

FAWKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Planning and Parish Council meeting held on
Thursday 21st September 2017 at the Fawkham Village Hall, Fawkham Road.

Members of the Parish Council: Cllr Mike Pearsall (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Faye Parkin and Cllr James Hollands. 1 Member of the public

Parish Council Meeting

Members of the Public: There were no matters raised by the Member of the public.

Apologies: Cllr S Gray and Cllr D Harker.

Declarations of Interest: No declarations of interest declared in relation to these Minutes.

Plans: No plans had been received

Car parking at the Village Hall:

John Strachan of SDC attended to work with the Parish Council over car parking matters at the Village Hall. He explained he had spoken to Mike Groves from the legal Department and had previously worked with the previous Clerk and Cllr Parkin over the issues. It appeared that the majority of the parking issues have been resolved due to local refurbishment works nearly at an end and local traders stopped using the Village Hall car park. However it was agreed that John Strachan would forward some suitable parking signs for the Parish Council to approve and this would also include a projected cost. It was also suggested that cards could be made and any car parking for a longer period of time and regularly could have a card placed under its windscreen with a polite notice explaining the car park is predominately for Village Hall users only. This option with the sign and cards would be the most cost efficient way to handle the matter rather than other options discussed such as private traffic companies getting involved which would be expensive. Quotes would also be obtained to re mark the car parking spaces and bought to the PC for approval.

The Chairman thanked Mr J Strachan for attending and assisting with this matter.

Minutes of Previous Meetings:

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 17th July 2017 were approved as a true record and any recommendations thereby implemented.

Correspondence:**17/01 Bank holiday traveller problem:**

It had been reported to the clerk that there had been a Traveller charity trot organised across the District on the August Bank holiday weekend and that there were a number of anti social acts that took place and the traffic was restricted due to the activity. The matter was reported to Kelly Webb at the Community Safety Partnership at Sevenoaks District Council. Kelly Webb responded that it was not illegal to hold such an event during the public holiday. SDC would continue to work with the Traveller Community and inform villagers when such an event was planned again.

Response below to complaint raised at Sevenoaks

“From the event there were two reports, made to the Police, which was by the 5 Bells pub. As a local authority we are unable to put any restrictions on people using the highways and neither can KCC.

We have tried to engage with Mr Cook Jnr regarding the events, to make sure that they are held safely and referred to the Safety Advisory Group, but unfortunately he has refused to engage. Police did visit him before hand to discuss the event and to advise him.

The Police report was discussed on Tuesday 29 August 2017 at the daily briefing and the landlord was happy with Police attendance and follow up.

We will continue to work with Mr Cook Jnr in regards to the events, but lawfully we are unable to put anything in place to stop them.”

RECEIVED

17/02 Broadband:

The correspondence shown below goes back over three years after I had a meeting with them at Maidstone.

The cabinet that KCC refers to will be at the foot of Scudders Hill by the Valley Road junction and is due to serve:
Valley Road, south of Scudders Hill up to and including Fawkham Primary School;

Scudders Hill;

Three Gates Road (part);

Canada Farm Road (part);

BT had surveyed their proposed location, near the junction of Scudders Hill and Valley Road it appeared that things have finally started to move. The verge on the opposite side of the road, which was their preferred location, is congested with other services and is not a viable option.

They are busy negotiating wayleaves for the BT and power ducting required to connect the new cabinet; depending on how amenable the landowners are this may either be straightforward or protracted, we have no way of knowing in advance. Whilst this is going on they will be planning the route for the fibre.

The work is all planned to be complete by the end of December 2017, but I would not be surprised if it slips into early 2018.

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17/03: Kent Highways:

A letter had been sent to the primary school from KCC informing that the faded keep clear signs will be remarked, weather permitting 3rd October.

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17/04 Environment Agency:

Invitation to attend a Flood Warden Demonstration Day on Saturday 7 October 2017 organised by the Environment Agency and the Kent Resilience Forum.

The Environment Agency and the Kent Resilience Forum have also asked if you could use your own communications channels to promote this event. Cllr Pearsall to attend the Clerk would book the place.

AGREED

17/05 Sevenoaks Housing Forum:

Sevenoaks Housing Forum will mark the launch of our newly adopted Housing Strategy. The Forum will be held on 3 November 2017 – please save the date - at the Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1HG, from 3pm to 5pm. Light refreshments will be served prior to the event from 2.30pm. Cllr Pearsall and Cllr Parkin to attend.

AGREED

17/06 Drought plan from Southeast Water:

Draft drought plan for the period 2018 to 2023 for consultation.

Our drought plan sets out the steps we would take during periods of low rainfall to ensure we can deliver a reliable water supply for the essential needs of drinking, washing, cooking and cleaning. It details what actions we'd take to conserve water and secure customers' supplies, while balancing the needs of the environment.

This plan is a statutory requirement and is revised every five years. We've now produced a draft drought plan 2017. The updates include changes required by new drought plan guidelines, including assessing how we would manage more severe drought events.

We submitted our draft drought plan to Defra, earlier this year and it confirmed we could begin our consultation.

All our customers and stakeholders have the opportunity to have their say on all our work, including our drought plan. Using our experience from previous droughts, and research into possible future impacts, we've prepared a plan we hope will receive your support.

Where to find the plan;

The documents included in our consultation can be viewed at www.southeastwater.co.uk/droughtplan.

We've had the plan certified and it does not contain any information that would comprise national security interests. Nothing has been included or removed that is commercially confidential.

Alongside the consultation documents, our Drought Permit Environmental Assessment Reports that support the plan are available to view at our offices at Rocfort Road, Snodland, Kent, ME6 5AH. Please contact wre@southeastwater.co.uk by email to arrange an appointment if you would like to read these.

How to give your feedback

Consultation on our draft drought plan runs from today (4 September) for six weeks, ending on 29 October.

The documents included in the consultation are the draft drought plan and associated appendices.

Please send your representations to the Secretary of State by 29 October.

This can be via email to water.resources@defra.gsi.gov.uk

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Twinning:

The Chairman has, as below, received an email and the Members are asked to discuss.

“Dear Mr. Pearsall,

My name is Elisabet Pagès. I am writing on behalf of the Delegation of the Government of Catalonia in the UK & Ireland to request that you and your councillors consider establishing a twinning between Fawkham and one Catalan village.

The council of Castellolí is very interested in creating friendship links with Fawkham since both villages have various similarities in urban and sports infrastructures. Castellolí is near Barcelona, with a population of 573 inhabitants. This town is pretty well known for its circuit facilities, which include:

- a car and motorcycling racing track
- a karting track with the features of a F1 circuit, which was designed by the Moto GP world champion Dani Pedrosa
- a school track for training of pilots
- a motocross circuit and a trial area.

This twinning would create a social bond between both towns, a partnership which would enable you to promote cultural and commercial ties. Furthermore, as you share a really unique characteristic – to host a renowned race circuit – we believe that strong synergies could be created to help both Castellolí and Fawkham in the future. The cooperation could bring benefits to both communities, giving you the opportunity to share problems and exchange views in the range of the issues you decide.

In case you agree with starting conversations about this subject, the Major of Castellolí will provide us with more specific information that we will be very pleased to send you.

Please find attached some links about Castellolí’s circuit:

<http://www.parcmotor.com/ca>
<http://www.kartingparcmotor.com/>
<http://www.fastparcmotor.com/>
<http://campusmotor.eu/>

We hope that you honour the request for the twinning at this time, and we thank you for your consideration.

It was agreed that Fawkham may be interested, but there was no immediate advanced to being a twinned village and as no more further correspondence had been received the Parish Council would put this on hold until further communication had been received.

RECEIVED

Action plan:

A review of the action plan took place and agreed which items were current – Action plan was attached for members.

Website:

Review of Current website and Councilor input. Cllr Parkin commented there was always room for improvement but thanked Mr L Moss for maintaining this site on the Councils behalf. Cllr Parkin would like to see the Parish open a Facebook site and the Clerk would ask fellow Clerks of their experience of them.

AGREED

Parish Council Logo/ Village sign:

Members were asked to discuss a Parish logo to be able to be used on correspondence. One option would be to involve local children from the Fawkham Primary School and Steep Hill School, with the winner being given a prize, The Chairman agreed to look at this matter further.

AGREED

Sevenoaks District Local Plan – Issues and Options Consultation 2017:

As part of the current public consultation on the Local Plan Issues and Options members were circulated an invitation to attend to a Local Plan Placemaking Workshop at New Ash Green Village Association, Centre Road, New Ash Green, Longfield, DA3 8HH on 5th September at 7.30pm.

We last met with you in early 2016 when you told us what you like about your area and how you wish to see it develop over the next 20 years. We listened to you and have incorporated your ideas into the consultation document. We now want to know what you think about the issues we’ve identified, and the options set out for dealing with them.

The workshop will include discussions centred on the 6 objectives of the Local Plan:

1. Promote housing choice for all
2. Promote well designed, safe places and safeguard and enhance the District's distinctive high quality natural and built environments
3. Support a vibrant local economy both urban and rural
4. Support lively communities with well performing town and village centres, which provide a range of services, facilities and infrastructure
5. Promote healthy living opportunities
6. Promote a greener future

SDC are also holding a number of drop-in events across the District aimed at the general public. These are week commencing 11th September and you can find further details here: www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/issuesandoptions.

Members have been circulated the presentation that took place and there are several locations in Fawkham that have been identified. A meeting was arranged for Tuesday 3rd October to discuss the document.

Village Hall constitution:

Following a meeting held on Thursday 14th September, it is proposed through the Chairman that the proposed Constitution with the Village Hall is not adopted and will continue with the lease agreement of 1989. There would be no advantage to change the names of the trustees due to the legal expense. All the current trustees of the hall are registered with the charities commission.

ALL IN FAVOUR

Village Hall Management report:

Cllr Parkin commented she was not aware, nor were the committee of the hall, that this would be required and had not been invited to speak. The Chairman commented that as the Parish Council had three of its Members on the committee of the Village Hall that a verbal report could be given for September's meeting. The Village Hall had wanted the Clerk to obtain quotes as agreed at the March meeting and Cllr Parking commented that the PC had agreed to ring fence £2,300 towards a new Kitchen. The Members were not aware of a figure being used but had agreed that they may be able to support the project. No figure had been minuted and these had been agreed by Cllr Parkin before she became ill. There was a discussion that took place as to who should obtain the quotes, as the Clerk was not aware of the design, spec or budget the Village Hall Management Committee had for the new kitchen it was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Hollands that the Village Hall Management Committee should obtain the quotes and if they were not in a position financially to complete the project the matter could then be bought to the Parish Council to discuss further.

AGREED

Finance:

Finance was presented to the Council there had been no income received. It was proposed through the Chair that cheques totalling £1,363.29 be paid. Cllr Hollands and Cllr Parkin signed cheques.

ALL IN FAVOUR

Councillors/ Clerks Training:

This was asked to be on the agenda following information circulated regarding a training course for new councillors that incurred a cost. Cllr Hollands explained it was on the agenda at the budget-setting meeting in January each year. The Clerk would ensure this was on that finance agenda.

Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

Open Forum for Councillors to raise matters to be placed on the next agenda

Printer

Car park sign

Car park relining

Noticeboard

Bridle ways and footpaths

Wild flower scheme
Remembrance day – wreath to purchase

Dates of the remaining year 2017/18 currently

Thursday 19th October
Thursday 16th November
Thursday 21st December
Thursday 18th January
Thursday 15th February
Thursday 15th March

Meeting closed at 20.23

DRAFT