

Minutes of a meeting of Chelsham and Farleigh Parish Council held on 3rd June 2024 in Farleigh Hall, Farleigh Court Road at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr Jan Moore (in the Chair)

Cllr Linda Fullerton-Batten Cllr Barbara Lincoln Cllr Jeremy Pursehouse
Cllr Alex Andrews

In attendance: Samantha Head (Clerk)

Cllr Anna Patel (TDC) (arrived at 7.20pm)

And 1 parishioner

The meeting commenced at 7.02pm

1. Apologies for absence

None - Parish Council. 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

None

4. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous council meeting held on 13th May 2024

0172/0624 Members resolved that the minutes reflected a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 13th May 2024. They were duly signed by the Chair.

At this point in the meeting, item 10, Planning Working Group - consultant and tasks, was brought forward to enable Cllr Andrews to possibly leave the meeting early. The original order of the agenda items is maintained here for ease of reference with the published agenda.

5. Matters arising (for information only)

- Cllr Fullerton-Batten has tried to contact SCC Rights of Way officer about footpath 3c.
- Cllr Fullerton-Batten reported that the stiles across Holt Equestrian have all now been repaired and the footpath is open again.
- Cllr Moore noted that she now had a good number of names of those interested in a tour of Biggin Hill Airport. She will ask BHA for some dates. Cllr Moore is also attending a Resident noise Action Forum at BHA on 12th June.
- It was noted that Peter Cairn's resignation had been reported to TDC.

6. Reports:

a) County Councillor

None

b) District Councillors

i) Cllr Patel reported that she had written to TDC about the quad bikes / ASB. TDC had confirmed that both they and the police were aware but had asked if local residents could collate information as more firm evidence was needed to make a case. The Police had given notice earlier in the year for the resident concerned to cease riding around the area.

ii) Cllr Chotai - No report. Cllr Chotai had sent his apologies.

iii) Cllr Pursehouse - Confirmed that the Police have tried a different tactic regarding the ASB and are sending patrol cars up and down the road. Cllr Pursehouse and Fullerton-Batten had been to Little Farleigh Green to look at the new gates with Alex Webber. They had discussed the letter that TDC had sent out and asked to be kept updated. Alex Webber has now written to the owners of Newlands again to explain the required consent for the work that had been carried out and to advise that consent would not be forthcoming.

Cllr Moore asked Cllr Pursehouse about planning training for parish councillors at the District Council. Cllr Pursehouse said that CPO Helen March had left TDC so this would need to be followed up.

7. Farleigh Common update

Cllr Moore gave the following update: Merton College has opted to go with a different leaseholder and Farleigh Common will now be leased and maintained by Surrey Wildlife Trust. The contract is due to be signed in a couple of weeks.

Cllr Pursehouse said that SWT has a good agenda but it may not align with exactly what local residents would like and there may be possible conflict with the grass cutting schedule.

It was suggested that it would be a good idea for the Parish Council to invite SWT to a PC meeting.

8. Chelsham Common - grass cutting

Cllr Moore had spoken to John Dance and he had confirmed the following process for Chelsham Common: verges 4 metres: £350, centre: £400, horse ride: £180, along the road leading to The Bull (1 metre): £130. It was noted that the availability for them to cut the common in future is uncertain as the TDC Grounds Maintenance Contract is still unresolved.

0173/0624 Members agreed to the prices except for the horse ride as it was not currently needed.

9. Tree work

Cllr Moore had received a telephone call from the church warden at St Christopher's Church about a tree which is leaning over towards their hall. There is also a holly bush which they would like removed. Cllr Moore would be meeting a tree surgeon at the church to discuss.

10. Planning Working Group - consultant and tasks

Cllr Andrews confirmed that the notes from an informal meeting of the Planning Working Group had been circulated internally. One recommendation that had been made by the working group was for the PC to engage a planning consultant who would be on hand to assist the PC with responding to any complex / extensive planning applications that may be made in the parish. Cllr Andrews noted that there were two options. Option 1 was Steve Tilbury. He was an independent planning consultant who had worked extensively with PCs. Although he did not have knowledge of the local area, his costs were very reasonable: £60 p/h or £400 a day. Option 2 was White & Sons (Julian Sharp). Julian Sharp knows the local area well. Although he had stated there may be a conflict as he also worked for developers. The costs would be: £600 daily.

Cllr Pursehouse questioned whether Steve Tilbury had provision for holiday cover but noted that his lack of local knowledge was not a game changer. Cllr Pursehouse also asked how the PC planned to use the planning consultant. It was suggested that it would

be on an ad hoc basis and that when a complex planning application came in, the PC would take a view and then refer to the consultant, providing information, and ask for advice. Neither option had asked for a retainer.

0174/0624 Members agreed to engage Steve Tilbury as the PC's planning consultant provided that he could provide details of suitable cover if he was on holiday / unavailable, acceptable terms and conditions and confirmation of all charges. Cllr Andrews would source this information and circulate to all councillors by email.

11. Appoint new Internal Auditor

Following on from the last meeting, it is proposed that the new Internal Auditor would be Mike Platten. His fee is £250, which is a slight increase on the previous auditor.

0175/0624 Members approved the appointment of Mike Platten as the new Internal Auditor.

12. Parish Walkabout / Risk Assessments

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

13. Tandridge District Council Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment

Cllr Pursehouse noted that the District Council had to a Gypsy, Travellers and Showmen plan, in conjunction with the Local Plan. There was not currently adequate provision for gypsies and travellers. A further one or two transit sites were needed in the County which would enable the police to move them on from illegal incursions. There are also not enough sites for non-travelling gypsies and travellers.

0176/0624 Cllr Moore, with assistance from Cllr Pursehouse, agreed to complete the survey on behalf of the PC.

14. Finance

Payment of invoices:

Samantha Head	Salary	£ 403.20
Samantha Head	Expenses - postage	£ 3.05
HMRC	PAYE / NI	At next meeting
Golden Spruce Tree Surgeons	Tree work (fallen tree)	£ 600.00*
Tatsfield Aquatics Ltd	Pond renovation work	£ 10623.60*

*payments to be ratified. It was suggested that the concerns regarding the rockery / slates on the weir were addressed.

0177/0624 Members approved the payments. The invoices were checked and initialled by Cllr Moore.

15. Matters for reporting or inclusion in a Future Agenda

- Pond - photographs and bullet points for social media update.

The meeting closed at 8.07pm