

WEST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17th NOVEMBER 2014 AT THE GOOD INTENT, WEST FARLEIGH

PRESENT: Cllrs B Scott (Chairman), B Merritt, G Martin, L Johnson, J King, C Stockwell, H Swan, Borough Cllr Mortimer and Mrs A Broadhurst, Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: There were no parishioners present.

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

1. APOLOGIES

Borough Cllr Wilson, Collins and PCSO Hunter

2. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS

Cllr Johnson declared a pecuniary interest in Item 8.3 (Cheques for signature) as he has submitted the annual invoice for grounds maintenance in the village.

3. MINUTES of the Meeting held on 15th September 2014

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 Stockwell, with all in favour. The Chairman signed off the official copy.

4. POLICE MATTERS

The Clerk reported that there had been one crime since the last meeting in September. This was a burglary other than a dwelling.

5. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATH MATTERS

5.1 Highways Issues in West Farleigh

Cllr Scott reported on the freedom of information request that had been submitted to Kent Highways regarding the work which had been completed at Teston Bridge. The response had stated that the drainage work had cost £3,674.56 with an additional cost of £54,607.73 for the resurfacing work. After further investigation, Kent Highways had stated that the resurfacing was required due to the damaged caused by the drainage issues and had not been due to the wrong adhesive being used, as the Parish Council had been previously informed by County Cllr Stockell. The Clerk added that the 11 reflective bollards have now been installed at The Thatched House in Heath Road and it was noted that the speed limit had also been reduced to 20mph and this seemed to be having a positive effect, as the speed of vehicles has been reduced.

6. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

6.1 Formal Complaint against MBC

Cllr Scott reported that a further meeting has been held with Alison Broom and members of the Enforcement Team at Maidstone Borough Council to discuss ongoing issues in West Farleigh. He added that an update is due from Jon Lawrence who has now taken over the case from Nadina Ransom. Borough Cllr Mortimer stated that it had now been found that the live/work units are unlawful which means that any conditions on the units are irrelevant. It was noted that an application for a change to B1 usage is to be submitted. Cllr Mortimer had queried with Jon Lawrence, from the Enforcement Team, whether a time limit is to be given for the application to be submitted and the response had been that, due to staff shortages, no limit would be set. Borough Cllr Mortimer added that he will be chasing this application if it is not forthcoming and is also trying to establish when the information from the S16 was received by Maidstone Borough Council.

6.2 Adoption of new Standing Orders

It was proposed by Cllr Swan that the new Standing Orders be approved by the Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr Stockwell, with all in favour. Cllr Scott signed the official copy for the file.

6.3 Parish Marquee

It was noted that, some years ago, the Parish Council had purchased a marquee to be used for village events. However, this is no longer being stored by a member of the Parish Council. After brief discussion Councillors requested that the Clerk contact Debbie Bailey and Bev Hards to request that the marquee is returned to the Parish Council.

Cllr Martin offered to store the marquee, once returned, so that it can be loaned to groups who may benefit from it at their events.

ACTION: Clerk

7. MATTERS OF REPORT

7.1 County Councillor's Report

No report circulated.

7.2 Borough Councillor's Report

Borough Cllr Mortimer reported that there have been two accidents at Kettle Lane, which support the petition requesting that the speed limit be reduced in this area.

Borough Cllr Mortimer reported that the Full Council had discussed moving back to a Committee system rather than having a Cabinet. It was noted that, under the old Committee system, the Local Plan had been adopted by the deadline, however, the latest Local Plan is two years behind schedule under this Cabinet.

Borough Cllr Mortimer reported that Cllr Dennis Collins had been extremely unwell. After brief discussion the Clerk was asked to send a card from West Farleigh Parish Council.

ACTION: Clerk

7.3 Individual Councillor's Reports

Cllr Swan reported that nearly all of the bulbs had now been planted.

Cllr Stockwell reported that, having spoken with a contractor in Ewell Lane, the area is likely to be closed for sometime whilst a pipe line is being replaced. There was no further information at this time.

Cllr Stockwell reported that, following the football match last weekend, there had been a large amount of litter in Charlton Lane. He added that it was disappointing that the parents had not cleared up after their children

Cllr Stockwell reported that the fireworks display had been a huge success with approximately 900 people in attendance.

Cllr King reported that the road sign at the junction of Teston Lane and Lower Road is missing.

ACTION: Clerk

Cllr Johnson reported that, following the recent heavy rain, Smiths Hill is in a terrible state. Water has been pouring down Yalding Hill and the sump is almost full again. Cllr Martin reported on a heated discussion which had taken place with two Kent Highways staff members regarding this issue and they were arranging for a team to come out to investigate. Cllr Martin added that he had, once again, informed the staff members that he had offered to have a soakaway in his field.

Cllr Merritt reported that West Farleigh had been voted as being in the top 10 villages in the Kent Men of the Trees competition. As a prize, the Parish Council can purchase an indigenous tree to the value of £25.

Cllr Merritt reported that the tree work required on Lower Road and the installation of the replacement posts had been discussed with Geoff Underdown and he has offered to complete all of the necessary work for approximately £600.00. After brief discussion it was noted that replacing the posts was an extremely hard and time consuming job and that Councillors were struggling to find the time to complete the work voluntarily. The Clerk added that there is money left in the Parish Service Scheme budget which would cover the cost of the work required. It was proposed by Cllr Stockwell that Geoff Underdown complete the work. This was seconded by Cllr Johnson, with all in favour.

Cllr Martin requested that remedial work to the potholes in Ewell Lane be chased again.

ACTION: Clerk

Cllr Scott reported that the new sign is to be installed at Mill Lane; however the post will require cutting down as it is currently 12ft long. Cllr Johnson offered to assist Cllr Scott.

ACTION: Cllrs Scott & Johnson

7.4 Clerk's Reports

Completion of Audit for 2013/14: The Clerk reported that the Audit has now been completed with no issues found. Cllr Scott thanked the Clerk for her work on this.

Broadband Services in West Farleigh: The Clerk reported that a two page response had been received from Paul Carter, Leader of Kent County Council, detailing the issues with bringing faster broadband to the village. A copy of the letter had been circulated to all Councillors and the Clerk added that the letter will be placed in the notice boards for residents to read.

Christmas Lights on the Village Green: The Clerk reported that, having spoken with Gala Lights, there appears to be no way of getting an electrical feed for Christmas lights on the village green.

Maintenance of benches: The Clerk reported that the annual bench maintenance had been completed and an invoice had been received, however this was only for materials and did not include any labour cost. The Clerk was asked to send a letter of thanks to Frank Underdown.

ACTION: Clerk

Water Pipes in Charlton Lane: The Clerk reported that South East Water have confirmed that they are not completing any pipe replacement work in Charlton Lane and added that any pipes being changed would be linked to a private property. The only way that pipes could be placed across the village green would be if the residents had the right of access written into their deeds.

8. FINANCE

8.1 Budget Monitoring

The Budget Monitoring Report to 31st October 2014 was **Noted**.

8.2 Income received since the last meeting

Actual payments received since the last meeting were:

Co-operative Interest – Direct Plus Account (September)	£ 4.30
Co-operative Interest – Direct Plus Account (October)	£ 3.82
Co-operative Interest – Instant Access Account	£ 0.34

8.3 Cheques for signature

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

101055 – Mrs A Broadhurst – Nett Salary November	£613.45
101056 – Mrs A Broadhurst – Expenses (Mileage and ½ payment for shredder)	£ 92.99
101057 – Post Office Ltd – PAYE	£464.88
101058 – PKF Little John LLP – Audit Fee	£120.00
101059 – Mr F Underdown	£ 42.00
101060 - Mrs A Broadhurst – Nett Salary December (post dated)	£613.45
101061 – Mrs A Broadhurst – Nett Salary January (post dated)	£613.45
101062 - Mr L Johnson – Grounds Maintenance	£895.00

9. PLANNING MATTERS

9.1 Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 27th August 2014

Cllr Merritt proposed that the minutes were a true record; this was seconded by Cllr Stockwell, with all in favour.

9.2 Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 8th September 2014

Cllr Scott proposed that the minutes were a true record; this was seconded by Cllr Johnson, with all in favour.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Council meeting will be held on **Monday 19th January 2015 at 7.30pm** at The Good Intent

With no further matters to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8.25pm