

Minutes of a meeting of Chelsham and Farleigh Parish Council held on 4th March 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 Anna Patel (TDC) (arrived at 7.20pm and left at 8.45pm)
PCSO Stuart Wren, PCSO Amy Ord, PC Jo Johnson

And 5 parishioners

The meeting commenced at 7.05pm

1. Apologies for absence

0139/0324 Cllr Alex Andrews had sent his apologies. These were received and accepted by members. Apologies from Cllr Perry Chotai (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 local resident raised the state of the road leading to St Mary's Church.
- A local resident also expressed concerns about the blocked drain / soakaway at the dip in Farleigh Court Road. It would seem it is not being maintained by Surrey County Council.
- Salt Spreader - there is an option to transfer storage across to another local farmer. SCC has historically supplied salt when needed.
- A resident queried how TDC was progressing with the fly tipping in Church Lane.
- Save Warlingham Green Belt raised the question of planning consultants, stating there were two options: the first for the PC to make a grant towards the one SWGB may hire and the second for the PC to have their own consultant so that two expert reports can be produced.
- A resident queried the plans for cutting the sight lines on Farleigh Common.

4. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous council meeting held on 5th February 2024

0140/0324 Members resolved that the minutes reflected a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 5th February 2024. They were duly signed by the Chair.

At this point in the meeting, item 7d, Police report, was brought forward to enable PCSOs Wren and Ord and PC Johnson to leave the meeting early. The original order of the agenda items is maintained here for ease of reference with the published agenda.

5. Officer's report

- There is currently an insurance claim against the PC regarding a tree falling from PC owned land.
- The Clerk has purchased the new laptop which has been set up by Computer Solutions. She is currently working across both laptops. The Clerk thanked the PC for the new equipment.

6. Matters arising (for information only)

- Planning application 2023/1280 has been refused.
- ASB - dirt bikes / quad bikes - it was queried if something could be done to 'block' access to these vehicles.

7. Reports:**a) County Councillor**

None

b) District Councillors

iii) Cllr Patel reported that she had attended the public meeting organised by Save Warlingham Green Belt.

i) Cllr Pursehouse - none.

ii) Cllr Chotai had sent his apologies.

c) Save Warlingham Green Belt public meeting - 21st February 2024

The Chairman thanked Cllr Andrews and Cllr Fullerton-Batten for attending this meeting and their reports.

Cllr Pursehouse said that the meeting had been worthwhile but there was no magic wand that could be waved. He felt there had been lots of misunderstandings. He thought that Catherine Sayer's encouragement for the community to get behind SWGB and fight planning applications that way was an excellent idea. A question had been raised over whether SWGB should become a Residents' Association which he also thought was a great idea.

Questions were asked about the Green Belt plots which had been put in the Local Plan and whether or not they would be defended if planning applications were submitted. It was suggested that very special circumstances would still need to be proved. The LP inspector had commented that time had passed on lots of the sites. Cllr Pursehouse said that no planning committee is going to refuse any application that would be successful at appeal.

Cllr Moore noted that she had recently be told that TDC had a statutory obligation to provide PCs with planning training. Cllr Pursehouse agreed to follow this up with Helen Murch.

d) Police

PCSO Stuart Wren, who covers Warlingham, Woldingham, Tatsfield and Chelsham & Farleigh, introduced himself, PCSO Ord and PC Johnson. He said that at this time of year break ins to sheds and garages so people should be extra vigilant with security and he suggested marking up valuable items and registering them on Immobilise.

He recognised that there had been lots of concern regarding the off road scramblers and quad bikes being driven along Harrow Road. A warrant had been executed in December 2023 and persons had been arrested and were currently on bail. He encouraged everyone to continue to report any incidences - particularly via Tandridge Beat (messenger). Licence plate numbers are ideal but also, if it is possible without endangering yourself, then photos also help. It was noted by parishioners that the problem with the off road vehicles was bigger than just Harrow Road as they were also coming from New Addington and Selsdon.

In 2 years, the number of PCSOs has gone from 14 to 6 for Tandridge and two are part-time. There are 4 Neighbourhood Specialist Officers in Tandridge. It is the Neighbourhood Policing Team that responds to grade 1 and 999 calls.

PCSO Wren suggested that if everyone worked together it would be possible to counter crime and ASB. Perhaps land could be secured by placing logs over entrances to bridleways so that horses and people can step over or use hedge / tree cuttings to block holes in hedges / fences.

It was also advised that keyless car thefts were on the rise and keys should be put into Faraday pouches and a steering brace.

PCSO Ord suggested that there was excellent advice on the Surrey police crime prevention page.

The Clerk suggested that a report offering police advice could be given at the APM.

Cllr Moore thanked the police for attending the meeting.

8. Land Registry - PC owned land

The Chairman thanked Alan Blok for taking this project on. Alan has met with the Chairman on several occasions to discuss issues like rights of way and easements. He has confirmed that the copies of titles which the PC hold on file are not up-to-date. He has ordered the latest copy. He had also advised that any ransom strips should be retained as they are useful to prevent unwanted development.

It was noted that there had been a request from a resident on Chelsham Road regarding an access road to their property across Parish Council owned land.

9. Agreement to set up a planning working group

The Chairman suggested that Cllr Andrews may be interested in setting this up and chairing it. Cllr Chambers expressed an interest in joining. Regarding a consultant, it would be for the working group to make recommendations to the PC who would then make the final decision.

0141/0324 Members resolved to set up a planning working group.

10. Farleigh Common update

Cllr Moore expressed her disappointment that there had been no communication from TDC since its meeting with Merton College on 20th February. She felt that as there were four parties working together on this project then all four should be included in meetings and kept up-to-date. In fact, if C&F PC had not been informed of the meeting on 20th February by Cllr Pursehouse, then the PC would still be in the dark. She had emailed the lead officer twice to ask to be included in that meeting.

Cllr Moore noted that the PC does not have to agree to any proposal put forward by TDC. Members should be mindful that the PC has a responsibility to agree the expenditure of any public money carefully and should be comfortable with the arrangements put forward before committing these funds. One suggestion would be to agree a one-year lease to see how everything works. It should also be noted that, despite asking many times, the PC has never received a full breakdown of the costs TDC has supplied. More recently TDC has claimed that their admin costs in relation to the management of Farleigh Common are around £9,000. The PC needs to better understand these costs. There needs to be transparency. Questions need to be asked about who the decision makers will be if this proposed consortium goes ahead. Who will be in charge of the money?

Cllr Pursehouse said the TDC had reported that the meeting on 20th February had been constructive and Merton College is amenable to a service agreement. Cllr Pursehouse felt that a really good solution was very close. He noted that the PC had gone to the Community Services Committee and had got the backing of the councillors. It had been made clear to him that TDC did not wish to negotiate en masse and if something can be agreed with Merton College, it would then be put to the other parties. The service agreement proposal was currently with the TDC legal department. Cllr Pursehouse said he had agreement that TDC would cut the bundings and sight lines this year. He urged members to keep an open mind to the 5-year agreement proposal.

A local resident noted that the common had previously been cut for many years in late July / August when the flowers had dropped.

11. Annual Parish Meeting - finalise details

It was suggested that Cllr Becky Rush should be invited. Cllr Pursehouse would give a District Council report. It was suggested that the Crime Prevention Officer be invited. Cllr Lincoln and Fullerton-Batten offers to make refreshments. Cllr Moore would order sandwiches, wine, soft drinks, tea, coffee and milk. Cllr Moore suggested we would need to ask two people to help in the kitchen.

Cllr Pursehouse had a screen for the BHA airport presentation.

The Clerk would produce a poster to advertise the event to go on noticeboards, website and Facebook.

12. Planning - to determine the Parish Council's position on Appendix A

TA/2023/39 37 Tower Place, Chelsham, Warlingham CR6 9PW

Installation of air source heat pump.

2x neighbours are concerned about the location of the air source heat pump next to their houses and adjacent to a footpath but do not actually object to the proposal.

0142/0324 Comment: Chelsham and Farleigh Parish Council leave this to the officer.

TA/2023/195/TCA Fairchildes Farm, Fairchildes Lane, Warlingham CR6 9PH

T1) - Multistem Ash - Fell smaller stem. (only which overhangs phone line).

T2) - Sycamore - Fell to ground level.

0143/0324 Comment: Chelsham and Farleigh Parish Council leaves this to the tree officer.

13. Finance

i) Grant request - Save Warlingham Green Belt

No request has been received.

ii) Payment of invoices:

Samantha Head	Salary	£ 417.60
HMRC	PAYE / NI	for April meeting
Jan Moore	Expenses - new keys	£ 15.62*
James Malone	Grit bin installation	£ 210.63
James Malone	Metal bench - Chelsham Common	£ 120.00
James Malone	Removal of Ficklehole post	£ 75.00
James Malone	Chelsham sign and post	£ 130.00
James Malone	Wooden bench - Chelsham Common	£ 170.00
ICT Vision	Set up new Cllr emails	£ 43.20
Computer Solutions	New laptop and set up	£ 698.40

*payment to be ratified

0144/0324 Members approved the payments. The invoices were checked and initialled by Cllr Moore.

14. Meetings to attend and correspondence

- The PC had received a message of thanks for installing the extension handle onto the gate leading to 'Three Fields'.

15. Matters for reporting or inclusion in a Future Agenda

- 6 Chelsham Road access road
- Salt spreader
- Little Farleigh Green - land for sale

Public Participation: None

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

