

WEST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21ST JANUARY 2019 AT THE GOOD INTENT, WEST FARLEIGH

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Sixteen parishioners were present.

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

Public Discussion:

A resident spoke about the advertising signs being erected by The Tickled Trout. These include a large banner and posters on wooden stakes, which are being placed on the verges. They are interfering with the village litter picks and are ruining the look of the village, which is disappointing with the hard work being undertaken by West Farleigh in Bloom volunteers. Cllr Scott stated that the Parish Council want to be able to support local businesses, but Cllr Martin added that the signs are cheap and some are blocking sight lines around Ewell Lane. The Clerk reported that she has already written to the pub once regarding their advertising boards and Cllr Scott asked that a second letter be sent detailing that they need to be more respectful of the village; especially now that we are entering the Village in Bloom competition. Also, to be include is that they need to be mindful of where the posters are placed to avoid sight line issues for traffic. It was also noted that pedestrians are having to walk in the road in places, as the pavement is being obstructed. The Clerk also commented that she intends to speak to the Highways Steward about this issue. **ACTION: Clerk**

A resident reported on the car that is being parked in the layby on Lower Road (close to the junction with Charlton Lane). The positioning of the vehicle is obstructing the view along the road for people trying to pull out at the junction. Cllr Scott reported that this has been an ongoing issue for quite some years and the matter has remained unsolved. The Clerk suggested that she contact the PCSO and Community Warden to see if they can assist with this, before there is an accident at the junction. **ACTION: Clerk**

A resident reported on the issue of leaves along the pavement in Charlton Lane. The Clerk reported that this has been reported twice to MBC but that she will contact them again. **ACTION: Clerk**

The Clerk read out an update from West Farleigh in Bloom regarding the progress of the planters being made. Cllr Merritt raised concerns regarding the planters possibly rotting the signpost and Cllr Morgan clarified that the post will have a layer of bitumen added to protect the wood.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Borough Cllr Lottie Parfitt-Reid

2. **COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS**

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES of the Meeting held on 19th November 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 Morgan, with all in favour. The Chairman signed off the official copy.

4. **POLICE MATTERS**

The Clerk informed all present that 3 crimes had been reported in neighbouring villages, since the last meeting. It was noted that there had been a crime in the village, which did not appear in the crime figures listed in the E-Watch newsletter. The Clerk announced that PCSO Pay had now left the village and will be replaced by PCSO Martin Chivers. The Clerk then read out an email from the Community Warden.

After brief discussion, Cllr Martin proposed a further meeting be arranged with the Police Crime Commissioner Mr Scott. This was agreed by all present. **ACTION: Clerk**

5. **HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATH MATTERS**

5.1 **Highways Issues in West Farleigh**

Cllr Martin reported that, even though there had been limited rainfall in recent weeks, Smiths Hill is still wet; heading towards Yalding. Having attempted to clear the drains again, it had been noted that most of the debris was the top dressing from the road and soil from the verge. The Clerk informed all present that there is a road closure due in the near future, but no date had been supplied yet. Cllr Martin asked that a further meeting be arranged with the KHS Drainage Team. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Swan reported that 3 drains are blocked in Ewell Lane from the footpath towards The Hollow towards Ewell Manor. She added that there may be more, but she had been unable to check. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Swan raised the issue of paths being kept clear of leaves etc and commented that there did not appear to be a sweeper visiting the village. The Clerk was asked to discuss this with the Borough Councillors and find out when the sweeper last attended and how often they are scheduled to clear the pavements in the village. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Martin reported that he is dismayed with the state of Hunt Street, which has been gridlocked due to various road closures. The verges have been damaged where it is unsuitable for the volume of traffic using the lane.

5.2 Teston Bridge

Cllr Merritt reported on the recent accident, which had closed the bridge again recently. This had been caused by watering running down Teston Lane, which had then turned very icy. He added that the road should have been gritted. The lorry issue is still going, with further oversized vehicles regularly being seen crossing. All of the issues surrounding the bridge were discussed and Cllr Martin suggested that this could be discussed at the meeting with the Police Crime Commissioner, as he had stated at the previous meeting that he would arrange for Police to monitor the lorry activity at lunchtimes.

There was brief discussion regarding making Teston and East Farleigh bridges one way and the Clerk was asked to seek the views of East Farleigh Parish Council regarding this suggestion. **ACTION: Clerk**

The issue of cars starting to cross the bridge before it is clear was also discussed, as there is a dip before the bridge blocking the view of oncoming vehicles (if you are in a low saloon). Cllr Moy suggested that high level mirrors could be installed on either side of the bridge so that drivers have a better view. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Merritt also asked whether there is anything that English Heritage can do to assist, because of the constant damage being caused to an ancient monument. **ACTION: Clerk**

5.3 Speedwatch/Speed Indicator Devices

The Clerk read out an email from the Co-ordinator at KCC. This had not been very positive regarding the possibility of having a Vehicle Activated Sign installed on Lower Road (he had indicated that a SID would not be appropriate in this area). After brief discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should ask for a meeting with a representative from the Traffic Scheme Team to discuss how to progress the matter further. It was suggested that this be arranged between 8.00 and 9.00am, when the road is at its busiest. **ACTION: Clerk**

5.4 Horse Warning Signs

The Clerk reported that she had received a quote, from RBLI, for 6 warning signs with 12 clips at a cost of £131.48 (+vat). It was proposed by Cllr Martin that these be purchased. This was seconded by Cllr Morgan, with all in favour. Cllr Scott confirmed that he would be able to pick the signs up, when they have been manufactured. Cllr Martin confirmed that the necessary posts are in place. **ACTION: Clerk**

6. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

6.1 West Farleigh Community Centre

Cllr Scott reported that, unfortunately, a meeting had not been arranged over the Christmas period and Cllr Martin added that, hopefully, this would take place in the next couple of weeks. He has spoken with the Landlord informally and he is happy for the Parish Council and Sports Club to progress. Cllr Scott commented that one of the next steps would be to ask a Planning Officer from MBC to come out to have a look at the site.

6.2 Work Required on the Village Green

Cllr Scott reported that the fingerpost has now been installed, but it may need replacing in the long term. The concrete area is being turned into a rockery which West Farleigh in Bloom is going to assist with. Cllr Merritt reported that posts need to be replaced again as some have been knocked down. Cllr Pritchard was asked to order 10. After brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr Scott to set aside £200 for these and this was seconded by Cllr Martin; with all in favour. **ACTION: Cllr Pritchard**

Thanks was offered to the resident who had kindly dug the hole that had been required for the recent works. It is hoped that the picnic bench can be finished when the posts are installed.

6.2 Lambing Day

Cllr Martin reported that this will be held on Sunday 17th March. It should be a busy weekend as there are likely to be 15 sets of triplets and 60-70 sets of twins! Mrs Martin is to run the tombola stall again and Cllr Martin asked for any prizes to be given to him. Cllr Merritt is completing wood turning to sell and there will be the usual tea and cake stall. It was confirmed that, hopefully, the BBQ can also be arranged. Cllr Martin added that any other stalls would be very welcome.

7 MATTERS OF REPORT

7.1 County Councillor Report

No report was received.

7.2 Borough Councillor Reports

No reports were received.

7.3 Individual Councillor's Reports

Cllr Merritt commented on the amount of out of date posters that are being left in the notice boards. It was noted that Parish Council documents must take priority as we must legally post notices up for set periods of time. Cllr Swan commented that any ongoing adverts could be covered up by Council documents if needed. After further brief discussion it was suggested that the Parish Council only use the 2 noticeboards in Charlton Lane allowing other groups to use the notice board by the Church. All Councillors agreed with this idea and said that the matter should be monitored to see if this works better.

7.4 Clerk's Reports

- The Clerk reported that the arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting would need to be agreed at the next meeting.

8. FINANCE

8.1 Budget Monitoring

The Budget Monitoring Report to 31st December 2018 was **Noted**.

8.2 Income received since the last meeting

HMRC – VAT Refund for 2017/2018 £153.36

8.3 Cheques/Payments for approval

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

101228 – Mrs A Broadhurst – January	£697.65
101229 – Iden Signs – Bylaw signs for the village green	£100.80
101230 – Kent Men of the Trees – Annual Subscription 2018/19	£ 25.00
101231 – Mrs A Broadhurst – February Salary (post-dated)	£697.65
101232 – Mr B Scott – Expenses (Concrete for village green)	£192.00

Direct Debits:

People's Pension – Monthly Payment (January)	£ 52.00
People's Pension – Monthly Payment (February)	£ 52.00

8.4 Budget and Precept for 2019/2020

The Clerk had previously circulated the budget paperwork to all councillors explaining the effect any increase in precept will have on the annual charge per Band D household. It was noted that Councillors had approved £300 for a new printer, but the current one is still in use, this will need to be replaced as the print is becoming increasingly fuzzy. The Clerk explained that she has shown this money ringfenced in the general reserves. The proposed subscriptions have been increased slightly to allow for membership with ACRK in case assistance is required with the progress of the meeting room. All Councillors agreed that Jenny Bradbury had been extremely helpful in the past. The insurance proposed expenditure had been increased, as the Parish Council is in the last year of a 3-year contract and new quotes will be required for the May meeting. The Salary/PAYE heading had been increased to reflect the rise in pension contributions and the clerk's pay rise in April. During discussion, Councillors agreed that £1,500 should be set aside in the contingency fund towards the possible funding of a VAS (if the meeting with the KCC Traffic Scheme dept. is successful). Councillors felt that £10,000 of the general reserves needed to be ringfenced (with the previous £500) towards the meeting room as it is hoped that this project will progress in the next financial year. Cllr Moy raised concerns about the decrease in Parish Service Scheme funding and the Clerk responded that she had reduced the projected figure to £500. Cllr Moy asked that £500 be added to the Open Spaces column, to help overcome any shortfall. Cllr Scott asked that a further £1,500 be added to the budget for the forthcoming year to cover the ongoing costs with regards to the meeting room. Councillors agreed with both suggestions. During further discussion, Cllr Martin queried whether there was likely to be a cap to precept rises from Central Government and the Clerk confirmed that there would be no cap in the short term; however, the monitoring of increases is ongoing.

Cllr Scott then briefly closed the meeting to ask the residents present for their view on a precept rise. All residents felt that the proposed rise was acceptable, due to the work that the Parish Council undertakes instead of the Borough Council. Taking all points raised into consideration, Cllr Martin proposed **“that the precept for the forthcoming year be set at £25,500, an annual increase of £7.46 per Band D household per year”**. This was seconded by Cllr Scott, with all in favour.

8.5 Kent Men of the Trees Subscription 2018/2019

The Clerk informed all present that she had received an email from the Chairman of the Kent Men of the Trees to report that they had forgotten to send out the subscription invoices for 2018/2019. The Clerk asked Councillors to approve the £25.00 for the current year. This was proposed by Cllr Scott and seconded by Cllr Martin; with all in favour. The Clerk added that the 2019/2020 invoice would be due soon and the organisers had sent a letter to show to any auditors who raised a concern with the close payments.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

9.1 Any planning applications received before the meeting

No applications had been received for discussion.

9.2 Planning Decisions

9.2.1 Applications Approved by MBC

18/505054/FULL - The Old Coach House, Lower Road

Infill of undercroft to form dining room

18/504891/FULL - 1 Retreat Cottages, Hilltop, Hunton

Erection of single storey rear Conservatory

18/505605/FULL - Court Lodge Park, Lower Road

Reinstate 2no. openings into the east elevation of the Cow House together with the installation of new windows - amended scheme to LBC 18/503795 relating to conversion of cow house to ancillary residential accommodation

18/505606/LBC - Court Lodge Park, Lower Road

Listed Building Consent for reinstating 2no. openings into the east elevation of the Cow House together with the installation of new windows - amended scheme to LBC 18/503795 relating to conversion of cow house to ancillary residential accommodation

18/505920/FULL - 2 Valley View, Charlton Lane

Erection of a single storey rear extension

9.2.2 Applications Refused by MBC

18/505681/FULL - The Old Parsonage, Lower Road

Internal modification to existing kitchen to form utility and wc, conversion of existing attached derelict barn into a kitchen, and creation of a single storey link from house to barn

18/505682/LBC - The Old Parsonage, Lower Road

Listed Building Consent for internal modification to existing kitchen to form utility and wc, conversion of existing attached derelict barn into a kitchen, and creation of a single storey link from house to barn

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Council meeting will be held on **Monday 18th March 2019** at 7.30pm at The Good Intent.

With no further matters to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9.13pm