

Minutes of the Fawkham Annual Parish Meeting 2024 Thursday 4th April 2024 at 19:30.

1. Laura Evans, Chair of Fawkham Parish Council, welcomed those attending.

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

Dst Cllr Sean Malone, Dst Cllr Lynda Harrison, Dst Cllr Emily Bulford, KCC Cllr David Brazier, PC Ashleigh Wilson.

No parishioners in attendance at the start of the meeting; one parishioner joined at 19:45.

2. **Apologies: Apologies were received from:** Jackie West (KCC Community Warden), Mandy Bridges (Head Teacher Fawkham CE Primary School), John Abbott (Headteacher Steephill School), Gill Cramp (St Mary's Churchwarden).
3. It was proposed by the Chair that the minutes of the 2023 meeting would be agreed, and signed off by the Chair. All were in agreement.
4. Cllr Laura Evans reported on the work of Fawkham Parish Council during the past year. The full report can be found [here](#).
5. Reports were given in person by:
 - **District Cllrs** – [District Councillors Report 2024](#).
 - **KCC Cllr David Brazier.** [KCC D Brazier Report 2024](#).
 - **PC Ashleigh Wilson** provided a summary of the Police's key points for this year, namely: solving crimes through investigations, preventing crime & anti-social behaviour, violence against women and girls. PC Wilson noted that Fawkham's main issue is rural crime. A report from PC Wilson will be published on the website once received.
 - **Fawkham Primary School.** Cllr Lucie Sleeman (School Parent Governor) provided a summary on behalf of Mandy Bridges (Headteacher). It was noted that the reception intake was low for this academic year, as was the case across the county, with there currently being 96 students and a 105 pupil capacity at the school. Funding is therefore considerably affected and the school and PTA are doing all they can to meet the shortfall. Results at the school remain of a good standard with these sitting above the national average. It was noted that there is a high number of pupils with SEN needs which is also challenging due to the current funding issues.

The school would be grateful for some assistance in extending the security fencing across the car park entrance.

- **The Parish of Fawkham and Hartley.** Cllr Lucie Sleeman then provided an update on behalf of the Church. A new priest, Joss Walker, would be joining on 16 April 2024 for Fawkham, Hartley and Longfield. A main aim this year is to introduce younger families to the church community to ensure longevity.

Cllr L Evans and the Clerk then summarised written reports that had been submitted via email:

- **Jackie West – Community Warden.** To read this report please follow this link: [Jackie West Community Warden Report 2024](#)
- No report was received from Steephill Primary School

Full copies of all reports received can be found on FPC's website under Annual Parish Meeting Documents: [Annual Parish Meeting 2024 documents](#).

6. Opportunity for other village organisations or parishioners to address the meeting:

Noted: KCC Cllr D Brazier raised the Community Warden Service. It was noted that KCC Cllr D Brazier is of the view that the community warden service is one of the best things that KCC do. The cost to have a warden is nothing compared to the KCC budget as a whole. It supports so many people and KCC are revising the service which may result in it being halved, resulting in those left covering double their current patch. KCC Cllr D Brazier has a very high opinion of Jackie West and noted that some other local PCs are considering trying to reach agreement on whether/how to fund the community warden salary themselves, e.g. to be divided by the local Parish Councils.

Noted: Dst Cllr Harrison thanked the PC for their support on behalf of The Community Cupboard.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Date 3rd April 2025 (provisional), 19:30 at Fawkham Village Hall, Valley Road, Fawkham

Meeting closed: 19:59.