

WEST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16th JULY 2018 AT THE GOOD INTENT, WEST FARLEIGH

PRESENT: Cllr B Scott (Chairman), Cllrs M Merritt, G Martin, J Morgan, M Moy, H Pritchard, Borough Councillor Richard Webb and Mrs A Broadhurst, Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Eight parishioners were present.

Cllr Scott requested, if anyone intended to record the meeting, that they inform the Parish Council.

Public Discussion:

A resident reported that, whilst the newly installed priority white lines on Teston Lane are a good idea, they are in the wrong place. They are too far back resulting in waiting traffic being unable to see across the bridge. There have already been several altercations due to vehicles trying to cross when it was not clear. The overhanging vegetation is making the matter worse. Cllr Martin reported that Teston Parish Council had been asked to cut the vegetation in their field in the past, but they had declined. The Clerk offered to report this issue to Jennie Watson, from Kent Highways, as she had overseen the scheme. **ACTION: Clerk**

It was then requested that Borough Councillor Gooch, who represents Teston Parish Council, be asked to try to persuade them to complete the required work, as it is now deemed to be a safety issue. Borough Cllr Webb offered to discuss this matter with Cllr Gooch. **ACTION: Borough Cllr Webb**

A resident reported that horse warning signs are required around Charlton Lane and Lower Road. The Clerk responded that this particular issue had been discussed at the last meeting and Borough Cllr Fermor was going to investigate this further and email the Parish Council the details. The Clerk has since chased Cllr Fermor but has not received any response. Borough Cllr Webb offered to contact Borough Cllr Fermor. **ACTION: Borough Cllr Webb**

1. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr H Swan, Borough Councillors Emily Fermor & Lottie Parfitt-Reid

2. **COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS**

There were no Declarations of Interest

3. **MINUTES of the Meeting held on 21st May 2018**

The Minutes of the meeting had been previously distributed and Cllr Martin proposed that the minutes were a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Moy, with all in favour. The Chairman signed off the official copy.

4. **POLICE MATTERS**

It was noted that, at the meeting with the Police Crime Commissioner, Mr M Scott, it had been reported that there was to be an increase in PCSOs and PCs in Maidstone, however, there is still no report or presence from Kent Police. Cllr Martin added that he had also promised that he would arrange for PCs to have their lunch close to Teston Bridge, to try to stop the issue of oversized vehicles crossing; there has not been any visits what so ever. Cllr Scott requested that a letter be sent to the PCC to highlight the Parish Council's disappointment that nothing has progressed in any of the areas covered during the meeting. **ACTION: Clerk**

5. **HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATH MATTERS**

5.1 **Highways Issues in West Farleigh**

Cllr Martin informed all present that he had gone to reinstate the triangle at the bottom of Ewell Lane, following the terrible damage by a HGV, only to find that the work had already been completed. Cllr Morgan responded that this had been completed by Village in Bloom volunteers. Thanks was voiced to them for their work.

It was noted that there is another water leak in Teston Lane and a resident confirmed that she has already reported this to Southern Water.

Cllr Moy reported that two HGVs had met a bus coming the other way on Ewell Lane recently and it had taken 20 minutes for the area to clear. It was noted that this is the diversion route for the Hunton Hill road closure and Hunton Parish Council has queried this diversion with the water company. They have stated that both roads have the same classification so there is no issue with HGVs using the route. It was noted that, whilst they may deem it appropriate, they clearly haven't visited the area to see the decrease in the width of the road.

5.2 Speedwatch

Mags Zak reported on the progress made with the Speedwatch scheme. They have now completed their first session in the only valid site in the village. Having checked with the Speedwatch team, all of the original sites that Chris Stockwell had arranged, have now become dormant sites. A list of sites has been sent but everything seems to be progressing at a frustrating slow speed. Mags intends to visit the office to try to get the sites back up and running, as the volunteers are keen to go out again. It was noted that Lower Road is a priority area. Mags also reported that there may be a grant available which would result in the Parish Council only having to pay one third towards the cost of purchasing equipment. Mags thanked Cllr Webb for loaning the village equipment and for also assisting with the first session.

6. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

6.1 Work Required on the Village Green

Cllr Merritt reported that the slats have now been replaced on the bench, although he had had to use the old table legs as supports due to the recyclable replacements not being as thick as the original wooden ones. Two benches have been replaced, with one more outstanding and 8 more slabs will be required for it to sit on. Cllr Martin also reported that the work to the village sign needs to be completed, however, this is a big job.

6.2 South East in Bloom (Village of the Year Competition)

Cllr Scott reported that he had been approached to assist with the costs involved with the competition, but there had been issues with the group not being a charity or having a bank account. The Clerk added that this had been discussed with the Parish Council's auditor and the matter can be resolved if a Councillor can purchase the items on their behalf and then reimbursed. Councillors supported this resolution, if the group does require some assistance. Cllr Morgan reported that the group had organised a ramble around the village on Father's Day and this had raised £240. A resident commented that this group was a really good idea and that their work had really improved the village. It was noted that a sunflower competition is currently underway. The village had been judged on the 3rd July and the winners will be announced at an event in Brighton in mid-September.

7. MATTERS OF REPORT

7.1 County Councillor Report

No report was received.

7.2 Borough Councillor Reports

Borough Cllr Webb reported on the new medical centre which is to open close at the Linton crossroads. This will be a large surgery completing minor surgeries with a pharmacy on site. This centre is urgently needed and it is hoped that it will be up and running within a year. Cllr Webb also reported that there is a Full Council Meeting taking place on the 18th July.

7.3 Individual Councillor's Reports

Cllr Pritchard informed all present that he had purchased some sticky signs for his wheelie bin, which read "Please Slow Down in Our Village" and he wondered whether the Parish Council could bulk buy them to give out to residents. He confirmed that it would cost £100 for 100 stickers. The Clerk reported that she would need to investigate this further.

ACTION: Clerk

Cllr Pritchard reported that he had attended the KALC Planning Training with Cllr Moy, who added that it was very similar to the previous event he had been to, which was quite frustrating. It had been noted by the Planning Consultant that the balance is tipped in the wrong direction, in favour of Developers. It was acknowledged that this has now gone too far and Councils recognise this and are trying to address the issue.

Cllr Moy reported that he had attended the recent KALC meeting, which had been poorly attended. The following points had been raised:

- It had been reported that there is a new levy on event planning and the Clerk offered to speak to KALC about this matter for further information. **ACTION: Clerk**
- There had been discussion regarding flytipping and the lack of bulky waste collection in the Borough.
- Marden Parish Council reported that they are seeing a rise in ASB, since the large developments have been completed.
- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is to replace s106 and the Borough Council is currently holding £3m of funding. There was further brief discussion on this matter.
- An Unauthorised Gypsy and Travel draft document is being created.
- A Local Plan consultation is currently underway.

Cllr Morgan reported that there had been a coffee morning on the 16th June, which had not been well attended, however it was noted that the Community Warden and Borough Cllr Parfait-Reid had been present. Cllr Morgan queried when the next one should be held and, after brief discussion, the 20th October was decided upon. Cllr Scott commented that it would be nice to see more residents come along and it was noted that it clashes with football events in the village.

Councillors were reminded that the mornings are advertised in Lifeline, Facebook, the website, the local events page and via the village email system. Cllr Swan puts out signs at the top and bottom of Charlton Lane, so it is well advertised. Cllr Morgan offered to put an article in Life-line explaining the point of the coffee mornings. **ACTION: Cllr Morgan**

Cllr Martin, along with Cllr Scott, updated all present on the current situation with the proposed meeting room. The Parish Council has written to the Landlord but no reply has been received to date.

Cllr Martin reported on the outstanding pathway clearance in Charlton Lane. A replacement contractor has been found to complete the work and they have offered to charge the same amount as the original person (£250). They have confirmed that this work will be carried out before the end of August.

Cllr Merritt reported that he had noted in the last Life-line that the Parish Council meetings had not been included in the village events section. He wondered whether this was why there is poor numbers coming along to the meetings. It was felt that this may have been an oversight and Cllr Merritt added that he would speak to the Editors about this. **ACTION: Cllr Merritt**

Cllr Scott reported on the CIL meeting that he had attended and added that this goes live in October. The levy will cost £93-£99 per sqmtr of development with 15% of the money collected coming to the Parish Council. If a Parish has a Neighbourhood Plan, they will receive 25%. There are some exemptions to the charge including charities and annexes. Further information can be found on the Maidstone Borough Council website (www.maidstone.gov.uk).

7.4 Clerk's Reports

- Internal Audit: The Clerk reported that the Internal Audit has now been circulated, although the DPO listed needs to be amended, as the Parish Council had decided to employ LCPAS rather than Satswana.
- Standing Orders: The Clerk reported that there had been various amendments to the Standing Orders. These will be altered, with a view to having them readopted at the September meeting.

8. FINANCE

8.1 Budget Monitoring

The Budget Monitoring Report to 30th June 2018 was **Noted**.

8.2 Income received since the last meeting

MBC – Parish Service Scheme (PSS) Payment	£302.85
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8.3 Cheques/Payments for approval

It was proposed by Cllr Merritt, seconded by Cllr Martin **“that the Council approve the following payments”**.

101208 – Mrs A Broadhurst – July Salary	£697.65
101209 – Harrietsham Parish Council (Share of Clerk's SLCC Membership)	£ 83.07
101210 – David Buckett – Annual Internal Audit	£228.60
101211 - Mr B Merritt – Expenses (Mesh for Trees & Screws for Bench)	£ 21.58
101212 - Kedel Limited – Slats for Bench	£116.46
101213 – Mrs A Broadhurst – Expenses (Cartridges)	£ 66.98
101214 – Mrs A Broadhurst – August Salary (post-dated)	£697.65
101215 – Mr B Scott – Expenses (Slabs for Benches)	£ 46.24

Direct Debits:

People's Pension – Monthly Payment (July)	£ 52.00
People's Pension – Monthly Payment (August)	£ 52.00
Information Commissioner's Office (Data Protection Annual Fee)	£ 40.00

9. PLANNING MATTERS

9.1 Any planning applications received before the meeting

No applications had been received for discussion.

9.2 Planning Decisions

No applications to report

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Council meeting will be held on **Monday 17th September 2018** at 7.30pm at The Good Intent.

With no further matters to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8.57pm