

WEST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2018 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: Fourteen 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 horse warning signs that are required around the village. Possibly places to sign the signs included Hunt Street, Smiths Hill, Lower Road, Charlton Lane, the blind corner by Kettle Lane (coming from East Farleigh) and Ewell Lane (by the Thatched House). The Clerk was asked to investigate the cost of 6 signs and the securing clips.

ACTION: Clerk

1. **APOLOGIES**

Borough Cllr Lottie Parfitt-Reid & County Cllr Paulina Stockwell

2. **COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS**

Cllr Morgan declared an interest in Agenda Item 8.4 (Donation to West Farleigh in Bloom) as she is a member of the group.

3. **MINUTES of the Meeting held on 17th September 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 Swan, with 5 in favour and 2 abstentions. The Chairman signed off the official copy.

4. **POLICE MATTERS**

No reports had been received from either Kent Police or the Community Warden.

A resident offered a list of crimes, detailed on E-Watch, that have taken place in surrounding villages and an overview was read out to all present.

It was noted that the Community Warden had not attended the last coffee morning and the Clerk was asked to inform him of the date of the next one, which was confirmed as being Saturday 19th January 2019 (10.00am – 12.00pm).

ACTION: Clerk

5. **HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATH MATTERS**

5.1 **Highways Issues in West Farleigh**

Cllr Merritt reported that, once again, HGVs coming through the village is an increasing problem and the size of the vehicles being used is very concerning.

It was noted that several small cameras have been seen around the village, also further afield, and the Clerk has queried these with Kent Highways, who had no knowledge of them.

The Clerk reported on an email that had been received from a resident regarding the state of Kettle Lane, after some work had been completed and also the lack of traffic calming on Lower Road, when compared to East Farleigh Parish Council. Councillors commented that they were pleased with the work that had been completed in Kettle Lane and that the speed limit had been reduced along Lower Road. The Clerk is to respond to the resident. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Martin reported on a meeting that had been held with the Drainage Team from Kent Highways to discuss the recent flooding issues at Smiths Hill. Cllr Martin had explained that the issue of flooding had increased dramatically since the new drains and kerbs had been installed. The representatives from KHS had no knowledge of the previous issues and declined the offer of land being given to them to create a soakaway to alleviate the problem. They had stated that recent CCTV images (from 2 years ago) showed that there were no blockages and that it was simply due to the volume of water in the area. When further flooding had been reported, as the area had flooded 3 times in 4 days, the representative had responded to say that he had removed the leaves and the area had cleared quickly. Cllr Martin disputed this as he had already cleared the area of leaves and it had made no difference at all. Subsequently the homes in the area had had mud and silt deposited on their driveways for the second time in recent weeks. This build up is becoming a serious slip issue on Smiths Hill and needs clearing. **ACTION: Clerk**

The standard of pothole repairs in Rookery Row and Kettle Lane were discussed.

5.2 **Speedwatch**

The Clerk reminded all Councillors that the report produced by the Speedwatch Co-ordinator had been circulated. Cllr Scott thanked Mags for all of her work. She responded that members of the Speedwatch team have become extremely frustrated due to the lack of Police activity relating to confirming active sites.

Mags detailed the monitoring that East Farleigh Parish Council is currently undertaking. They have 4 poles in the village and the two units purchased can be moved around as needed. The system had cost £9,000 and had been installed by KCC. Mags had detailed various options for Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) and all Councillors agreed that the layby area on Lower Road would be the safest place for a unit to be installed. Cllr Merritt added that he was pleased to see that some of the systems allow for the data to be downloaded so that persistent offenders can be contacted by the Police. After further brief discussion, the Clerk offered to make contact with Toby Donlon at KCC to discuss this further and Councillors asked that County Cllr Stockwell be contacted to see if she has any available funding left. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Moy spoke about the recent KALC AGM, which he had attended. East Farleigh Parish Council had given a presentation about the highways project that they are currently undertaking. They have worked with consultants and there will be resurfacing completed, which will include different colour road surfacing. The work is due to commence in 2019 and the Parish Council have taken out a loan of £50,000.

Cllr Scott asked the Clerk to speak with East Farleigh Parish Council's Clerk to see whether they intend to keep their SIDs, after the work has been completed, or whether they may look to sell them. **ACTION: Clerk**

It was noted that Hunton Parish Council are also struggling to get a team together for their Speedwatch Scheme. Mags then offered thanks to Borough Cllr Webb and the volunteers for all their help with the West Farleigh Speedwatch.

6. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

6.1 Work Required on the Village Green

After brief discussion it was suggested that a quote be sought for tidying up the corner of the green and placing slabs under the final bench. All Councillors agreed with this and Cllr Martin offered to speak with the person who had completed some work in Charlton Lane during the summer. **ACTION: Cllr Martin**

It was noted that the fingerpost sign had fallen over, as part of the post was rotten. Cllr Martin stated that he would prefer that the Parish Council looked to repair this, rather than KHS, and it was agreed that a quote would be needed for the concrete base that will be required.

6.2 Bylaw Signs for the Village Green

Cllr Merritt reported that he had arranged a quote for 2 aluminium backed bylaw signs to be placed on the green (one by The Good Intent and the other by the play area). This will cost £84 (+£12 delivery if required). It was proposed by Cllr Merritt to have the two new bylaw signs made. This was seconded by Cllr Martin, with all in favour. Cllr Merritt asked the Clerk to forward him the final wording for the signs. **ACTION: Clerk**

7 MATTERS OF REPORT

7.1 County Councillor Report

No report was received.

7.2 Borough Councillor Reports

The Clerk read out a report from Borough Cllr Parfitt-Reid, which detailed the work that Helen Grant MP is completing with John Wilson to try to tackle the issue of HGVs in rural lanes. It was noted that she is still waiting to meet with Helen to discuss the policing issues raised at the September meeting.

7.3 Individual Councillor's Reports

Cllr Moy reported on the recent Kent Highways Parish Seminar, which he had attended. It was noted that KHS has as many roads as Highways England to maintain in Kent, but that they receive 50 times less budget. They need £330m to maintain the roads properly but have only £10m. It was noted that KHS have a new contractor in place. The new boss at Highways England is very concerned at the amount of deaths or life changing injuries that occur on Kent roads and he wants to hear from residents who are aware of issues. All issues should be reported on the Kent Highways 'Report a Fault' portal: www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem. There was an admission that the general standard of the roads is poor, but that the A roads need to be the priority.

Cllr Swan reported on the KALC Resilience Forum meeting that she had attended. Flooding had been the main discussion point along with Emergency Planning. Things that could affect the village included weather related incidents, medical emergency or power outage. These issues could affect communications and some residents would need to rely on local people to assist them. There would generally be one person as the point of contact and there should be a list of vulnerable people in the community. Cllr Swan proposed that the Parish Council prepares a Plan and Cllr Martin added that residents can do things separately, for example he is registered as a 4x4 driver with the doctor in case of an emergency. The Clerk raised concerns at how the new GDPR regulations fit in with Emergency Planning (taking in to account the amount of personal data that can be collected) and it was agreed that this requires further investigation.

ACTION: Clerk

It was also noted that the Community Warden may be aware of vulnerable people in the village and it was suggested that he be contacted to see whether he takes an active part if there were to be an emergency. **ACTION: Clerk**

It was noted that the defibrillator signs are worn and Cllr Merritt offered to look at these. **ACTION: Cllr Merritt**

7.4 Clerk's Reports

- The Clerk reminded Councillors that she would start looking at the budget soon, as the precept for 2019-20 needs to be approved at the next meeting. She asked that Councillors forward any thoughts on expenditure that may be required before Christmas.

8. FINANCE

8.1 Budget Monitoring

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

8.2 Income received since the last meeting

MBC – 2nd half Parish Scheme Payment £862.15

8.3 Cheques/Payments for approval

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

101221 – Mrs A Broadhurst – November Salary	£785.11
101222 – Mrs A Broadhurst – Expenses (Office 365, McAfee, Mileage, Postage)	£134.30
101223 - Mr L Johnson – Annual Grounds Maintenance	£1,275.00
101224 – KALC – Resilience Training	£ 72.00
101225 – LexisNexis – Charles Arnold Baker Book	£110.99
101226 – Mrs A Broadhurst – December Salary (post-dated)	£697.65
101227 – West Farleigh in Bloom – Donation for planters	£220.00

Direct Debits:

People's Pension – Monthly Payment (November)	£ 55.00
People's Pension – Monthly Payment (December)	£ 52.00

Telephone Bank Transfers:

(January) HMRC – PAYE (October - December)	£682.43
(This payment needs to be made before the January meeting)	

8.4 Donation to West Farleigh in Bloom

The Clerk reported that she had received a request from West Farleigh in Bloom for a donation towards the cost of 3 new planters. Tim Knowles has offered to make these and the materials will cost £220. It was proposed by Cllr Scott to give a donation of £220 and this was seconded by Cllr Martin; with 6 in favour and 1 abstention. Cheque number 101227 was issued.

The Clerk was asked to thank Tim for offering to build the planters for the group.

ACTION: Clerk

9. PLANNING MATTERS

9.1 Any planning applications received before the meeting

The Clerk reported that an application has just been received from MBC (18/505920/FULL – 2 Valley View, Charlton Lane). The details will be forwarded to Councillors for them to view on the MBC planning portal.

9.2 Planning Decisions

9.2.1 Applications Approved by MBC

18/503523/FULL - 1-2 Court Lodge Cottages, Church Lane, ME15 OPD

Extension of existing garage

18/503395/FULL - Burnea Oast, Lower Road, ME15 OPF

Loft conversion to roundel, involving lowering of existing bedroom ceiling, addition of staircase and velux window (resubmission of 18/500192/FULL)

18/503794/FULL - Court Lodge Park, Lower Road, ME15 OPD

Conversion of the existing Cow House building into ancillary residential accommodation

18/503795/LBC - Court Lodge Park, Lower Road, ME15 OPD

Listed Building Consent for Conversion of the existing Cow House building into ancillary residential accommodation

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Council meeting will be held on **Monday 21st January 2019** at 7.30pm at The Good Intent.

With no further matters to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9.03pm