

FARRINGDON PARISH COUNCIL

Locum Clerk: Sue Hobbs BA (Hons) FiLCM

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Minutes of the meeting of Farringdon Parish Council held in the Function Room, The Golden Pheasant, Gosport Road, Farringdon, GU34 3DJ, on Wednesday, 4 January 2017, commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Elderton in the Chair, Cllr Batley (Vice-Chair), Cllrs Bevan, Durrant, Mrs Farris (part), Ms de Ledesma and Williams. Also present: one member of the public and Mrs Sue Hobbs Locum Clerk.

Prior to opening the meeting, the Chair wished all present a Happy New Year.

104/17 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Cubitt and Newens for personal reasons. A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of accepting the apologies received.

RESOLVED: That the apologies received be accepted.

(Power used: Local Government Act 1972 s85)

105/17 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE FROM CLLRS BEVAN, MS DE LEDESMA AND MRS FARRIS

Cllrs Bevan, Ms de Ledesma and Mrs Farris all signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office, which were duly witnessed by the Locum Clerk. Cllr Mrs Farris then left the meeting.

(Power used: Local Government Act 1972 s83(4))

106/17 TO APPOINT CLLRS BEVAN, MRS FARRIS AND MS LE DESMA TO THE FARRINGDON VILLAGE HALL CHARITABLE TRUST COMMITTEE

A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of appointing Cllrs Bevan, Mrs Farris and Ms de Ledesma to the Farringdon Village Hall Charitable Trust Committee (FVHCT).

RESOLVED: That Cllrs Bevan, Mrs Farris and Ms de Ledesma be appointed to the Farringdon Village Hall Charitable Trust Committee.

107/17 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS

The Chair declared his interest in item 116/17(iii). A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of accepting the declaration received.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Elderton's declaration at item 116/17(iii) on the agenda be approved.

(Power used: Localism Act 2011 and the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulation 2012)

108/17 TO APPROVE DISPENSATIONS FOR DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT 2011

The Locum Clerk advised this was not required for this meeting.
(Power used: Localism Act 2011 s 33)

109/17 TO RECEIVE RESOLUTION TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS TO ALLOW PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of suspending the meeting for no more than fifteen minutes to allow members of the public to raise questions on issues not included on the agenda.

RESOLVED: That Standing Orders be suspended for no more than fifteen minutes to allow members of the public present to raise questions or issues that are not included on the agenda.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The member of the public present spoke of his concern regarding the potential loss of the ancient hedgerow and the position of the proposed entrance, should the planning application at item 116/17(ii) be permitted. The lack of pathways and adequate parking provision proposed. Traffic issues, road safety and the hedgerow have all been factors discussed when previous applications have been submitted. The Chair read from the extract of the East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) Local Plan Housing Allocations for Farringdon, which refers to Crow's Lane, which has nine conditions to be met.

110/17 TO RECEIVE RESOLUTION TO RESUME STANDING ORDERS

A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of resuming Standing Orders to resume the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the meeting be resumed.

111/17 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 NOVEMBER 2016 (for accuracy)

The Chair itemised the minutes. A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2016 be approved.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2016 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

(Power used: Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 Para 41(1))

112/17 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (for information only)

Some discussion took place regarding the grass cutting contract, which was generally agreed to be of a good standard.

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113/17 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Chq No:	Date	Payee	Item	Total
Chq 000659	2/11/2016	Forest Traffic Management	Road closure	£ 325.00
Chq 000660	2/11/2016	X2 Connect Ltd	Phone box parts	£ 202.32
Chq 000661	2/11/2016	Cllr D Williams	Phone box materials	£ 63.00
Chq 000662	30/11/2016	P J Grace	Grass cutting	£ 4629.60
Chq 000663	30/11/2016	D Shewan	Farringdon.net domain renewal	£ 15.98
Chq 000664	29/11/2016	HALC	Cllr Training	£ 150.00
Chq 000665	16/12/2016	Mrs S L Hobbs	Locum Clerk	£ 487.89
TOTAL =				<u>£ 5873.79</u>

The Chair advised that the original account for Forest Traffic Management had not included VAT and that he had negotiated with the company that the net amount should represent the sum payable on this occasion.

It was highlighted that the account for P J Grace was the annual sum due and that the contract did not include grass cutting at Shirnall Meadows.

A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of accepting the accounts as presented for payment.

RESOLVED: That payment of the accounts as presented between 3 November 2016 and 4 January 2017 be approved.

(Power used: Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 Section 151)

114/17 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE PROPOSED BUDGET & PRECEPT REQUEST 2017 - 2018

The Locum Clerk had provided a draft budget and precept request to all Councillors prior to the meeting. Extensive discussion took place regarding how savings could be made and how Farringdon Parish Council had considered the budget in recent years. Comparisons were made with the Band 'D' equivalent precept requests by neighbouring parishes, some of whom had access to private funding or had facilities for which they received income. A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of requesting a precept of £35,000.00 for 2017 - 2018.

RESOLVED: That Farringdon Parish Council requests a precept of £35,000.00 for 2017 - 2018.

(Power used: Local Government Finance Act 1992 s39(2))

115/17 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 30 NOVEMBER 2016

A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of accepting the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 30 November 2016, as a true record of the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 30 November 2016, be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

(Power used: Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 Para 41(1))

116/17 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- (i) **SDNP/16/05659/LIS - Hawthorne Cottage, Shirnall Hill, Farringdon, GU34 3DS.** Listed Building Consent for a single storey side extension and re-tile roof. A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of raising no objection. **RESOLVED: No objection.**

- (ii) **20926/004 - Land north of Southernhay, Crows Lane, Farringdon.** Eight dwellings. A comment was received that the requirements to protect the hedgerow should be complied with. The number of proposed properties was below the minimum number to provide social housing on the development. It was thought that the site was not affected by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) boundary. A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of raising no objection, but to note the following key points: that if the ancient hedgerow cannot be preserved as part of the development, that a suitable, appropriate replacement hedge is planted to provide screening, and; that reassurance is provided that the road layout will be adequate for refuse and emergency vehicles, without presenting a hazard on Crow's Lane. **No objection, but to note the following key points: that if the ancient hedgerow cannot be preserved as part of the development, that a suitable, appropriate replacement hedge is planted to provide screening, and; that reassurance is provided that the road layout will be adequate for refuse and emergency vehicles, without presenting a hazard on Crow's Lane.**

- (iii) **SDNP/16/05990/TCA - Cobbles, The Street, Farringdon, GU34 3DT.** Fell Leylandii on the boundary of Cobbles and Three Chimneys. The Chair withdrew from the meeting at this point and the chair was assumed by Cllr Batley. A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of raising no objection. **RESOLVED: No objection.**

The Chair returned to the meeting.

117/17 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE REPLACEMENT OF BABY SWING FOR PLAY AREA

Comparisons were made between a substitute model at a cost of £65.00 plus VAT and a replacement available from the original manufacturer, costing £299.70 plus VAT. The latter price included new chains, as the original fittings were welded to the seat. A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of accepting the quotation from HAGS-SMP at a cost of £299.70 plus VAT.

RESOLVED: That the quotation received from HAGS-SMP to replace the baby swing seat and chains at a cost of £299.70 plus VAT, be accepted.

118/17 REPORTS AND ISSUES (for information only, unless received under separate agenda items)

- (i) Natural Environment Report, to include HCC Priority Footpath Cutting List. Cllr Williams advised that he would be meeting with HCC officers on 9 January 2017.
- (ii) Planning Report. It was noted that as the under-used telephone box was to be removed, that an approach could be made to BT to purchase the same for an alternative community use.
- (iii) Village Hall Report. The FVHCT Annual General Meeting had been held immediately before the Council meeting.
- (iv) Crime & Safety Report. No report was received.
- (v) Traffic & Transport Report. HCC had agreed to provide a pole for the Speedwatch camera equipment and this would be installed as soon as possible. The Locum Clerk was asked to check with the insurance broker regarding the insurance premium payable and whether cover extended to acts of vandalism.
- (vi) Energy Report. No report was received.
- (vii) Business Matters Report. No report was received.
- (viii) To receive information from HCC re: devolution (copies to all Councillors by e-mail from the Chair 19 December 2016). The report was noted.
- (ix) To receive Flood Alleviation report (copies to all Councillors by e-mail 29 December 2016). Following a HCC meeting held on 9 November 2016 regarding the Flood Action Group (FAG), a feasibility study is ongoing. The Chair agreed to contact HCC Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee regarding ditch clearance in the parish and to accompany Cllr Williams to the next FAG meeting on 24 February 2017. Landowners were encouraged to clear debris from the ditches which were their responsibility.

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119/17 COMMUNICATIONS: Key messages from the meeting

The Parish Council were delighted to welcome Cllrs Alison Ledesma, Nadine Farris and Hugh Bevan who signed their acceptances of office.

The Planning Committee considered the following applications:

SDNP/16/05659/LIS Hawthorne Cottage - listing building consent for single storey side extension. NO OBJECTION.

EHDC/ 20926/004 Development of land north of Southernhay (8 detached dwellings). NO OBJECTION with comment that if the ancient hedgerow cannot be preserved as part of the development, then a suitable, appropriate replacement hedge is planted to provide screening and that reassurance is provided that the road layout would be adequate for refuse and emergency vehicles, without presenting a hazard on Crow's Lane.

SDNP/16/05990/TCA Cobbles/Three Chimneys - fell large Leylandii on the boundary. NO OBJECTION.

It was agreed that the precept requested for 2017/18 should be £35,000, a small reduction from recent years.

It was agreed that a like for like (HAGS) replacement child's swing seat should be funded to replace the broken seat in the playpark.

It was agreed that the Chairman would accompany Cllr Williams to the forthcoming A32 Flood Action Group meeting on 24th February. An urgent issue is the clearance of drains and ditches which significantly reduces the risk of surface water flooding but which in many cases are not being done by neither private landowners nor Hampshire Highways.

Private landowners across the Parish are urged to keep the drains and ditches for which they are responsible well maintained and clear of debris.

Following recent interviews the Parish Council approved the appointment of a new Parish Clerk. Contractual arrangements, including terms and conditions, will now be agreed with the candidate with a view to completing a handover/takeover by 1 February 2017.

120/17 TO RECEIVE RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS FROM CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED 'THAT IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL/SPECIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS ABOUT TO BE TRANSACTED, IT IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THAT THE PUBLIC AND PRESS BE TEMPORARILY EXCLUDED AND THEY ARE INSTRUCTED TO WITHDRAW'

A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of excluding the public and press from the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the public and press be instructed to withdraw from the meeting.
(Power used: *Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s2*)

121/17 TO APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF PARISH CLERK

The Chair briefed Members present of the outcome of the recent interview process and sought approval to appoint Mrs Claire Gibbs as Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer to Farringdon Parish Council, at a starting salary of Spinal Column Point 27 (pro rata), with effect from 1 February 2017. The appointment would be subject to the successful completion of a six month probation period and a commitment to completing the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA). A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of appointing Mrs Gibbs.

RESOLVED: That Mrs Claire Gibbs is appointed as Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer to Farringdon Parish Council, at a starting salary of Spinal Column 27 (pro rata), with effect from 1 February 2017.

(Power used: Local Government Act 1972 s112(1) and s151)

122/17 TO DISCUSS TIMEFRAME FOR HANDOVER TO NEWLY APPOINTED PARISH CLERK

A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of continuing to engage the Locum Clerk Mrs Sue Hobbs until the date of the next Council meeting, with the possibility of a retainer being considered as required.

RESOLVED: That the Locum Clerk Mrs Sue Hobbs continues to be engaged until the date of the next Council meeting, with the possibility of a retainer being considered as required.

123/17 TO RECEIVE FURTHER INFORMATION RE: SDNPA REQUEST (referred from Planning Committee meeting held on 30 November 2016, response required by 9 January 2017)

The Chair read from an e-mail which Cllr Batley agreed to forward to the Locum Clerk, with a view to this being sent to the SDNPA.

124/17 DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The Locum Clerk had advised the Chair that she was unavailable to attend the next scheduled meeting to be held on Wednesday 1 March 2017. A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of adjusting the next meeting to Thursday 2 March 2017, in the Function Room at The Golden Pheasant, Gosport Road, Farringdon, GU34 3DJ, commencing at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.