

WEST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23rd JUNE 2021 ON THE VILLAGE GREEN, WEST FARLEIGH

PRESENT: Cllrs M Moy, J Morgan, H Swan and Mrs A Broadhurst, Clerk
Three members of public

1. Apologies

No apologies had been received.

2. Councillor Declarations

There were no Councillor declarations.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th May 2021

The Minutes of the meeting had been previously distributed and Cllr Moy proposed that they were a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Swan, with all in favour. The Chairman signed off the official copy.

4. Co-option of Parish Councillors

It was proposed by Cllr Swan that Chris Wilson be co-opted onto the Parish Council, this was seconded by Cllr Morgan; with all in favour. The necessary documentation was duly completed and signed.

It was proposed by Cllr Moy that Bruce Scott be co-opted onto the Parish Council, this was seconded by Cllr Morgan; with all in favour. The necessary documentation was duly completed and signed.

5. FINANCE

5.1 To note Budget Monitoring Report to 31st May 2021

The Budget Monitoring Report was **Noted**.

5.2 To note the Income since March meeting

Income:

MBC – PSS (1 st Half)	£376.50
HMRC – Vat Refund	£404.14

5.3 To note the Expenditure since March meeting

It was proposed by Cllr Moy to approve the following transactions, this was seconded by Cllr Swan; with all in favour.

Cheques:

101294 – The Play Inspection Co Ltd – Annual Safety Inspection	£126.00
101295 – KALC – Chairman Networking Conference	£ 60.00

Telephone Transfers

Harrietsham Parish Council – Share of Clerk’s SLCC Subscription	£ 91.50
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Standing Orders

Mrs A Broadhurst – June Salary (£20.12 owed)	£760.00
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Direct Debits

Pension (June)	£ 55.00
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5.4 Re-employment of Internal Auditor

As the current auditor is the financial adviser for KALC and the Parish Council has a good working relationship with him, it was proposed by Cllr Swan to reemploy David Buckett for a further 3-year period. This was seconded by Cllr Moy, with all in favour. The Clerk reported that she would write to Mr Buckett formally.

6. Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Emergency Powers

The Clerk requested that Councillors readopt the following statement, to continue the delegated powers, until meetings return to normal:

In response to the Covid-19 outbreak in the UK and in the event that it is not possible to convene a meeting of the council in a reasonable time, the Clerk shall have delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of the council where such decisions cannot be reasonably deferred and must be made in order to comply with a commercial or statutory deadline. This will be carried out where possible by consultation with members by electronic means or telephone. The clerk will further consult with the chairman for guidance as necessary. The delegation does not extend to matters expressly reserved to the council in legislation or in its Standing Orders or Financial Regulations. Any decisions made under this delegation must be recorded in writing and must be published in accordance with the relevant regulations. This delegated authority ceases upon the first meeting of the council after the council meeting at which the delegation was put in place.

It was proposed by Cllr Moy that the required delegated powers be readopted for the Clerk, until meetings can return to normal. This was seconded by Cllr Morgan, with all in favour.

7. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

7.1 Post Covid-19 Lockdown Village Event

It was noted that the current restriction had been extended until the 19th July, with the number of cases rising in the country. This new date for the end of lockdown is after the date which had previously been agreed for the village event. With this in mind, it was agreed by all present that the event would have to be postponed until the situation was clearer. Cllr Swan confirmed that the groups and pub were happy to try and arrange another date in due course.

8. PLANNING

8.1 Any applications received before the meeting

8.2 Current Planning Applications (To be noted)

8.2.1 Decisions Outstanding by MBC

21/501341/FULL - Orchard View Park Shingle Barn Lane (Yalding Parish Council application)

Creation of additional 12(no) caravan pitches and 11(no) tent pitches (retrospective)

21/503122/TNOT56 - Telecommunications Unit At Lower Road *

Telecommunications notification for Proposed 20.0m Phase 8 Monopole C/W wraparound Cabinet at base and associated ancillary works

*Councillors discussed a suitable response to this application and it was agreed that the following should be submitted to MBC:

Due to the need for the village to have improved connectivity, the Parish Council has no objection to the application, in principle. However, Councillors have concerns at the location of the mast, as it is very close to residential properties. This structure could be a sight line issue for drivers pulling out of Charlton Lane onto Lower Road and the Parish Council would suggest that the proposed development is moved further away to avoid any resident or highways related issues.

8.2.2 Applications Approved by MBC

20/505886/FULL – 2-3 Bow Meadow Cottages, Bow Hill (Wateringbury)

Creation of a 100m², roughly circular with shallow, graded sides and maximum depth of 2m, with associated fencing and access gate.

21/501377/TPOA - Rookery Estates Company, Smiths Hill, Lower Road

Tree Preservation Order application: Priority 3 Months Works as per attached Tree Safety Survey - 04601 Common beech - remove 2 no. broken, hanging branches overhanging footpath. 04602 Common cherry - fell to ground level. 04614 Common ash - coppice to main stool. 04615 Common ash 1- coppice to main stool. 04622 English Elm - fell to ground level. 04625 Group of 3 no. dead elm trees - fell to ground level. 04626 Common ash - remove 1 no. broken, hanging branch overhanging public footpath. 4649 Common ash - remove small, broken, hanging branch overhanging Teston Lane. 04658 Sweet chestnut - remove lower branch with hazard beam overhanging Teston Lane. 04660 Sweet Chestnut - fell to ground level. 04669 Aspen - fell to ground level. 04673 Grey Poplar - re-pollard to a height of 2.5m. 04674 Grey Poplar - fell to a height of approx. 1.5m.

21/501050/FULL - Land Adjacent to 3 Holly Villas Charlton Lane

Erection of a single storey extension to existing storage building, to provide stabling and animal shelter (retrospective)

8.2.3 Applications Refused by MBC

21/501820/FULL - Smiths Hill House Smiths Hill

Demolition of existing single storey extensions and erection of part single storey, part two storey infill extension including internal alterations to connected barn to create additional living accommodation, and changes to fenestration. External alterations to driveway and paving areas, and erection of outbuilding

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Due to the ongoing situation, it was agreed that this would need to be confirmed at a later date.

With no further matters to discuss, the meeting was closed at 11.05am.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

A resident reported that there had been a poor response to relaunching Speedwatch in the village, as only 3 volunteers had come forward (there were 12 when the scheme had run previously). The lay-by on Lower Road had finally been approved, but this had come too late to be of use. The Clerk reported that there was the opportunity to pay for Kent Police to complete a full day's speed checks along Lower Road. Having investigated this further, this would cost approximately £500 for an 8-hour shift completed by a PC and PCSO.

A resident asked whether a Highways meeting had taken place with Jennie Watson and the Clerk confirmed that it had and various site visits were to be carried out with her Manager. They would be looking again at what can be done along Lower Road, as Councillors had confirmed that they still wished for a Vehicle Activated Sign to be installed, with the cost being covered by the Parish Council. The Clerk stated that she would contact Jennie for an update and email Councillors and the resident accordingly.

ACTION: Clerk