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FAWKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on
Thursday 19th July 2018 at the Village Hall Valley Road at 7pm**

Members of the Parish Council:

Cllr Mike Pearsall (Chairman), Cllr Mr Steve Gray and Cllr Alun Evans.
There were 7 members of the Public and District Councillor Cllr Faye Parkin

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Duncan Harker

Declarations of Interest for items relating to Agenda:

There were no declarations of interest declared

Members of the Public:

Local Plan:

Residents voiced concerns regarding the District Council Draft Local plan and in particular the large proposed development at the Corinthians site with country park, new school and 800 proposed residential units. The concerns were for a development on the greenbelt area with access onto an already over congested and unsuitable road (Valley Road). Current Infrastructure, already poor, impacts on a proposed new doctors surgery which would prove to be unreachable for many who have to use public transport.

The above summary was echoed by all residents in attendance, the Chairman then spoke that this consultation followed a call for sites that Sevenoaks District Council had made last year and this Draft Local plan was exactly that, a draft proposal only. No formal plans had been submitted and the District Council were exploring all possibilities of meeting the current housing needs shortage. It is thought that some of the land required to upgrade the road infrastructure to support the suggested development would come under a compulsory purchase order and this would be a long drawn out process. Nothing was set in stone; this stage of the consultation would run from 16th July – 10th September and then there would be second consultation period next year before the Local Plans is formally adopted at the end of next year (2019). It was important for residents to put forward their considered views and this can be done online, as well as representations to the Fawkham Parish Council. There is a link on the Fawkham Green Facebook page and on the Parish Council or District Councils website.

Sevenoaks has a drop-in session arranged, to be held in Hartley on 31st July. Additionally, the Parish Council is going to call a meeting on Thursday 2nd August at 7pm. The Chairman announced that in accordance with the Parish Council standing orders, this situation will be represented by a special Council sub-committee, led by Cllr Evans. Whilst Cllr Evans, a Fawkham resident, is free to make his own personal representation, all output from the sub-committee will be agreed and issued as a collective statement representing the views of the Parish Council. There will also be a meeting at Hartley, to be held on Thursday 7th August, is open to the public to attend. Cllr Evans commented he thought it important for residents to be aware of the proposals and respond.

Tree in Village Hall car park:

Cllr Parkin spoke about, and read comments given to her that the owner had written to her regarding the Sycamore tree in the corner by 1 Six Acre. The resident wanted in reduced as he claimed the sap was leaking onto his car and odd dead branches dropping off. Cllr Parking said she had two quotes for works to the tree. The Chairman commented that the tree was in the car park area and the Parish had carried out works to take lower branches off. The Parish council had already had a further tree surgeon look at the tree and BT open reach both had concluded that at this stage no further works were required. Cllr Parkin said that Mr and Mrs Mitchell were extremely concerned. Yet the Parish Council had not received any correspondence since 13/10/17 from the resident. Cllr Parkin was asked to forward all correspondence so that they could respond direct. Until then the Parish Council would be taking no further action.

Grants:

Cllr Parkin claimed the Parish council had lost £7,500 in potential funding and as a result Cllr Parkin had applied for, and been granted, £2,500 but required the Parish Council to accept the grant in its accounts. It was commented by the Chair that the Parish Council had not lost £7,500, The Chairman had discussed with KCC and a grant of £7,500 was indicated to be used toward the roof repairs at the Village Hall, therefore the money was for towards the roof and the Hall committee would be paying that bill. It would need to go into the Village Hall account. The Management committee refused to complete the form to secure the grant and that was why the money was lost. It was then commented that should the monies that Cllr Parkin claimed she had been awarded for the roof repairs should also be put into the Village Halls committee accounts as they would be paying the invoice to the contractor. Cllr Parkin commented the hall Management committee would not allow the money to be paid into their account. Therefore, there was no further action the Parish Council could take beyond insisting the monies towards the roof repairs, awarded as a grant, should be accessed. Sadly, the money would be lost if not claimed. The Parish Council had not turned down or lost any funding.

Baldwins Green:

A resident commented on how poorly the grass had been cut. The Clerk confirmed she would contact the contractor to request that the area is left in a better state after cuts.

Minutes for Parish Council 29th June 2018:

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 28th June were approved as a true record and any recommendations thereby implemented.

Correspondence:**A. Resignation:**

After consulting for advice Kent Association for Local Councils and Sevenoaks District legal department it was with sadness that we have had to accept the resignation of Cllr James Hollands after 13 years on the Council. The resignation was not a decision taken lightly by James Hollands but one of a conflict of interest with the Local plan going out to consultation.

Notices had been posted on the website and all usual noticeboards, this period will end 1st August. Should no call for election be received by the District Council then the Parish Council will need to start the process to Co Opt a Member. It would be hoped that a Co-Opted Member could be in place by September or Octobers PC meetings.

RECEIVED**B. Footpath:****The following email had been received**

In the near future my daughter will be attending Fawkham school. We live in Fawkham Green and are in walking distance to the school. Unfortunately to walk from our house we would have to go on the busy road from Fawkham Green Road past the pub to where the foot path starts at St Michaels Lane. This is worrying as it is a dangerous road and makes me want to get the car out and drive. Is there any way we could make a path way through the field from Small Grains to St Michaels Lane? This would cut off the busy road and make it safe for us to get school and back. It would also mean no driving and less cars around the school. There are potentially 7 children that would benefit from this. I don't know how to go about getting this looked into, can you help me?

Members commented that the land was not owned by The Parish and there would be a cost to KCC and land owner, it was unlikely to be accepted but the Clerk was asked to send the correspondence to KCC footpaths Officer for their response.

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I coordinate volunteering tasks for employers, who encourage their staff to volunteer and match them with local charities, as part of Stronger Kent Communities [Employer Supported Volunteering Service](#) I have local companies who have willing and able staff looking to spend a day volunteering. In the past they have volunteered their time to paint schools & create gardens for hospices but would be interested in considering anything and everything.

I recently arranged a volunteering day for staff at AMEY. They went along to Stone Parish Council and cleared rubbish from their allotments for 2 days. This was 10 years' worth of dumped rubbish and the Grounds Manager and local residents were so pleased with the results.

Members agreed that this could be something to hold for the future and could be used perhaps for any future projects, it would also be passed to the Village Hall Committee in case they had something where volunteers could help.

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War Memorial Flowers:

Flowers had been given by the Clerk to Mrs Alison O Neil who had been maintaining the war Memorial for the Last 7 years. The Clerk had also asked a contractor to look and quote to replace the chain and straighten the concrete posts and level the paving slabs. An advert will be placed when works have been carried out to see if someone local would like to maintain that area.

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Retired Parish Councillor Faye Parkin:

The Clerk apologised for forgetting to present Cllr Parkin with Flowers and a card for all her commitment and support as a Member and Chair of Fawkham Parish council. She had written to thank the Council to say she was delighted to receive them

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Entrance to Village Hall Car park:

The Clerk was unable to reduce the price for works by Mr Charlie Luke however has discussed the works and this will be carried out to a motorway heavy duty standard.

Co repair the pot hole sand replace edging kerbs to the entrance of the village hall at a price as follows:

Quote for entrance to Fawkham Village Hall.

1. Dig out and excavate old curb stones and replace with heavy duty bullnose road curb and bed on concrete.
2. Cut out all edges and supply and lay a hotroll tarmac to all area and compact with a heavy vibrating roller.

To leave entrance all clean and tidy.

For the sum of £2,255+vat.

This would be carried out during the summer holidays and the Contractor would let the residents know.

Members were happy to use Mr Luke.

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Local Plan:

The Sevenoaks District council Local Plan consultation is due to start on 16th July. The council had discussed this at some length during the public time and Cllr Alun Evans explained how he would support residents and send a strong message against the developments in Fawkham. An extraordinary meeting had already been agreed for Thursday 2nd August at 7pm. The Clerk attended the drop in Session organised by the proposed developer for the Vision for Hartley. The Offer of the boards and maps that were available from the planners drop in session could be made available but the Council agreed that the displays or the offer of developers attending would not be required. The Clerk would respond to that Offer through Email.

Hedge Along Boundary of Village Hall:

The following email had been received from Dene Cottage who live next door to the Village Hall.

The above hedge on the FVH site runs along part of the boundary between our house and the FVH on the north side of the hall site. It is about 24m long. In its present state it is about 5m to 6m high and has a transverse spread of over 4m centred on the boundary chain link fence. The privet hedge will need trimming to facilitate the FVH new roof as it is again beginning to bear against the roof. In the past five years it has twice been heavily pruned by RH Gardening Services to the cost of Fawkham PC. This being on the FVH side only and frankly it is overwhelming our efforts on our side. Some of the attention was at the recommendation of the internal auditor to reduce the risk of FVH roof damage.

We moved into Dene Cottage in 1979 and the hedge existed then but was only about 1.5m high but very thick. Part of it was removed when the storage rooms were built for the FVH.

In its present state it will always demand maintenance on a regular basis. Our suggestion is to remove it completely. This would have the effect of vastly increasing the natural light in the FVH kitchen and eliminate on going hedge maintenance. The FVH would then be fully visible from our garden but that is unimportant to us.

There may be other alternative solutions, but either way, control over the hedge is becoming an urgent requirement.

Members started to discuss this and what action could be taken to reduce the height or remove the hedge. Mrs Parkin who was sitting through the meeting tried to add to the debate that members were having, The Chairman had to remind Mrs Parkin that this part of the meeting was closed to the public in terms of taking part. The Members of the Public section at the beginning of the meeting had closed.

It was agreed that the Clerk should try to find out the boundaries and the owner and then if it was the Parish council that owned the land a quote to remove the hedge completely. **AGREED**

Village Hall:

A full report was submitted following the Village Hall Management committee receiving quotes for the repairs to the flat roof of the hall. The Management committee had agreed that Oakfield Flat Roof Company should be awarded the contract to replace the roof at the hall. Members agreed to be guided by the Hall and the fact that the hall had the funds and were stirring the repairs Parish Council should be guided by them and accept their decision to use Oakfield Flat roofing. Accounts were submitted and showed a balance of £28,332.00 in the bank.

Again, thanks were expressed to Mr L Moss for preparing the report and finances. **AGREED**

Members are also asked to elect a person to represent the Parish Council following the recent Resignation. As the Parish Council were only four out of its compliment of 5, for now the only representative would be Cllr Harker. Cllr Evans declined the position due to accepting leading the working party for the Draft Local Plan he would not have enough time to do both.

Action plan/Project sheet:

This was reviewed by members,

Joint events

Sing along: 33 people had attended the sing a long in West Kingsdown, publicity for this event is on the website and noticeboards.

Signage: Vegetation covering over signage along the Valley Road: The Clerk would chase KCC to trim back overgrown vegetation

Projects:

This sheet was updated. The Chairman commented that he wanted to see the hall used more and perhaps some more local community groups, knit and natter, chair yoga, coffee pop in. Cllr Mrs. Parkin was having trouble with the Booking Clerk for the Hall regarding terms of agreement and what the hall were insisting to have in place before a community group such as a pop in could start. The Chairman asked Cllr Mrs. Parkin to email them over to the Parish Clerk to see if Parish Council advise.

Finance - Expenditure and Income:

The current balance for the Parish Councils was tabled and it was proposed through the Chair that cheques totalling £657.31 should be paid. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

Celebrating Mental Health Day in October

West Kingsdown were delighted to accept the Fawkham Contribution and a meeting has been arranged to start to plan the event The Clerk to attend although isn't able to be at the event on 10th October. Members are to consider sending another representative to the meeting in addition to the Clerk. Meeting to take place on Friday 27th July at 10am at the Pavilion London Road West Kingsdown Clerk and Chairman to attend.

Communities coming together to either have a coffee morning / simple lunch / afternoon tea
Inviting our local people to share some time together and trying to draw in those who live along/do not see many people/have medical conditions. **AGREED**

Matters Arising:

Magazine articles from Parish:

Clerk to Ask Rev. Jim Fletcher if the church had a magazine the Parish Council could perhaps contribute to?

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

Car park and trees:

A resident had arrived late to the meeting and the Chairman allowed her to speak. She had concerns that the sycamore tree (see note **Tree in Village Hall car park**) was being felled and she and other neighbours didn't want that, it was a barrier between the car park and the main road and children safely play in the car park and she was concerned for their safety, it is also pretty. The neighbour who was discussing with District Councillor and not the Parish Council has a large camper van and the neighbour asked if there were any restrictions to having motorhomes on the land for long periods of time, The Clerk would look into the matter and contact the neighbour with the findings. It was reported a post had been placed outside of the parking bay to secure the motorhome and prevent it being stolen. Permission to install this had not been given from the Parish Council.

Dates for the year 2018/19

Extraordinary meeting 2nd August 7pm

Parish Council Meeting Thursday 16th August 2018 Not going ahead unless there are plans received.

Apologies Cllr Evans

Parish Council Meeting Thursday 20th September 2018 - apologies Cllr Gray

Parish Council Meeting Thursday 18th October 2018

Parish Council Meeting Thursday 15th November 2018

Parish Council Meeting Thursday 20th December 2018

Parish Council Meeting Thursday 17th January 2019

Parish Council Meeting Thursday 21st February 2019

Parish Council Meeting Thursday 21st March 2019

Meeting close at 9.02pm