

**MINUTES of the WEST FARLEIGH PARISH MEETING
held on Monday 18th May 2009 in All Saints Church**

PRESENT: Mr Bruce Scott as Chairman, and two Members of the Parish Council, together with at least 12 Parishioners, and Mrs V Stancombe, Clerk to the Parish Council.

They were joined by County Councillor Paulina Stockell, Borough Councillor John Wilson and PCSO Joanna Watts.

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Were received from Borough Councillors B Mortimer and C Parr, Parish Councillors D Bailey, G Martin and M Merritt, Revd Walker, Mrs Walsh

3. POLICE REPORT BY PCSO JOANNA WATTS

PCSO Joanna Watts reported the last twelve months has been successful in the Ward with a reduction of 20.4% of all crime recorded. The main problems continue to be speeding and heavy goods vehicles and PCSO Watts reported Speedwatch is an effective way of highlighting speed to drivers.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Joanna Watts for her work during the past year and the PCSO left the meeting to attend to other duties.

4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR – PAULINA STOCKELL

Cllr Stockell had provided a report of the year's events that was distributed and gave a brief resume of the report that highlighted the council tax increase of 2.4% and a new initiative for the forthcoming year giving each County Member a £25,000 grant fund for small highways projects in their area. Cllr Stockell also reported KCC now expects 90% of the funds to be returned from the Icelandic banks.

5. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR – JOHN WILSON

Cllr Wilson reported that while speeding continues to be an issue, a review is currently being undertaken by Highways into the A and B roads that is scheduled to be completed by 2012 and this will mean that unless there are exceptional circumstances no changes will be made to speed limits until after that time.

Cllr Wilson reported the KIG application recently went to MBC Planning Committee and was turned down and the application will now be taken to the Secretary of State. Retailers in Maidstone have reported the footfall has increased and there are plans for regeneration of the High Street in Maidstone Town Centre.

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS – BRIAN MORTIMER AND COLIN PARR

In the absence of Cllrs Mortimer and Parr the Chairman read a report that highlighted successful issues during the year such as waste collections and planning enforcement. The key issues are still speeding, HGV management and road maintenance on which KCC Highways will need to continue to be lobbied.

6. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 7TH MAY 2008

It was proposed by Miss Morgan, seconded by Mrs Hards, "that the Minutes be signed as an accurate record". This was unanimously Agreed and the Chairman signed off the Minutes.

7. PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The Parish Council had prepared a summary report, including draft receipts and payments figures for 2008/09, which was distributed at the meeting.

The Chairman thanked the County, Borough and Parish Councillors for their continued support and the Clerk for her guidance and knowledge in assisting the Council. While it was disappointing to lose the plot of land at Ewell Lane for the new community hall last year, the Council are now close to securing the lease on the proposed site at Charlton Lane. Appreciation given to the groups in West Farleigh that continue to flourish and it is hoped to see more residents at Council meetings in the future. The Council is committed to try and keep West Farleigh not only a great place to live but also one with a sense of a close community.

8. REPORTS OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

(a) Mr John Evans for The Oliver North and Ann Goulston Charities

Both charities are administered by Trustees whose primary responsibility is to ensure sustainability.

The Ann Goulston Charity is for the purpose of helping needy parishioners. However, the Fund relies solely on interest from capital investment and this is proving more difficult in the current economic climate. The Oliver North Charity is for the purpose of maintaining the Almshouse and generates other

income than interest on its capital that enables the trustees to accumulate funds for future maintenance expenses.

(b) Mr Graham Carpenter for the Dandelion Trust

The Trust that has been at Elmscroft House for 18 months is for the benefit of highly vulnerable children and families with the majority having been subjected to domestic violence and abuse. While the traffic on Charlton Lane is a problem, most of the visitors arrive by the No.23 bus that stops outside the House. The Trust plans to acquire more land and will be increasing the farming activities with cattle and sheep to join the pigs already on site.

(c) Mr Tim Hill for Life-Line

Last year was one of consolidation for Life-Line that was first published on 1st April 1975 with the 400th edition to be distributed in June 2009. While, circulation, appearance and most of the content remain substantially unchanged, it is intended to broaden the material and publish a wider range of items with, hopefully, regular contributions by a young person for children. Life-Line is delivered by 11 volunteer distributors.

(d) The Seekers Report provided by Mrs Walsh and reported by Mrs Hards

Previously known as Campaigners, Seekers has been running for 11 years and currently has 3 leaders and 8 children who regularly attend Thursday evening sessions for games, stories, craft, music and prayer. The Group are involved in many activities including litter picking round the village, making bird feeders, fundraising for the Starfish Malawi project, bowling and carol singing round the village. All are welcome to the family service held at the Church at the end of every Term.

(e) Mrs Helen Swan for W.I.

The Farleigh's W.I. continues to flourish with members increasing all the time bringing new ideas and enthusiasm. Meetings are held monthly with interesting speakers this year on subjects such as restoration at Canterbury Cathedral, cowboying in Wyoming at 64 and treasures in your attic. Various events have been held including a visit to the Bulb Fields and fortnightly Art Classes and walks. The Choir has been rekindled and there have been various fund raising events such as a Barn Dance, strawberry tea and Posh Frock and Hat Garden Party. This year The Farleigh's WI will be 90 with celebrations in July.

(f) Mr Terry Ayears for Evergreens

Currently with around 26 members the Group meets monthly on the second Tuesday and enjoy interesting talks covering a wide range of subjects appropriate to the Group and excellent fayre. Outings are organised when funds permit to historical houses, gardens, events of special interest, a picnic aboard the Kentish Maid or a London Show. Currently venues are either private houses or invitation to other premises in the village such as Smiths Hall and the Dandelion Trust. Thanks were given to the Parish Council for continued support.

(g) Mr Peter Baggott for West Farleigh Sports Club

League and cup glory has been elusive for the Football teams this year while the Reserve Team won the Sportsmanship Trophy. The Juniors are going strong and there is a Veterans team for the over 35s. The cricket team again won the 20/20 League Cup. There are improvements being made to the football pitch and a project to install electricity and new water feed to the pavilion is nearing completion. The 10th anniversary of Ringstedt twinning coincides with the Fete this year and exchange visits for parties, weddings, christenings and holidays are continuing with the exchange weekend being a highlight of the club year. The Club continues to support the village and is progressing an option for a gravel car park behind the pavilion which would double as a useful Church overflow car park.

The Clerk to the Parish Council holds full copies of the Reports made to the meeting.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

The issue of car parking at the Church was raised and whether the Church was seeking to secure additional parking. It was reported that while one resident had offered some land for the purpose, some of the neighbouring properties had strongly objected and the offer had been withdrawn. It was Noted that with the Church being used more frequently, this matter will need to be resolved and the Sports Club were happy to discuss their plans for improvements to the parking with the Church.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.35 pm.