

WEST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15th JULY 2019 AT THE GOOD INTENT, WEST FARLEIGH

PRESENT: Cllr B Scott (Chairman), Cllrs G Martin, M Merritt, J Morgan, H Swan, H Pritchard (from 7.40pm), Borough Councillor Richard Webb and Mrs A Broadhurst, Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Fifteen parishioners were present.

Public Discussion

A resident spoke about a planning application they are in the process of submitting. An application was approved in 2005 and renewed in 2009. However, now that a tree has fallen and damaged one of the barns, it requires an application to be submitted for a rebuild rather than a refurbishment. The resident confirmed that the end result will be exactly the same as the originally approved application.

A member of West Farleigh in Bloom gave an update on the group. There are now over 25 members and the Village in Bloom judges came to the village on the 4th July. The results will be known in September. A query was raised about the contract for grass cutting on the green, as the judges had suggested leaving the grass to grow longer to encourage wildflowers. The area around the play area and goal post could be kept short. There was brief discussion and it was agreed that Cllr Martin would meet with Mrs Meddemen to discuss the various options. It was also noted that the areas around the play area and benches had not been strimmed on the last cut and the Clerk was asked to contact MBC about this.

ACTION: Clerk

A resident read out a letter he had recently sent to the Parish Council regarding speeding on Lower Road, which detailed how East Farleigh were getting a better service from KCC than West Farleigh. Cllr Scott reported that East Farleigh Parish Council had had to take out a loan for approximately £65,000 for the works. It was noted the Parish Council were unhappy that the scheme was not working as the highway planners had advised it would. KCC have since said that the scheme needs 6 months to bed in. Cllr Scott reported that, with Cllr Martin and Borough Cllr Webb, he had met with Jennie Watson from KHS and she has advised that additional road markings are required along Lower Road. The Parish Council, with the help of the Speedwatch Co-ordinator, had investigated SIDs being installed and Mrs Watson had stated that a traffic survey will be required before any remedial action can be taken. Jennie has since given the names of four companies that the Parish Council can contact to obtain a quote for the survey to be completed; it is likely to cost around £200. Cllr Martin added that the survey will work out the average speed. Speedwatch was mentioned and the Co-ordinator commented that, when the site was finally approved for Lower Road, no residents along there had offered to assist and it had taken so long to arrange that the other volunteers had stepped away from supporting the scheme. The resident stated that he had signed up to be a volunteer but was unsure who he had contacted at the time. It was noted that West Farleigh is a village that does not have the protection of a 30mph speed limit. Cllr Scott informed all present that the Parish Council had been trying to get improvement plans agreed for Lower Road for many years, these included a mini roundabout at the junction with Teston Lane but, unfortunately, KHS had stated that there was no money to progress this. Cllr Martin added that 2 yellow lines for 10m would cost around £2,800 as it has to go to the Borough solicitor; confirming that any works are extremely expensive.

A further resident raised concerns that there is speeding at least 4 nights a week, in the early hours of the morning; the resulting noise nuisance was also noted. Borough Cllr Webb stated that all incidents should be reported to Kent Police on 101 or on-line and that this should be done when every incident of speeding occurs. PCSO Chivers had contacted the resident to say that he was completing speed checks along Lower Road and these had started on the 12th June. On that date no one had been found to be speeding, although it was noted that drivers would have spotted the hi-vis jacket and slowed down. A resident stated that there needs to be a consequence for speeding drivers and that it might be worth contacting the Safety Camera Partnership. A resident stated that any remedial plans that are put in place to include the area around Kettle Lane as well as Charlton Lane.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Moy, Borough Cllr Parfitt-Reid

2. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS

There were no Declarations of Interest

3. MINUTES of the Meeting held on 15th May 2019

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 all in favour. The Chairman signed off the official copy.

4. POLICE MATTERS

The Clerk reported that, since the last meeting, there had been one reported crime in the village. A container had been broken into at the Sports Club, but nothing had been taken. The Clerk then detailed the crimes in the surrounding area. East Farleigh had 6 crimes which included the following:

- A Land Rover stolen from a driveway
- A residential property was broken into and jewellery was stolen
- A business was broken into and tools stolen
- A caravan parked in the grounds of a residential property was broken into. Jewellery, cash, and electronics were among items stolen. The tow ball lock was also removed, indicating they may have tried to steal the caravan itself
- Person/s have entered a farm and stolen the catalytic converter from the vehicle
- A builder's yard was broken into and personal items were stolen from a lorry

Coxheath had had 2 crimes:

- A commercial property was broken into. A lot of damage was caused to the building. They have attempted to gain access to the safe, stolen money from the till, and other items from the store.
- Poly-tunnels were damaged at a farm

Concerns were raised at the rising level of crime in the area. Borough Cllr Webb reported that PCSO Chivers will be leaving and his position may not be filled straight away.

5. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATH MATTERS

5.1 Highways Issues in West Farleigh

The Clerk reported that she had received a message from KHS to say that an engineer has visited Kettle Lane and the potholes that had been reported are dips in the road. They had added that they will not be doing anything about these, as the road is clearly marked as not being suitable for vehicles. They have closed the report down. Cllr Swan said that it is very dangerous for dog walkers and the Clerk was asked to contact KHS again. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Scott reported that the layby on Lower Road had been discussed at the meeting with Jennie Watson and they will be adding white hatching lines to try to move the car back from its current position. Fold down bollards maybe an option in the future.

Trees and shrubs in Charlton Lane, that are narrowing the road, were discussed and the Clerk stated that she would look into this. **ACTION: Clerk**

5.2 Teston Bridge

Cllr Scott reported that the bridge had been discussed during the recent Highways meeting and Jennie Watson had stated that nothing is going to be done to try to resolve the various issues. It was felt that this is very disappointing as the bridge is an ancient monument that is being damaged due to the oversized vehicles crossing.

5.3 Speed Indicator Devices

Following the discussion at the beginning of the meeting it was proposed by Cllr Swan that the Parish Council look to obtain quotes for completing a traffic survey along Lower Road. This was seconded by Cllr Martin, with all in favour.

ACTION: Clerk

6. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

6.1 West Farleigh Community Centre

Cllr Scott reported that there have been meetings with Rookery Estates and they will be discussing the situation with the Sports Club. He added that things are looking positive and moving forward. Cllr Pritchard updated all present about the discussions he had had with a planning consultant. It was noted that if the Parish Council is looking to erect a timber framed building, there are packages that timber companies have that include the whole project, from the planning stage to the actual building work. All Councillors felt that this may be the way forward.

Cllr Scott then explained to residents that the Parish Council may need to look to take out a loan from the Public Works Loan Board, but that the repayments could be covered by holding the lambing day event each year, which would mean that the precept would not need to rise to cover this. It was noted that this would not be a commercial property but a room that could be used by the Parish Council, Sports Club and The Evergreens. It would be somewhere for everyone to come together if there was ever an incident or issue in the village. Cllr Merritt gave the history of how the Parish Council had reached this point, with three failed planning applications. Cllr Martin stated that it would be a lovely addition which would help form the 'heart of the village'. This would be possible, without costing the vast sum of money that the original plans for a village hall would have done. Cllr Scott asked the residents who were present at the meeting what their views were and it was felt that it was a more sensible and maintainable option for the village and it was felt that the meeting room would be a good compromise.

6.2 Requested Meeting with the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner

The Clerk reported that, following the last meeting, she had contacted Mr Scott's secretary again and had subsequently received a response that stated "Mr Scott is unable to commit to any weekends at the moment throughout the Summer and beyond because he will be very busy on weekends (both PCC-related and also political). Fridays would be better at the moment." After brief discussion the Clerk was asked to contact him again to ask for dates. These would need to be checked with The Good Intent to ensure that room is available. **ACTION: Clerk**

6.3 Parish Council Coffee Mornings

Cllr Scott reported that the last coffee morning was poorly attended and they do not seem to be achieving the original goal of giving residents an opportunity to speak to Councillors informally. After brief discussion it was agreed that a questionnaire be sent to residents to see whether they feel the coffee mornings should continue. **ACTION: Cllr Swan**

6.4 Internet Service in the Village

The Clerk reported that a resident had contacted her to raise concerns regarding the broadband speed in the village. He had contacted KCC and, as he had come along to the meeting, he updated all present on his discussions. The Clerk had also contacted them and had received some links to websites that explained how the Community Fibre Partnership works, along with details of the various voucher schemes available. The Clerk had printed off an information sheet for anyone interested in taking part. It would require people in each road to put their vouchers together with one provider who would then be able to assist with getting fibre to their properties. This can also include small business who get more funding and can work with residents. After brief discussion it was felt that this would be a very good scheme and Cllr Pritchard offered to be a point of contact for groups wishing to be formed. It was agreed that details would be placed in Lifeline, the Farleigh Facebook page and in the village newsletter to make residents aware of the scheme. Residents can email the Clerk (westfarleighpc@googlemail.com) to register to be kept informed, putting 'Internet Service in the Village' as the title of the email.

7 MATTERS OF REPORT

7.1 County Councillor Report

No report was received.

7.2 Borough Councillor Reports

Borough Cllr Webb agreed that the recent Highways meeting had been good. The issue at Galston Cottages is ongoing and he has received no update from Golding Homes. The Clerk informed all present that the issue had escalated as the fire brigade had had to be called when the resident had fallen asleep whilst cooking. It was noted that this could have had disastrous consequences for the resident and his neighbours. Borough Cllr Webb reported that he will continue to chase Golding Homes, Environmental Health and also try to find out the email address for the new CEO of Golding Homes.

ACTION: Borough Cllr Webb

The Clerk was asked to bring this issue to the attention of the Community Warden.

ACTION: Clerk

Brian Mortimer's funeral was discussed and Cllr Webb passed on his wife's thanks to everyone who attended his funeral. Mrs Mortimer appreciated everyone's support.

7.3 Individual Councillor's Reports

Cllr Martin reported that the issue with the drains on Smiths Hill has been rectified and he was pleased to see that the road is to be resurfaced. Cllr Scott commented that he believed it is to be redressed rather than resurfaced.

7.4 Clerk's Reports

- Employment of Internal Auditor 2019 – 2022: It was proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Scott that Mr David Buckett be employed as the Internal Auditor for the next 3 years, all Councillors were in favour.

8. FINANCE

8.1 Budget Monitoring

The Budget Monitoring Report to 30th June 2019 was **Noted**.

8.2 Income received since the last meeting

MBC – Parish Service Scheme (1 st half)	£466.00
HMRC – VAT Refund	£ 233.05

8.3 Cheques for signature

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

101252 – Mrs A Broadhurst – July Salary	£732.40
101253 – Harrietsham Parish Council (Share of Clerk’s SLCC Membership)	£ 78.75
101254 – Lenham Oak Ltd – Posts for the Green	£120.00
*101255 – TBC - Maintenance of Defibrillator	£TBC
101256 - Mrs A Broadhurst – August Salary (post-dated)	£732.40

* See agenda item 8.4 – Defibrillator Maintenance

Direct Debits:

People’s Pension – Monthly Payment (July)	£ 55.00
People’s Pension – Monthly Payment (August)	£ 55.00
Information Commissioner’s Office – Membership Renewal	£ 35.00

8.4 Defibrillator Maintenance

Cllr Scott reported that some maintenance had had to be completed on the village defibrillator, however he had been unable to get the details and receipts ahead of the meeting to arrange the necessary payment. It was agreed by all present that the cheque be sent out, once the receipts have been submitted. Cllr Scott reported that the cost was approximately £40.00.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

9.1 Any planning applications received before the meeting

No applications had been received.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Council meeting will be held on **Monday 16th September 2019** at 7.30pm at The Good Intent.

With no further matters to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9.25pm