the removal of the hornbeam tree and asking if no alternative solutions were available. The Clerk would submit these comments via delegated authority to the Clerk.

Noted: The Chair noted that no decision had been received in relation to Chimmens Solar Farm and that this was not expected until May at the earliest. It was also noted that Farningham PC had received a leaflet from Wessex Solar related to a proposed solar farm in their Parish, GabrielSpring Wood, for which a planning application will be made in due course.

5. Planning Decisions:

To note planning decisions received from Sevenoaks District Council:

- 24/00196/LDCEX- Court Lodge Valley Road Fawkham. *Erection of an ancillary workshop/store , erection of a roof extension to existing garage and pool house to create ancillary games room and associated external alterations. Engineering operations and means of enclosure for the creation of an artificial playing surface. **Granted***
- 23/03633/HOUSE - Green Farm Valley Road Fawkham
*Erection of single storey side extension, roof alterations and insertion of rooflights including installation of air source heat pump. **Granted***
- 23/03683/HOUSE - The Meadows Valley Road Fawkham
*Provision of pitched roofs to existing detached garage and annexe buildings, remodelling and enclosure of existing link between the main dwelling and the annexe to form new entrance and winter garden and provision of pitched roofs to existing dormer windows on the front of the main house and ragstone buttresses to annexe. **Granted***

Noted: The Chair also highlighted that the Officer's Report for Gay Dawn Farm has not yet been published. It is expected in the next week. It was agreed if the report was not received in the next week then the Facebook and website communication would be shared without it.

6. Approve Minutes:

Proposed: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 14th March 2024, as attached.

Resolved: 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 affordable housing. An update had been received on the registration of interest for these properties. Social media and email had been suggested by FPC as the best way forward and the forms will be provided by SDC. The Clerk agreed to support any residents who needed help with the process. It was also agreed that this communication would be shared via noticeboards and a request would be made to include it via the school's parentmail.

Noted: The Chair informed KCC D Brazier that FPC has not heard anything on the HIP that had been submitted in February and that the Clerk had chased for an update this week. KCC D Brazier was happy to follow this up if required in due course.

Noted: Lights at Brandshatch. Cllr E Bulford and Cllr L Harrison notified FPC that this was still an ongoing issue and that they were doing what they could to try and improve the situation. It was noted that there had been no complaints to WKPC from WK residents. Some lights have been tilted and bulbs changed but the change is not noticeable enough to stop the glare and so the Dst Cllrs agreed to continue with this.

Noted: DDay Celebration – Cllr L Sleeman had no updates at this stage.

Noted: Broken fence on school path. Cllr W Johnstone agreed to fix the fence within the next couple of days.

Noted: rubbish at FVH. It was agreed that the side area of the hall and remaining rubbish would be tidied once the building work had been completed.

8. We Are Beams donation: Proposal: formal agreement of donation of £200.00 to We Are Beams.

Resolved: KCC D Brazier added that he felt this organisation was fantastic. All were in agreement to go ahead with the donation following due diligence investigations following the previous meeting.

9. Finance Approval

(a) Expenditure and Income - details to be tabled. Approval of cheques and payments Including (b) update on online banking access for Cllr Mansfield and Cllr Sleeman

Payment list summary 4 April 2024			
Date	Payee/For	Budget taken from	Amount
04/04/24	Clerk HMRC Tax & NI payment	Salary / Tax / NI	£114.45
04/04/24	Clerk Salary APRIL - G. Champion	Salary / Tax / NI	£431.42
04/04/24	Fawkham & Hartley Church Centre for 04/04/24	Hall Hire	£18.50
04/04/24	SDC Dog Bins Waste Collection	Dog Waste Collection	£28.08
04/04/24	Netwise Annual Package & domain renewal	Website Costs	£420.00
04/04/24	We are Beams - Local Charity Donation	MISC	£200.00
	Total		£1212.45

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

Noted: Cllr L Sleeman is still awaiting a PIN and Cllr D Mansfield is still unable to get into the FPC account. Clerk to chase bank.

10. Asian Hornet Action Team: Proposal: discussion re request for a donation re Asian Hornets.

Noted: The Cllrs had a brief discussion about the charity but it was decided that no donation would be given at this time. All were in agreement to put information about the species on Facebook and the website.

11. Neighbourhood Plan:

Proposal: agreement of the Regulation 15 Neighbourhood Plan for submission to SDC alongside the Basic Conditions.

Resolved: The Chair informed the PC that the final plan, circulated ahead of the meeting, is ready for sign off by FPC, having been signed off the the Steering Group earlier this week. Once signed off it will then be submitted to SDC with a consultation statement and basic conditions statement which is currently being drafted by our planning consultant. The Chair will circulate this when it is available. It was also agreed by the steering group that a leaflet will be delivered to all houses re the referendum vote when the time comes. The NPlan Steering Group will have a stall again at Fawkham's Church Fete to provide residents with an update and to notify them of the referendum coming in due course. There will be interim communication publicised during April on Facebook and the website. The Cllrs then voted and all were in agreement to approve this document. **Noted:** The Chair had been approached by Farningham PC to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan process and had had a discussion with he Clerk by telephone.

12. Small Grains: update on actions in progress; discussion and agreement of next steps.

Noted: The Chair summarised the current issues with the WK houses. Cllr S Malone and Cllr E

Bulford agreed to take this back up and to email some contacts at SDC to try and get these issues resolved.

Noted: The parking provision was then also discussed and all Cllrs were in agreement to authorise Cllr S Malone to take this further and for the Chair and Cllr S Malone to meet on Monday to discuss how best to do this. Cllr S Malone also agreed to ask for an update on SDC's asset review at his upcoming finance committee meeting.

- 13. Resident Correspondence:** to note complaint received from resident regarding tree felling and associated noise, and response sent.

Noted: The Chair noted an email had been received from a resident over concerns of local tree felling and that FPC replied confirming the correct licence had been received and that issues with noise need to be raised with SDC's Environmental Health team. It was agreed that information would be added to the website around Fawkham's woodland, including tree felling and woodland management, why felling takes place and the importance of it.

- 14. Resident thank you:** to note a thank you received from a resident

Noted: The Chair noted an email received from a resident who thanked FPC for welcoming them to the parish with the welcome letter, which is sent to all new residents of the Parish.

- 15. Review of Asset Register: to note plan of action ahead of the Annual Council Meeting**

Noted: The Chair noted that both herself and Cllr D Mansfield were in the process of reviewing FPC's assets ready for the ACM.

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

Noted: The Chair noted that National Highways had fixed the broken fencing by the M20 bridge.

Noted: The Chair reiterated what KCC Cllr D Brazier had noted in the APM that a new bus service had been introduced this week from NAG, Hartley and Longfield to Bluewater and Darent Valley Hospital.

- 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 cannot guarantee inclusion on the proposed agenda.

- CIL "wishlist". Funding of KCC Community Warden.

- 18. Date of Next Meeting:**

To note the next Parish Council Meeting is being held on **9th May 2024** at [to be confirmed]. This is a change of date due the hall being used as a polling station on 2nd May.

Noted: the Chair noted the new date with the Dst Cllrs. Fawkham Village Hall's AGM will take place before the FPC ACM.

- 19. 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, and agreed Cllr Malone could remain for this item. Cases were discussed and actions agreed.

Meeting closed: 21:00.