

FAWKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at Fawkham Village Hall, Valley Road, Fawkham commencing at 7pm on
Thursday 15th March 2018

Members of the Parish Council present: Cllr Mike Pearsall (Chairman), Cllr James Hollands and Cllr Duncan Harker.

Apologies: Cllr Steve Gray.

Parish Council Meeting

Members of the Public: 2 Members present.

A presentation was made by Cllr Mr. Andrew Eyre on running of the Stag at Sevenoaks, which has charity status.

Mr Eyre introduced himself and how the stage is run very similar to a village Hall Committee. He explained the history of the building and how over the years the building was not being used to its full potential and that the District Council had become concerned with the decline of its use. The Building is owned by the district council and now run by a registered charity under a lease similar to the way the Parish Council owns the village hall but all day to day running and projects are run by the Charity. The Stag was then able to operate as a community facility; it has to generate funds for its day to day affairs and long term projects. For example a new vehicular lift had to be provided recently for the rear of the building to allow large staging, lights etc. to be brought into the stag. This was funded by 15% funding that the Stag already had set aside through a 5 year business plan and 85% funded by external grants. To keep the income coming into the Stag and be able to afford the day to day running and future project, the marketing of the hall is important to generate future income and coming up with various uses that the community can benefit from the theatre building. Mr Eyre likened the comparison to the Village Hall and the Stag as very similar and they use a Village Hall model to run the Stag it's just that numbers are larger in comparison. He spoke of various projects that the Stag had completed recently, Carpets, new seating, lifts and more. They consider "What do they need and how do they get there?" Their business plan includes a financial forecast to achieve those projects and still put reserves aside. They were asked did they pay business rates and Mr Eyre replied no as a charity they were exempt the same as the Village Hall. The Stag is run by a Chief Exec. and all Members of the committee are Trustees. He recommends looking through local magazines and contacting them to advertise the hall, if people don't know what the facility there is they are not likely to use it. This is a summary of the presentation given By Mr Andrew Eyre and thanks from the Parish council was expressed for taking that time to attend the meeting and share his knowledge of running a community facility.

Village Hall Management report:

This will be an item on the agenda each month to encourage a joint working partnership.

Report received from Mr Moss.

The accounts are attached. They do not yet include March bookings but do include the donation from Brands Hatch Family Day 2018 of £493.

Chairs

There is a back order with Euro Office for 40 new chairs similar to the ones bought in 2013. These will be paid for using the BH 2018 donation and FVH funds. The total cost will be approximately £960. The old chairs were discussed and Cllr Harker was going to ask if the church wanted them. If not, the Clerk would ask if local Scout groups were interested. Cllr Harker commented that the Church did not want the old printer owned by the Council and this would be offered to a local group.

Survey

As previously advised a chartered surveyor will survey the building on 29 March 2018.

Vandal Damage

The previously reported vandal damage to drain covers is yet to be rectified.

Frost Damage

There has been no known frost damage from the recent cold weather. The rear gutter overflowed during the thaw and will be inspected.

Gents Urinal Auto Flush

The auto Cisterniser valve is defective and needs replacing. The new cost of the valve is £250 plus fitting. The manufacturer states that the old valve is unserviceable and no parts are available.

White Lining

The FVHMC is grateful for the work done and thanks the FPC for doing this. The clarification concerning parking is welcomed.

Kitchen Improvements

The scheme specification and supplier have been finalised. Now waiting funding.

Funding for hall Kitchen and roof:

The Clerk has contacted Sevenoaks District council regarding funding for repairs and replacement. Mr. Simon Davis had replied and gave a booklet of various grants and funding groups available and as a registered Charity it would be the Hall that applied and they would be best suited to provide a business plan. On many of the outside funding / grants Parish Council they were not able to apply for as they receive an income from precept. Mr. Moss commented that the SDC funding was a complicated system to apply to and no guarantees. Cllr Pearsall asked if the KCC form had been completed, it had not and Mr. Moss asked for it to be sent again. He also confirmed that the Hall Committee were not going to apply for grants and funding for the kitchen. Their accounts were presented and the Hall has a balance of £30,409.00. Cllr Pearsall commented he had secured some funding of £7,500 for the roof, there had been no further progress or quotes received to date. It was believed that the outstanding balance less the £1,500 received last year from brands Hatch Villagers day so this brings the total required for the replacement kitchen down to around £13,000. It was commented that previously it was thought CIL Money could be used but SDC had commented that it did not meet the criteria, although the Clerk has asked the question again with SDC and was awaiting confirmation. Mr. and Mrs. Moss commented that they would not be making applications for funding for the replacement Kitchen

Declarations of Interest: Declaration for Planning from Cllr Hollands but this matter had previously be commented onto SDC due to time constraints

Plans:

SE/18/00484/FUL: Unit D1 Fawkham Business Park: Extension of existing business unit to provide an MOT bay serving the use of the premises as a motor vehicle repair workshop with ancillary office and storage.

A no Comment was made to SDC prior to this meeting

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th February 2018, were tabled and it was proposed through the Chair that they should be accepted as a true record and any recommendations thereby implemented.

Correspondence:**18/3 Resignation:**

The Council records the resignation of Mrs. Parkin from her role as Parish Councilor with immediate effect. She will remain the District Councilor for Fawkham and West Kingsdown. The vacancy has been advertised in accordance with law on notice board, Village Hall and online. It was recorded that the meeting that the Village of Fawkham were grateful for the many years' service given by Cllr Parkin and would send their best wishes and Thanks as she was not present at the meeting.

18/01 War Memorial:

The Clerk confirmed she had received an email from the family of the late Horace Clark and they are sure that the spelling of Clark is without an "E". The Clerk would contact the War Graves Commission to confirm and also ask local stone masons for a quote to remove the "E" from the war memorial and bring back the information to the April meeting.

18/02 Eureka:

A letter had been received from a resident concerned about Eureka, the letter voices concern that caravans have been returned after legal action forced them to be removed. The car park has been made larger which has resulted in the loss of more trees and a new concrete driveway, the club itself has become it is claimed a nightclub for which they don't have a license. The Clerk was asked to Contact Sevenoaks District Council enforcement department and also licensing. It was also agreed that the Clerk should contact licensing at Kent Police and make them aware of the concerns

18/4 A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junction road improvements:

From 21st February to 4th April there is a public consultation for A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junction improvements scheme. A notice has been displayed on the notice board, to have your say you can log onto www.highways.gov.uk/a2be

RECEIVED

Car Park line marking at Village Hall:

Line marking took place on Tuesday 13th March and all agreed that it improved the outside appearance of the area.

Action plan:

A review of the action plan took place and some items that were complete deleted, it was agreed to delete the speed watch as there had been no volunteers from the community came forward to take this project forward. It can always be added back if any volunteers come forward.

Members considered Future projects

No	Project Name	Project Description	Complete By	Owner
1	Parish Magazine	<p>There should be a form of communication around the parish that will inform the community of ongoing PC Projects, upcoming events, items of interest, How to Cope (articles on how to cope with cold, heat, exercise tips etc), general information on how to contact (SDC Telephone numbers, KCC Telephone numbers, local trades etc).</p> <p>This is a quarterly publication that will be compiled, produced, printed and delivered under the control of the PC. The PC will decide how to ensure that the magazine will be managed and produced, what budget (potentially this should be a budget limited by selling space in the publication) there will be for printing, postal costs or delivery costs etc. A copy of the quarterly publication will be placed on the web site and can be down loaded.</p>		
2	Village Hall Sponsored Activity	<p>The PC should discuss, investigate and agree/disagree on projects that can utilise the Village Hall. This is activity that will involve the FVHMC as well as input from the PC. Initial suggestions are:</p> <p>Gentle Exercise Classes (for older folk), Chairobics (for less mobile individuals, Knit and Natter groups, Discussion groups, Community Children's Christmas party (funded by the PC and other interested groups), film evenings etc. (More ideas are needed for consideration)</p> <p>The Village Hall should be marketed to local businesses, business groups etc as an alternative space for meetings or events.</p> <p>This project should be run in conjunction with the FVHMC and should use the Parish Magazine as a vehicle to get the message out. Other means of getting the word out also needs to be explored. Does the VH have a licence to serve alcohol or is this required for each activity that wants alcohol? Should alcohol be allowed?</p>		
3	PC e-mail account	Should the PC have its own e-mail account ensuring that all PC business is maintained within that environment or should private e-mail accounts continue to be used?		
4	PC WhatsApp, Twitter, Messenger	The PC should consider the value of having some kind of social media presence. This approach would encourage the younger members of the community to take an interest in what is happening in the Parish.		
5	Twinning	There is already an approach from a Catalan village that wants to twin with Fawkham. This needs to be concluded or discarded as a project.		

Members discussed the above projects

Website:

Review of Current website and Councilor input. There were no comments made.

Twinning:

Members looked at the responses below that the Clerk had received from asking all the District Clerks. Member's commented that the request to Twin with Fawkham may have been confused with West Kingsdown as it made reference to Brands Hatch. It was felt that there was no benefit to a village the size of Fawkham.

Responses:

Leigh Parish Council responded they had spent some time looking at a twinning in France but in the end it was felt the village was too far away and there wasn't enough support with residents or willingness to join a twinning committee. There was a cost implication but it was more the lack of support that the project was not continued.

Eynsford Parish Council have a recent twinning initially the Council were involved but it was then passed to a twinning committee of residents, Council support very minimal except the signing and a small financial contribution, the village they are twinned with is nearby and trips can be carried out over a weekend, It is recommend to meet the people asking for the twinning to see if compatible.

Hever Parish Council were asked but didn't see any benefits and there was a cost to the Parish and from a tourism point there was no benefit.

Finance - Expenditure and Income:

It was agreed that cheques totally £2,802.34 be signed, these were signed by Cllr Hollands and Cllr Harker.

Asset register:

Review of Asset register: All members were asked to look through the Asset register that was circulated to them and come back with comments next PC meeting.

Salt Bins and Gritting:

Locations of Salt Bins by KCC, residents had expressed concerns regarding the lack of gritting following recent unprecedented heavy snow fall. But Members felt that the Main Valley Road had been kept well gritted and accepted that Kent County council had an obligation to keep the main roads gritted and it was felt they did a good job under the extreme weather situation confirmed. Also following the recent snow residents were concerned about the gritting rural lanes.

KCC Statement:

When icy conditions are forecast we will salt the main routes in Kent as a precautionary measure. These are called our primary salting routes. We do not treat minor roads and lanes, and we are not responsible for motorways or trunk roads.

We use 64 winter service vehicles (including 4 mini gritters to treat narrower roads) to grit Kent's roads and have more on standby. We grit according to road surface temperature (RST) which is different from the air temperature and we have weather stations located across the county to help measure this.

Our primary salting routes cover about 30% of roads in Kent, these include:

- all A and B class roads
- busy commuter routes
- other roads that can become hazardous in frosty or icy conditions

If we are experiencing prolonged heavy frost, widespread ice or snow, we will consider salting another 15% of the road network. These are called secondary routes. These roads will be treated after the primary routes.

Although we treat roads in Kent, we cannot guarantee that all ice will be removed. Please drive to the conditions and make sure your vehicle is winter ready.

Our gritters are wide vehicles, so please park responsibly so gritters can get through, otherwise roads may not be treated.

Notice board:

The Noticeboard had been delivered and the Church would arrange installation

Sycamore outside number One Six Acre Cottages:

SI Treecare had visited the site and gave the following report;

There is an ivy covered smaller tree in between it and the road that at the least should have its ivy severed.

The main tree has a branch at ground level that then grows up making a smaller tree of its own towards the car park. This tree has a rope swing that ought to be removed.

The main tree should have the ivy properly severed around the base.

As regards safety, I can see no real issues at present.

In reality it depends on what you want to do with the tree and for what reason. If it simply is not liked for the shade or other issues then please let me know and I can suit a quotation for whatever you require.

Likewise we can clear the telephone wires, but that might lead to a large loss of branches.

The Clerk had also contacted Openreach who have visited the site, ref ND9FVK08, and they report no damage to the phone line in the tree and have not recommended any further action.

It was felt at this stage there would be no further action required by the council.

Matters Arising:

No Matters were raised.

Dates of the next meeting

Annual Parish meeting followed by Annual Parish Council meeting on Thursday 19th April

Meeting closed at 9,25pm