

## WEST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2017 AT THE GOOD INTENT, WEST FARLEIGH

**PRESENT:** Cllr B Scott (Chairman), Cllrs M Merritt, G Martin, J Morgan, H Swan and Mrs A Broadhurst, Clerk  
**IN ATTENDANCE:** Thirteen parishioners were present.

Cllr Scott requested, if anyone intended to record the meeting, that they inform the Parish Council. He also offered condolences to the family of Chris Stockwell, who had recently passed away, and asked all present to join in with a minute's silence.

#### Public Discussion:

A resident reported that the 30/40mph sign on Lower Road, at the Charlton Lane junction, has been damaged.

**ACTION: Clerk**

The resident also thanked the Clerk for the work that she completes on behalf of the Parish Council.

A resident raised concerns at the 20mph at the Thatched House, that is being ignored. Cllr Scott responded that he would discuss this at the Highways meeting that is due to take place.

**ACTION: Cllr Scott/KHS**

A resident queried whether Kent Highways or Kent Police will be reclaiming the £75,000 costs for repairing Teston Bridge, which was damaged by a drunk driver. It was noted that this is being progressed by the insurance company. The resident added that residents should also be compensated for the inconvenience of the bridge closure.

A resident queried whether there has been any progression with the Community Centre, asking whether there is to be a village meeting to discuss the situation. Cllr Martin stated that the Trustees do want to do something, but every avenue has been unsuccessful to date. He added that many of the residents now are probably unaware that the village had historically wanted to try to build the hall. The resident stated that maybe there should be discussion with the Charity Commission to see about winding the charity up and sharing the money out with other organisations in the village. Cllr Merritt add that, with the failed attempts over the years, people have lost interest in the project.

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Borough Cllrs R Webb and B Mortimer, Community Warden Adam McKinley

#### 2. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS

There were no declarations.

#### 3. MINUTES of the Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017

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 read out an email from the Community Warden and councillors asked that he be asked for the name of the PCSO that he has had been liaising with in the village.

**ACTION: Clerk**

The Clerk reported that there had been four crimes since the last meeting (a burglary, a theft, an attempted burglary and criminal damage to the village green). It was noted that 3 of the crimes had all occurred in Charlton Lane.

#### 5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

There were no reports from the County and Borough Councillors.

Members of the public left the meeting (7.55pm)

#### 6. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: Pension Contributions from April 2018

Minutes of this agenda item will be filed with a signed copy of these minutes.

#### 7. CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

Five parishioners had applied for the two Councillor vacancies, with two withdrawing before the meeting. Claire Oirschot, Hugh Pritchard and Martin Moy individually spoke about their reasons for wanting to become a Parish Councillor. When they had left the room, discussion took place and it was resolved that Hugh Pritchard should be the first co-opted Councillor (all in favour) and Martin Moy should become the second co-opted Councillor (4 in favour and 1 against), for the remaining term.

Members of the public returned to the meeting (meeting reconvened at 8.50pm)

## **8. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATH MATTERS**

### **8.1 Highways Issues in West Farleigh**

It was noted that the sign at the junction of Teston Lane and Lower Road has not been repaired to date. **ACTION: Clerk**  
Cllr Swan reported that the road has dipped where the water works were completed in Charlton Lane. Cllr Martin offered to look at this. **ACTION: Cllr Martin**

Cllr Scott stated that this could be raised at the meeting with Kent Highways on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November, along with the Ewell Lane resurfacing and the access road to Rookery Row, which is part of the highway and not a privately-owned strip of road.

### **8.2 Teston Bridge**

Cllr Scott stated that an update would be included under Agenda item 9.1

## **9. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

### **9.1 Meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner**

Cllr Martin reported on the recent meeting that he had attended with Cllr Scott. The following points had been discussed:

- Lack of rural Policing – Mr Scott (Police Commissioner) would need to raise this with the Chief Constable
- Lack of visible Policing – A £5 raise in the Police portion of the council tax had resulted in Kent Police being able to employ a further 80 Police Constables, however they had previously lost 600.
- Teston Bridge – A new law is now in place which will result in foreign lorry drivers being issued with a ticket and an 'on the spot' £200 fine. However it was disappointing to learn that all money raised from fines goes to Central Government. It was also noted that the Speed Awareness courses are not allowed to make any money for local police forces. Mr Scott was also going to request that Police Officers take their lunch breaks in the layby by Teston Bridge to show some police presence, in the hope of deterring large vehicles from using the bridge. It was noted that this has not happened.

It was noted that a meeting that had been arranged with Parishes on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 has now been cancelled.

### **9.2 Damage to the Village Green**

Cllr Swan reported on the recent damage to the green and added that the area needs attention. After brief discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Martin would speak to the grounds maintenance contractor, Mr Johnson, to see if he could give a price for replacing the broken posts around the green. **ACTION: Cllr Martin**

This is to be an agenda item for the next meeting (Work required on the Village Green)

**ACTION: Clerk**

### **9.3 Lambing Day 2018**

Cllr Martin reported that Lambing Day will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and wanted to see the event raise some money for the village. It was acknowledged that the refreshments were a success and Cllr Martin wondered whether stalls should be allowed, with the stall holders making a contribution to the Council. This could include small businesses and the Young Farmers have already expressed an interest in running a hotdog stall (it was noted that they would require a food safety certificate). Councillors discussed charging a fee for each car that visits but Cllr Martin raised concerns that more cars may park on Hunt Street, which would cause an issue. Cllr Martin asked that this stay an Agenda item for the next meeting. **ACTION: Clerk**

It was noted that money raised from events would help with improving areas around the village, which included completing the additional grounds works that the Parish Council has taken on due to the lack of work being completed by Kent Highways. It was then noted that Rookery Estates have also completed additional hedgecutting work recently in the village and Councillors asked that a note be sent to them to thank them for the work that had been completed.

**ACTION: Clerk**

### **9.4 South East in Bloom (Village of the Year Competition)**

The Clerk reported that a resident had asked whether the Parish Council could consider entering the Village of the Year competition in 2019 and added that she had circulated details to Councillors before the meeting. Councillors raised concerns that this project would require a lot of work and it was felt that the village should have a natural feel to it, rather than ending up looking like a park. After brief discussion it was agreed to keep this as an agenda item for the next meeting. The Clerk was asked to contact the resident to ask them to attend the next meeting to discuss the competition with Councillors. **ACTION: Clerk**

## 10 MATTERS OF REPORT

### 10.1 Individual Councillor's Reports

Cllr Swan reported that she had heard about a Speedwatch scheme that had fizzled out in another village and they had gone on to purchase a portable Speed Indication Device (SID). This device had reduced the speed of traffic through the village and had cost in the region of £2,500. The battery lasted 4 weeks and did not require the manpower needed to make Speedwatch a success. Cllr Martin stated that he would like to see Speedwatch come to fruition as this was something that Chris Stockwell, as a Councillor, had actively tried to progress. He asked Mags Zak whether she felt she could get enough support to move the project forward and she stated that she would be happy to look into this.

Cllr Scott reported that he had attended the recent Highways Parish Liaison meeting and it was reported that Highways are to lose £66m of funding in 2018/19 and then a further £46m in 2019/20. It was noted that Kent Highways is overstretched, especially the Highways Stewards. The general view was that 'if you want something done, do it yourself'. Kent County Council have tough decisions to make now such as ensuring care for the elderly versus cutting hedges. It was also noted that the collision recording and sharing service is in a dire state.

### 10.4 Clerk's Reports

Budget for 2018-19: The Clerk remind all Councillors that the 2018/19 budget will have to be approved at the next meeting (along with the precept). She requested that Councillors forward any items that they want included or any thoughts on the budget for next year.

Website: The Clerk reported that the HugoFox website is currently in a draft form, but time will need to set aside to make quite a few changes to it before it can go live. Updates will be given when available.

Changes to Data Protection Rules: The Clerk reported that guidance has just been issued warning of the changes that are to come in to force in May 2018 which relate to data protection. If any action needs to be taken by the Parish Council, the Clerk will add the matter to a future agenda.

Kent Men of the Trees Competition: The Clerk reported that the village did not win in this year's competition, however we had received a 'Highly commended' certificate.

## 11 FINANCE

### 11.1 Budget Monitoring

The Budget Monitoring Report to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017 was **Noted**.

### 11.2 Income received since the last meeting

No income since the last meeting

### 11.3 Cheques for signature

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

101175 – Craigdene Ltd – Playground Annual Safety Inspection	£ 144.00
101176 – Mrs A Broadhurst – November Salary	£ 678.86
101177 – Mrs A Broadhurst – Expenses (Cartridges & Mileage)	£ 125.43
101178 – Mr L Johnson – Grounds Maintenance (Annual Invoice)	£1285.00
101179 – Mrs A Broadhurst – December Salary (post-dated)	£ 679.06
101180 – Tollgate Rain Ltd – (Good Intent) Meeting Refreshments	£ 30.00

Direct Debits:

People's Pension – Monthly Payment (October)	£20.00
People's Pension – Monthly Payment (November)	£20.00
People's Pension – Monthly Payment (December)	£20.00

Additional Payment to be approved:

The Clerk reported that HMRC will be refusing to accept cheque payments at the Post Office from the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017, which means that the next PAYE payment, due at the beginning of January, will not be able to be paid in the usual way. No letter has been received from HMRC, having contacted them, the Clerk had been informed that they are behind with informing businesses. The Clerk would request that Councillors approve two different methods for this next payment so that there will be no risk of a fine for late payment.

1. A cheque will be written for the amount due:

101181 – HM Revenue & Customs Only £589.78

2. Authorise for a telephone transfer to be set up to be paid quarterly by the Clerk

The Clerk stated that, if the telephone transfer can be arranged in good time, the cheque will be cancelled and included in the accounts file to ensure a paperwork trail for the Auditor to see. If there is an issue with the transfer, there will be enough time to send a cheque through the post to avoid any fine.

All Councillors were in agreement with this course of action to ensure that the payment can be made in January.

**12. PLANNING MATTERS**

**12.1 Any planning applications received before the meeting**

No applications had been received.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next full Council meeting will be held on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7.30pm** at The Good Intent.

*With no further matters to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9.28pm*

All members of the public were invited to stay for refreshments.