

WEST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16TH MAY 2022 AT BRAMLEY BARN

PRESENT: Cllr Moy, Cllr Morgan, Cllr Scott, Cllr Wilson and Mrs Amanda Broadhurst

IN ATTENDANCE: 5 members of the public

APOLOGIES: Cllr Swan

1. INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN

Cllr Moy welcomed all present.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 20th MAY 2019 (pre Covid-19 Pandemic)

These were proposed as accurate by Mr Merritt, seconded by Mr Underdown; with the majority in favour. The Chairman signed the official copy of the Minutes.

3. SPEAKER – ADRIAN BERENDT – 20'S PLENTY SCHEME

Mr Berendt reported that the 20's Plenty Scheme is designed to persuade the Department of Transport to reduce speed limits across the country. Currently, there are 600 active campaigns and 28million people live in an area which either has an active scheme or is in the process of having speed limits reduced to 20mph. It was highlighted that rural areas are the slowest to introduce the lower limit. Tonbridge, Faversham, Westerham and Newington are all areas which have already successfully seen 20mph limits introduced. Reports have stated that it is safer to drive in areas with 20mph speed limits and the fatality rate is 7 times less than in areas with higher speed limits. Whilst drivers may not comply with the lower limit, it is a reference point which naturally reduces drivers' speed. Studies in Scotland have shown that introducing the lower speeds reduced the overall speed of vehicles by 5-6 mph.

Mr Berendt reported that a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) is required to reduce this speed limit, at a cost of approximately £3,500, and a formal public consultation held. KCC now has a tool kit for the scheme, which can be found online.

The various areas of the village which could be covered were discussed and the junction of Lower Road/Teston Lane past the Tickled Trout to Ewell Lane was identified, along with Charlton Lane and also the area around Kettle Corner was highlighted. It was also noted that Lower Road is extremely dangerous and that additional work should be undertaken to try to reduce the speed limit further (previous reduction already in place). It was noted that the Department of Transport sets the criteria for speed limits and information can be found online.

Cllr Moy asked whether the 20mph limit is enforceable and Mr Berendt confirmed it is, as long as the TRO document is correctly produced, but it is dependent on the Police actively completing speed checks.

A new app has been created for android phones called 'Speed Cam Anywhere' which can be used in areas where Speed Watch groups aren't active. There is a minimal charge for each photo taken but it records the speed that vehicles are passing, which would give good data to support the need for speed limit reviews. This app will be available on iOS in the near future.

Mr Berendt also highlighted that street furniture can be used to define the areas where speeds are reduced, such as gateway entrances.

4. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

A resident reported an issue with the lane leading from Ewell Lane down to Rookery Row, past the play area. The road has very deep potholes and the tarmac/grit is washed down into the driveways of Rookery Row in heavy rain, leading to resident's soakaways becoming blocked. The Parish Council was asked to look into this further.

ACTION: Clerk

The formal part of the meeting concluded at 21.07pm followed by refreshments.