

# WEST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2016 AT THE GOOD INTENT, WEST FARLEIGH

**PRESENT:** Cllrs B Scott (Chairman), Cllrs M Merritt, G Martin, J Morgan, H Swan, Mrs A Broadhurst (Clerk)  
Borough Cllrs B Mortimer, E Fermor and R Webb and PCSO M Day.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Five parishioners were present.

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

### 1. APOLOGIES

Cllr L Johnson and Community Warden A McKinley

### 2. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS

There were no declarations.

### 3. MINUTES of the Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016

The Minutes of the meeting had been previously distributed and Cllr Swan 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. REPORTS FROM THE POLICE & COMMUNITY WARDEN

PCSO Day reported that there had been one crime since the last meeting which was criminal damage (under £5,000).

Borough Cllr Mortimer stated that there needed to be police presence at both East Farleigh and Teston bridges to issue tickets to HGVs, as this is an issue. Cllr Martin added that there are now tri-axle lorries crossing Teston bridge. The PCSO offered to discuss this with her colleagues.

**ACTION: PCSO Day**

### 5. TO DISCUSS AGENDA ITEM 13 IN A CLOSED CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

All Councillors agreed that agenda item 13 should be discussed confidentially as it relates to the Clerk's pension arrangements.

### 6. CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

Cllr Martin proposed that Chris Stockwell be co-opted back onto the Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr Swan, with all in favour.

### 7. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATH MATTERS

#### 7.1 Highways Issues in West Farleigh

Cllr Martin reported on the Ewell Lane road closure which is causing chaos, although nothing appears to be happening since tarmac has been replaced. Cllr Merritt added that the road closure signs are not across the road and there has not been a bus service since the closure commenced. It was also noted that, as there are no road name plates for Ewell Lane, many people do not even realise which road is supposed to be shut.

Cllr Martin reported that a lorry slid out of Hunt Street on the wet leaves that have accumulated and asked for this to be reported as it is extremely dangerous.

**ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Merritt informed all present that he has reported a case of flytipping in Ewell Lane, however the items have not been removed. This is building waste which would fill a transit van.

**ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Swan reported that the fingerpost on Lower Road pointing up Charlton Lane is now pointing towards the Tickled Trout. Cllr Martin offered to look to see whether this can be tightened.

**ACTION: Cllr Martin**

Cllr Swan reported that a resident had enquired as to whether speed bumps could be installed in Charlton Lane, due to the speed of vehicles. It was noted that, due to cutbacks, Kent Highways will only look to complete works if there is a record of serious accidents or a fatality.

#### 7.2 Teston Lane

Cllr Scott reported that meetings had been held with KCC, County Cllr Stockell and 3 other Parishes (East Farleigh, Teston and Barming) to discuss the highways issues relating to both East Farleigh and Teston Bridges. The Council Chairs had wanted cameras fitted that can automatically issue fines but KCC do not seem to want to progress this. Due to this, along with the delay in any action, East Farleigh Parish Council have starting work with DHA Planning to complete a survey. Borough Cllr Mortimer stated that he had attended a meeting with other Liberal Democrat Councillors and the County Councillor to discuss this issue. He added that a survey had been completed last year for East Farleigh bridge and this had come up with solutions that were not particularly helpful (e.g. cutting back vegetation) and would not resolve the issue. KCC had been asked what plans they had for dealing with the problems and they had stated that they have not got any plans at all.

South Eastern Trains had been asked whether warning lights could be linked in with their crossing lights and they had said that, due to health and safety reasons, this could not be done. Borough Cllr Mortimer, along with other Borough Cllrs, are going to speak to the Police Commissioner to try to push for enforcement on the bridges.

**ACTION: Borough Cllr Mortimer**

It was noted that a ring road had been suggested and this idea will not be progressed. Cllr Scott added that there is the technology out there to assist with the bridge issues, however no one wants to progress these due to the cost involved. Cllr Merritt reported that this issue had been discussed at a recent Police meeting and it was noted that the CCTV to enable prosecution costs approximately £7,000 to install, this can then be linked to an ANPR system, at a further cost of £4,000, with the ANPR system requiring a licence for an additional £1,000 a year. There was further discussion about installing bollards and it was noted that these could still allow access for emergency vehicles but Kent Highways had rejected this idea.

### 7.3 Speedwatch

Cllr Scott asked Cllr Stockwell whether he could progress with Speedwatch, as Councillors had been unable to and he confirmed that he would. The Clerk reported that details of a new co-ordinator had been sent to Clerks and this information was passed to Cllr Stockwell. Cllr Merritt stated that, at the recent Police meeting, there had been general complaints from other Parishes that the scheme is a waste of time, as any reported vehicles are not dealt with. Borough Cllr Webb stated that there is now an on-line reporting system and, once people have been trained and are registered, volunteers can help on other Speedwatch schemes. Cllr Swan suggested a flashing indicator or 30mph warning light may be beneficial, as people may take more notice of this.

## 8. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

### 8.1 Play Area

Roundabout in the Play Area: The Clerk reported that the Rota Bounce has now been ordered and is due to be installed in the New Year. Councillors asked for thanks to be noted to County Cllr Stockell who had given a grant of £1,500 towards the cost of the equipment. Cllr Merritt reported that a generator and heavy breaker will need to be hired to break the concrete that the roundabout is set in. This will cost approximately £100 but it was noted that the people who are to take the roundabout away have offered £200 for the unit. Councillors agreed that they would arrange to remove the roundabout after the 4<sup>th</sup> December and Cllr Scott will make the necessary arrangements for the roundabout to be taken away.

**ACTION: Cllr Scott**

### 8.2 Grounds Maintenance Contract 2017-2020

A list of work to be included in the next contract had been circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting. Cllr Merritt stated that the area at the bottom of Charlton Lane, on the right-hand side, was approximately 220 sq. m and the brambles by Paynes land are very bad. Cllr Martin stated that Councillors had agreed that additional work needed to be added to the contracts to keep the village looking tidy and Cllr Merritt raised concerns that some residents may not be happy paying for the additional work that should be completed by others. Cllr Scott asked the Clerk to complete a land search to find out the owner of the land at the junction of Charlton Lane.

**ACTION: Clerk**

It was noted that one area of concern which was due to be added to the grounds maintenance contract was clearance in Charlton Lane opposite Elmscroft House. A quotation of £250 had been received to complete the work and Cllr Scott proposed that this quotation be accepted, to get the work completed as soon as possible. This was seconded by Cllr Swan, with all in favour.

## 9 MATTERS OF REPORT

### 9.1 County Councillor's Report

No report provided.

### 9.2 Borough Councillor's Report

Borough Cllr Webb reported that the contract for the Parish Liaison Officer is not being renewed. He also stated that there is a 'Report it' section on the MBC website to report things like flytipping and litter issues. MBC are also creating a new system, which will be in the form of an app, where residents will be able to report abandoned vehicles etc. on a mobile phone; it is hoped that the app will go live early in 2017.

Borough Cllr Fermor spoke about the budget devolution agenda within MBC adding that the Council Tax Reduction Scheme will be discussed at the Full Council meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> December. Cllr Scott stated that devolution is an issue for small Parishes as they have restricted funds. Borough Cllr Mortimer commented that it was harder for Parishes since the removal of Concurrent Functions.

### 9.3 Individual Councillor's Reports

Cllr Swan reported that the next coffee morning will be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> January (10am – 12pm). Cllr Martin added that the Lambing Day is likely to be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> March and that a Parish Council banner will be required.

Cllr Morgan asked if the work required on the defibrillator signs could be completed soon (to include the post code for the pub).

**ACTION: Cllr Merritt**

Cllr Stockwell offered thanks to the Sports Club for the wonderful fireworks display.

Cllr Stockwell reported that there is the top of a silver birch tree at the top of Charlton Lane, that was blocking the road at one point.

**ACTION: Clerk**

#### 7.4 Clerk's Reports

- Kent Men of the Trees Competition: The Clerk report that, whilst the Parish did not win the competition this year, the judges considered the village to be amongst the best they saw. In recognition of this, the Parish has been awarded a £25 contribution towards a new tree. The paperwork has been given to Cllr Merritt to oversee the purchase.
- Budget 2017-2018: The Clerk reported that she has started work on the draft budget and asked for any thoughts from Councillors to be forwarded as soon as possible.
- Website: The Clerk reported that, after finally managing to set up a website, EIS are moving the websites across to Wordpress. No date has been given for the migration of the West Farleigh site, however, once they start to work on the site no further documents can be uploaded. Wordpress will be a completely different website to the one that is currently in use and so it is going to take a while to work out how the new system works. The Clerk explained the importance of having a working website as West Farleigh comes under the Transparency Code, which requires a functioning website.

## 10 FINANCE

### 10.1 Budget Monitoring

The Budget Monitoring Report to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 was **Noted**.

### 10.2 Income received since the last meeting

Co-operative Interest – Direct Plus Account (September)	£ 2.10
Co-operative Interest – Direct Plus Account (October)	£ 2.29
MBC – 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of Parish Service Scheme Fund	£ 749.50
KCC – Grant awarded towards Play Equipment	£1,500.00

### 10.3 Cheques for signature

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

101139 – Sustainable Furniture UK Ltd – Picnic Benches for Play Area	£1,125.00
101140 - Mrs A Broadhurst – Nett Salary for November	£ 662.79
101141 – Playdale Playgrounds Ltd – Rota Bounce deposit	£3,501.44
101142 – Mr L Johnson – Grounds Maintenance	£ 895.00
101143 – Mrs A Broadhurst – Nett Salary for December (Post-dated)	£ 662.79
101144 - Post Office Ltd – PAYE (Post-dated)	£ 553.60

## 11. PLANNING MATTERS

### 11.1 Any planning applications received before the meeting

No applications had been received.

## 12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Council meeting will be held on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7.30pm** at The Good Intent.

*The meeting was then adjourned at 8.47pm to allow for public discussion, before reconvening in a Closed Confidential Session for Agenda Item 13 (Pension for the Clerk)*

*(There were no items to be discussed by the Public present)*

**Minutes of Agenda item 13 (Pension for the Clerk) will be filed with a signed copy of these minutes**