

Minutes of a meeting of Chelsham and Farleigh Parish Council held on 5th February 2024 in Farleigh Hall, Farleigh Court Road at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr Jan Moore (in the Chair)

Cllr Peter Cairns Cllr Neil Chambers Cllr Barbara Lincoln Cllr Jeremy Pursehouse
Cllr Linda Fullerton-Batten

In attendance: Samantha Head (Clerk)

Cllr Perry Chotai (TDC)

And 2 parishioners

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Alex Andrews had sent his apologies. These were received and accepted by members. Apologies from Cllr Anna Patel (TDC).

2. Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest by Councillors of personal pecuniary interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interests, and whether the member regards the interest to be prejudicial under the terms of the new Code of Conduct. Anyone with prejudicial interest must, unless an exemption applies, or a dispensation has been issues, withdraw from the meeting.

None

3. Public participation

- A query was made regarding the possible organisation / running of a working group.

4. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous council meeting held on 15th January 2024

0137/0224 Members resolved that the minutes reflected a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 15th January 2024. They were duly signed by the Chair.

5. Officer's report

- Tree Survey - the Clerk was in the process of organising a new survey.
- The Clerk noted her working hours / availability to members of the council and the public. This would also be update on the PC website.

6. Matters arising (for information only)

- Cllr Fullerton-Batten updated that it has been decided not to paint the grit bin as the paint may peel off and The Bull's bins were red so precedence has already been set. The bin was to be moved to the corner of the common and perhaps secured to the post there.
- She further noted that she and Cllr Moore had completed the SCC ROWIP consultation questionnaire on behalf of the PC.
- She also reported that the road sweeping had been carried out along Church Lane.
- Cllr Moore updated members that she had been in touch with PC Sabrina Bosini-Tigeros regarding the recent ASB. She had been advised that members of the public should use Tandridge Beat on Facebook to direct message the team. This advice would also be posted on C&F PC's Facebook page.

- She further updated that the PC handyman had been out to look at relocating the grit bin (as above). He will be finishing work soon on the two benches on Chelsham Common and would be sending through the quote for the Fickleshole sign.
- Cllr Moore reported that a tree had come down in Bull Green across the access road / gate to the businesses at Old Bull Cottage and had also damaged the roof of an annexe building. The family who own the cottage had called out a tree surgeon to clear the fallen tree and had also sought a quote to repair the annexe. This information had been passed on to the PC's insurance company. The PC had also sought a further quote to tidy up the work not quite completed in Bull Green.
- The fly tipping on Church Lane has been reported. The Clerk had also emailed CPO at TDC, Helen Murch, regarding the possible enforcement action required at Church Lane.
- Cllr Moore will be speaking to Alan Blok regarding the possibility of him helping the PC look into the ownership of parcels of PC land around the parish.

7. Reports:

a) County Councillor

Cllr Rush did not attend the meeting and therefore there was no report.

b) District Councillors

ii) Cllr Chotai reported that he had attended a planning meeting which had discussed and subsequently refused an application on Narrow Lane in Warlingham. Although outside the parish, it was a good illustration of cross party cooperation at TDC. He had also attended an Audit and Scrutiny Committee meeting at TDC. One of the functions of this committee is to monitor the Council's budget.

Cllr Chotai was asked if the PC could ask the Committee a question on how DC money is spent either via the a District Cllr or at the Committee meeting. Cllr Chotai confided either were possible and that he would be happy to put any question the PC had to the Committee.

iii) Cllr Patel had been asked why she had not attended the Community services Committee meeting on 16th January, particularly in light of confirming she would attend at the PC meeting on 15th January. Cllr Patel had responded to say that she had been unable to attend and had sent her apologies.

i) Cllr Pursehouse confirmed that if officers appeared minded to approve application 2023/1280, he would call it in to committee. He had been to look at the ditch along Harrow Road. There are 2x problems: i) the footpath is getting narrower and needs cutting back. Is this something for SCC? ii) the ditch would be the responsibility of the land owner. Who is the land owner? It does not appear to be SCC, although it could be argued that the road water run off does add to the issue. Cllr Pursehouse will start enquiries at SCC and Great park. A question was asked about litter picking and it was confirmed that if a litter pick was carried out, the PC could ask Jim Lewthwaite at TDC to arrange collection of the filled bags.

c) Library report - meeting 24th January 2024

Cllr Lincoln gave the following report: library visits and book issues had increased since the Covid closures. The lease issue was still ongoing. SCC solicitors were drawing up a draft. A copy will be sent to the committee and Warlingham PC for comment. If approved, it will be signed. Phase 1 of the refurbishment is now expected to cost £45,000. The Committee have decided to seek a second quote. A contingency fund has been allocated. The refurbishments will cover extra storage, a new office and an additional meeting room. During the refurbishment, the library would need to be closed for two weeks. It was also noted that the funds from SCC would need to be used by June 2024.

8. Farleigh Common update

Cllrs Moore, Chambers and Pursehouse attended the Community Services Committee meeting on 16th January. The meeting was available online to view. Many councillors on the Committee felt that TDC had an obligation to support the future of Farleigh Common. TDC officers were instructed to look into options 4 and 5.

As of the meeting, it is understood that TDC has a meeting with Merton College scheduled for 20th February. The TDC officer is also seeking the opinion of TDC's legal department. The Legal Department feels that a contract would be better than a lease. * with a lease, the lessee assumes the risk of the asset, with a contract, the lessor is liable for the risk. There were still concerns around the liabilities but the PC felt that many of these can be mitigated. A question was raised about how far the TDC officers may deviate from the Committee's instructions.

9. Highview

There was a meeting with TDC on 17th January. Cllr Moore, Chambers, Pursehouse, Fullerton-Batten attended, as well as Cllr Prew (Warlingham West) and Cllr Allen (TDC, Tatsfield & Titsey). Helen Murch and Gemma Fitzpatrick represented TDC. Both had read the previously submitted report. The discussions seemed to circle back to the same two points: not enough staff and not enough money. As requested, Cllr Chambers had drafted a list of priorities / actions. Helen Murch had responded to say that there was a draft strategy and she would forward it as soon as it was finalised. Cliff Thurlow and Lidia Harrison had been asked to provide information on how much various actions would cost. It was clear that the Legal Department would need a bigger budget in order to target enforcement.

Questions were asked: was there any sites in Chelsham & Farleigh which were on the list for possible traveller sites? Can the PC push the Audit and Scrutiny Committee to find funding to deal with the enforcement actions / prosecutions?

10. Planning Consultant

Cllr Andrews was contacting a consultant he knew. He would report back in due course. It was noted that Lauren Gates was going to approach a consultant on behalf of Save Warlingham Green Belt.

11. Extension pole on gate to Three Fields

Cllr Moore had asked the PC handyman to look into costs involved in fixing an extension 'pole / handle' to the gate. Members noted that any extension should have a rounded top for safety reasons.

12. Finance

Payment of invoices:

Samantha Head	Salary	£ 403.20
Samantha Head	Expenses - new Cllr folders	£ 2.24

0138/0224 Members approved the payments. The invoices were checked and initialled by Cllr Moore.

13. Meetings to attend and correspondence

- The Clerk has emailed the police to request attendance at a PC meeting but as yet there has been no response.
- Cllr Moore has also emailed a PC who has been in touch regarding ASB.

14. Matters for reporting or inclusion in a Future Agenda

- SCC - Have Your Say on Road Safety
- SCC - horses / pedestrians crossing sign on Farleigh Common

Public Participation:

None

The meeting closed at 9.21pm