

WEST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 18TH MAY 2015
AT THE GOOD INTENT PUBLIC HOUSE

PRESENT: Cllr Scott in the Chair, Cllr Martin, Cllr Merritt, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Stockwell, Cllr Swan, County Cllr Stockell, Borough Cllr Webb and Mrs Amanda Broadhurst

IN ATTENDANCE: 12 members of the public

APOLOGIES: Borough Cllrs Mortimer & Wilson, Valeria Grainger

1. INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN

Cllr Scott welcomed all present. He went on to explain that a booklet was available which contained the Parish Council and Village Organisation's reports.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 19TH MAY 2014

These were proposed as accurate by Cllr Stockwell, seconded by Cllr Martin; will all in favour. The Chairman signed the official copy of the Minutes.

3. GUEST SPEAKER – TESSA O'SULLIVAN FROM ACTION WITH COMMUNITIES IN RURAL KENT (ACRK)

Tessa O'Sullivan spoke about how ACRK can assist villages with looking into Local Needs Housing. She explained the process which included completing a village wide survey in the first instance. The housing would be for people with a local connection and, if a need was identified, any development would usually contain 6-8 housings. Any housing development properties could not be sold on the open housing market. An exceptional site is found for the development, usually agricultural land which would not receive planning permission for any building. Another option highlighted was a Community Land Trust and Tessa stated that she maybe arranging a county wide meeting on this topic, which the Parish Council would be welcome to attend.

Afterwards, there was a general discussion regarding Local Needs Housing in the Maidstone area with Chart Sutton & Sutton Valance being highlighted as having had these properties built. County Cllr Stockell suggested that the Parish Council speak to both Parishes to see if they had been straightforward to set up or whether they had encountered any problems.

ACTION: Clerk

Tessa O'Sullivan informed the Councillors that she had a link to a short video which explained about Local Needs Housing and it was agreed that this would be circulated to Councillors to view.

ACTION: Clerk

The Clerk reminded all Councillors that, at the March meeting, they had agreed to decide whether to join ACRK as a member to progress with a Local Housing Needs Survey. The Clerk stated that the Annual Subscription was £35.00. It was proposed by Cllr Stockwell to join and this was seconded by Cllr Swan, with all in favour. (Cheque number 101086 was signed.)

4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – *County Cllr Stockell*

County Councillor Stockell had circulated a report for the Annual Meeting and spoke briefly on some of the main points. These included

- The challenges seen with trying to reduce the spending budgets, with £300million saved over the past three years and a further £250million to be saved over the next three.
- Whilst making the necessary savings, KCC have managed to protect front line services, the new 16+ student pass, Member's grants for local projects and saved the Community Warden service.
- KCC received £8million from the Ministry of Transport to assist following the devastating floods the previous year and also to repair the potholes around the County.
- The boundary review which is to take place in Kent. Three County Councillors will be lost, however none of those are in the Maidstone area.
- A street lighting review is underway and lights are also being converted to LED's.
- Children Services have been a top priority, following a poor Ofsted report three years ago, with huge improvements being seen since then.

County Cllr Stockell reported that the speed limit reduction scheme is now on the system and that she has part funded the project.

Cllr Scott thanked County Cllr Stockell for all of her assistance over the past year.

5. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT – *Borough Cllr Webb*

Borough Cllr Webb introduced himself as a new Borough Councillor, following the recent elections. He reported on the new makeup of the Borough Council, adding that the Annual Meeting is to be held on the 23rd May where a new Mayor will be chosen.

6. VILLAGE ORGANISATION'S REPORTS

Cllr Scott reminded all present that a booklet had been produced with reports from the village organisations for residents to take away with them to read.

The formal part of the meeting concluded at 21.10pm followed by refreshments.