

WEST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2009 AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH, WEST FARLEIGH

PRESENT: - Cllr B Scott (Chairman), Cllrs D Bailey, B Hards, G Martin, B Merritt, J Morgan and Mrs V Stancombe, Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: - PC Gary Shaw was present at the start of the meeting. Borough Cllr B Mortimer was in attendance from Item 8.2 and three parishioners were present throughout the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Were received from County Cllr P Stockell, Borough Cllrs C Parr and J Wilson.

2. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS

Cllr Hards for Item 11.5 being an employee of one of the organisations.

3. MINUTES of the Full Council Meeting held on 20th July 2009

The Minutes of the meeting had been previously distributed and were **Agreed** unanimously. The Chairman of the meeting signed off the official copy.

4. POLICE MATTERS

PC Gary Shaw reported two crimes since the last meeting being two incidents of theft from motor vehicles.

5. NEW COUNCILLOR

Mr Larry Johnson had been unavoidably delayed and was unable to attend the meeting.

6. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT

Members considered the email from Local Works requesting support for the Amendment to the Act and **Agreed** to lobby their MP to support the Amendment that will enable Local Councils to take advantage of the Sustainable Communities Act that has the potential to devolve powers down to local level. The Clerk was asked to write to The Rt. Hon. Ann Widdecombe MP to request support for the Amendment.

ACTION: CLERK

7. MBC GYPSY & TRAVELLER DPD

Members Noted MBC plans to prepare a Development Plan Document which will be part of the Local Development Framework with the specific purpose of allocating sites for occupation by Gypsies and Travellers with the aim to identify sufficient sites to cover the period 2006-2012. Following consideration of the request, Members **Agreed** there was no suitable land available and, being a small Parish, West Farleigh had no amenities to offer.

8. HIGHWAY AND FOOTWAY MATTERS

8.1 PROW KM21

This item was deferred to the next meeting in order that Cllr Hards could contact Highways to discuss the possibility of making a permissive footpath from the bottom of KM21 inside the fencing to come out next to Teston Bridge.

ACTION: CLLR HARDS

8.2 Meeting with Highways

Cllrs Merritt and Morgan reported on the meeting held with Highways on Thursday 27th August at which various issues were discussed including the erosion of the verge on Charlton Lane; overgrown vegetation on areas around the village; Teston Lane junction and potholes. It was **Agreed** this was a useful meeting and while most of the items raised were unable to proceed due to current funding restrictions Members were pleased to learn that Highways had agreed to including Charlton Lane in the winter gritting schedule. Highways would also look into the possibility of installing a hazard sign at the Thatched Cottage.

8.3 Speed Limits

Members **Noted** the formal Order has now been published indicating the new Speed Limits.

8.4 Charlton Lane Kerbing

Members **Noted** that new kerbing has been installed on Charlton Lane and Highways are looking into the matter. The Clerk hopes to have further to report at the next meeting.

ACTION: CLERK

9. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

9.1 Community Centre

Members **Noted** the Solicitor is awaiting confirmation of vacant possession of the land before the transaction can be completed.

9.2 Village Green Posts

Members **Noted** the Council has been offered some Ragstone free of charge from a site at East Malling with the proviso that it is collected. It was **Agreed** to accept the offer and Cllrs Martin and Merritt to visit the site and Cllr Merritt to confirm with the owner that the Council will accept the offer of the ragstone.

ACTION: CLLRS MARTIN AND MERRITT

9.3 Twinning

Members considered the offer of the illuminated sign that has been presented by Ringstedt to the Sports Club and **Agreed** there was no suitable location in the Village for the sign and that the Sports Club may wish to retain the sign.

ACTION: CLERK

9.4 Red Telephone Box at Tickled Trout

Members **Agreed** to accept the offer from BT to adopt the red kiosk for £1. Members also considered the removal of the telephony and it was **Agreed** to object to the removal of the telephony. There was some discussion on whether the Telephone Box was Listed and the Clerk was asked to investigate.

ACTION: CLERK

9.5 Village Green Play Area

Members discussed the Play Area Inspection Report enclosed and it was **Agreed** to obtain quotations for repairs to the surfacing and also for repainting of the equipment. Members also **Agreed** to use an alternative suitably qualified company for the Play Area Annual Inspection for 2010.

ACTION: CLERK

9.6 Parish Council Newsletter

Members discussed the Newsletter and it was **Agreed** to make every effort to produce the issue on a quarterly basis with this item to be on the Agenda for discussion at every meeting.

9.7 Fair

It was reported the recent Fair had been a success and there followed discussion regarding how to account for the £470 raised for the Parish Council. It was **Agreed** to ask residents what they wish the funds to be spent on in the next issue of the PC Newsletter with comments to be returned to the Clerk.

9.8 PCC Issues

The PCC had raised an issue regarding Internet Speed in the village and following discussion the Clerk was asked to write to BT to establish when they are going to upgrade the system at the Wateringbury Exchange.

The subject of light pollution was discussed and the Clerk was asked to write to Barham Court regarding the illumination of the building and to contact Environmental Enforcement at MBC on the issue.

ACTION: CLERK

10. MATTERS OF REPORT

Reports were received from

10.1 County and Borough Councillors' Reports

Borough Cllr Mortimer updated the Council on the current planning applications for Tutsham Farm and Marshalls Farm.

10.2 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported the mirror recently installed on Teston Lane had disappeared.

10.3 Individual Councillors Reports

Cllr Hards reported that following the success of the Fair it was planned to hold an annual event in the village and ideas were now being considered for an event for 2010.

Cllr Merritt reported one of the tables on the Village Green had now been treated. Cllr Merritt also reported on the recent Tree Visit that had been successful with some good specimens in the Parish being Noted. There followed discussion regarding the trees on Lower Road by Holly Cottage and it was **Agreed** to discuss this at the next meeting.

Cllr Martin raised the issue of litter around the Parish and particularly on Smiths Hill and Hunt Street and the Clerk was asked to contact MBC to request a one-off clean up exercise.

10.4 Clerk's Reports

10.4.1 Code of Conduct Training

The Clerk reminded Members of the training session to be held by MBC on 7th October at the Town Hall.

11. FINANCE

11.1 Budget Monitoring

The Budget Monitoring Report to 31st August 2009 was **Noted**

11.2 Income received since the last meeting

Cllr Hards perused the records and was satisfied that the balances in hand agreed with the Clerk's records. Actual payments received since the last meeting were:-

Co-op - Interest on Community Directplus Account - July & August	£2.98
HMRC - Online Reporting Incentive Grant	£75.00
MBC - 1 st Half Concurrent Functions	£2250.00

11.3 Confirmation of payments already made

It was proposed by Cllr Martin, seconded by Cllr Hards "that the Council approve the following payments made since the last Meeting". This was **Agreed**.

DD - Information Commissioner's Office - Annual Data Protection Fee	£35.00
SO - Mrs V Stancombe - Net salary for July	£324.44
SO - Mrs V Stancombe - Net salary for August	£324.44

11.4 Cheques for signature

It was proposed by Cllr Morgan, seconded by Cllr Martin “that the Council approve the following payments made since the last Meeting”. This was Agreed and the cheques were signed:-

100842- Churchwarden, All Saints West Farleigh - Hire of Church, 12 August & 21 September	£40.00
100843 - Playsafety Limited - Annual Play Area Inspection	£72.45
100844 - Vinyl Signs - Supply Village Green Sign	£51.75
100845 - Mrs V Stancombe - Reimbursement of Expenses - July & Aug	£62.33
100846 - HMRC - PAYE	£205.83
100847 - M Merritt - Reimburse for cost of keys and timber treatment materials	£33.90
100849 - Churchwarden, All Saints West Farleigh - Devolved Budget Grant Donation	£150.00

11.5 Donations to Voluntary Organisations

Members considered requests for financial assistance from local organisations and it was proposed by Cllr Martin, seconded by Cllr Merritt “to make a donation of £250 to The Heart of Kent Hospice”. Cllr Hards declared an interest and withdrew from the discussion. The remaining Members Agreed and cheque no. 100848 was signed.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Council Meeting is on Monday 16th November 2009 at All Saints Church

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.