

FARRINGDON ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING 2017

Minutes of the 123rd Annual Village Meeting held in

Farringdon Village Hall on Wednesday, 5th April 2017.

In attendance: Twenty nine members of the Public, six Parish Councillors Cllr Mr Clive Elderton, (who chaired the meeting), Cllrs Messrs Durrant, Batley and Williams and Ms Ledesma, HCC Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee; EHDC Cllr Tony Costigan; SDNPA Mrs Lucy Howard Planning Policy Manager, Hampshire Police Chief Insp Claire Jenkins and Insp Darren Ord, Mr Patrick Fuller on behalf of the Village Magazine & Claire Gibbs, Parish Clerk.

1. Introduction and Welcome: CE welcomed all to the 123rd Annual Village Meeting and emphasised that it was not a Parish Council Meeting. He made particular mention that it was good to see HCC Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee; EHDC Cllr Tony Costigan; SDNPA Mrs Lucy Howard Planning Policy Manager, Hampshire Police Chief Insp Claire Jenkins and Insp Darren Ord and thanked the PCC for allowing us the use of All Saints once again. The Meeting provided the opportunity for all to have a say.
2. The minutes from the 122nd Annual Village Meeting, held on 6th April 2016, were confirmed as a correct record of events and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council.
3. Parish Council Report:
 - Parish Cllr Clive Elderton welcomed the new Clerk, Claire Gibbs and new Parish Cllrs Ms Alison Ledesma, Mrs Nadine Farris and Mr Hugh Bevan.
 - Cllr Elderton talked the meeting through some general highlights of the past year, Parish Council activity and concerns. These included the following:
 - Planning – it was third time lucky for the Crows Lane application which will now see 8 x 3 bed detached houses set back from the Road on an inner access road. The comments on all these applications both by the PC and local community have significantly influenced this inevitable development and demonstrate the value in formally registering your thoughts as part of the planning process.
 - Road Safety - continues to be a concern & pleased to report that a remote vehicle speed sensing system has been procured and will be installed by the end of this month. The delay has been caused by the need to formally consult over the locations where the devices will be placed and a related plan to insert a 40mph speed limit southbound on the A32 beyond Annetts Farm and to relocate existing signs as for example the A32/Shirnall Hill junction. CE mentioned that the system will be portable, placed on poles to be positioned on the A32 (3 locations) and Shirnall Hill (2 locations) and will provide data which Hampshire Police can use to better target their actionable systems. Cllr Elderton urged all local residents to set a good example of safe driving within speed limits throughout the Parish. Cllr Elderton thanked Cllrs Kemp-Gee (from HCC) and Costigan (from EHDC) who had assisted the project by providing £1,000 and £500 grant funding, respectively.
 - Flooding – despite any obvious progress on the ground I am pleased to report that a lot has been done behind the scenes in recent months and Cllr Elderton thanked Cllr Kemp-Gee for his continued support and efforts on Farringdon's behalf. In the past ten days the long awaited A32 Farringdon Flood Alleviation Feasibility Report had been received.

- Parish Cllr David Williams, Christopher Trower and Cllr Elderton had walked the ground astride the A32 with the HCC environmental engineer with responsibility for flood matters. The consequence is that a range of mitigation measures have been agreed and this work will be completed before the end of this year.
- Longer term it is clear from all the studies that there is no simple or low cost solution to the threat from rising ground water and work to develop, cost and fund these longer term measures will take more time. But rest assured the work is firmly on the radar.
- Linked to this work the Parish Council is now finalising Farringdon's local emergency plan and will shortly seek Farringdon residents' support if you are able to offer support or equipment in the event of a local emergency. This includes the use of 4x4 vehicles, tractors or to provide safe, dry storage for pre-positioned sandbags.
- Defibrillator – Cllr Elderton explained the many benefits of having an accessible, defibrillator for public use. With some financial support the Parish Council will be procuring a defibrillator equipment most likely to be located in the former Phone Box at the bottom of Shirnall Hill. Training will be organised and invitation will be sent out inviting local people to sign up as first responders.
- In addition, the Parish Council had taken advantage of the offer to adopt the telephone box at the top of Parsonage Close and, in due course, may consider procuring and installing a second defibrillator to provide better coverage of this proven lifesaving equipment across the village.
- Communications – timely, accurate, effective communications are in absolutely essential for our community. Douglas Shewan does a brilliant job with Farringdon Net, Bob Stevens with Farringdon Biz and team Fuller & Prynne with the Village Magazine. All serve slightly different purposes but in addition we are bound to have our own Parish Council website – not to replace but to supplement the other communication means. In this the PC have failed to deliver and maintain an effective web site to provide a single source of information of relevance to the business of the Council. I am grateful to our Clerk, my Vice Chair Tony Batley and Richard Ray of the village for tackling this issue and we hope shortly to be able to relaunch our PC website.
- Finances - Cllr Elderton reminded the meeting that the accounts were made available at the precept setting meeting in January 2017 and there was a small reduction of £535 in the precept for 2017/2018. The precept was set taking full account of all of Farringdon's known future commitments and de-risked the budget in the face of the forecast reduction in local services funded elsewhere. The Parish Council will continue to work hard to minimise cost growth.
- Finally, Cllr Elderton thanked everyone who work so hard on behalf of the community, including the progressive supper, horticultural society shows, Lent lunches, tennis tournaments, the WI who spearheaded the campaign to smarten up the area around the Shirnall Hill phone box, the gang who worked so hard to spring clean the village and the PCC who have allowed the meeting to be held in the Church. Also, CE thanked Farringdon's Cllrs from Hampshire, EHDC and the Parish Council for all their efforts on behalf of the village. Cllr Elderton ended by pointing out that there is a vacancy for a Cllr on the Parish Council.

4. Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee from Hampshire CC

- Cllr Kemp-Gee thanked the meeting for the invitation. He spoke about the pressures that Hampshire CC has regarding Adult Social Care (ASC). Nationally by 2024 25% of the population will be of

pensionable age. HCC has 1.2 million population with 20,000 ASC clients, with a budget of £460 million, which is almost half of the Social care budget of £1 billion. Added pressures of a cut to the Revenue Support Grant, by Central Government, of £128 million and an increase in the national living wage, which has added an extra £10 million to staff costs. These issues have meant that the County Council will have to find an extra £221 million over the next 3 years to maintain services at the same level as today. Therefore HCC has to make £124 million worth of cuts over the next 3 years.

- In addition to the pressures on the ASC budgets the CC is responsible for 5,000 miles of roads, most of which are rural – annually HCC repairs 10,000 pot holes a year, that and other road maintenance cost £60 million annually. In addition, there is a capital programme of £220 million investment in new roads and bypasses;
- Has a £300 million School Building programme which is in response to new housing within the County; and
- Has provided 800 extra care beds in assisted living accommodation (own homes) and will be providing 600 cottage hospital type beds as a bridge between patients leaving hospital and returning home.
- During the last financial year, Cllr Kemp-Gee, using his grant budget assisted Parish Council with a £500 contribution towards vehicle activated traffic signs and £1,000 towards a replacement swing in the Shirnall Meadow playground and the defibrillator installation project for the Village.
- Cllr Kemp-Gee sits on the A32 Flood Action Group that meets periodically at Hampshire County Council to discuss flooding issues that affect Farringdon. He is working closely with Farringdon Parish Cllrs Clive Elderton and David Williams to help alleviate the flooding in Farringdon and the surrounding area.
- Finally, in the forthcoming year HCC will be extending the 40 mph Lower Farringdon, towards and beyond the Newton Valence Crossroads and Pelham Place.

5. Cllr Tony Costigan from East Hants District Council

- Cllr Costigan started by introducing himself and apologising as he had been working abroad, which had meant that there may have been a delay in his responding to queries raised. He is now based back in the UK and is unlikely to be travelling, for work much now. He encouraged residents of the Village to contact him if they had any concerns or queries.
- Cllr Costigan has a new role at the District Council such that he is closely involved in a project that relates to the acquisition of freehold properties for income generation for EHDC. This project has a budget of £200 million.
- Cllr Elderton raised concerns regarding the letting of the contract for the construction of the new Alton Sports Centre. There did not appear to have been any consultation for the facilities to be within

the new centre. Cllr Costigan will raise Cllr Elderton's concerns with the relevant Committee at EHDC. He added that there will be consultation once the once the planning process has begun.

6. Mrs Lucy Howard: Planning Policy Manager At South Downs National Park (SDNP).

- Mrs Howard is responsible for the Local Plan and the various Neighbourhood Plans within the National Park. She is also responsible for communication at the SDNP and had made some changes to the SDNP communications. There is now a quarterly email which summarises activities in the SDNP. Also, a staff directory will soon be published which will give the direct dial telephone number for each officer at the authority.
- Mrs Howard then went on to list the names of a few of the Authority's key Officers.
- The Planning link Officer for Farringdon and the surrounding area, at the SDNP, is Mr Nat Belderson and his manager is Mr Doug Jones.
- The Area Ranger for Farringdon and the surrounding area is Ms Laura Dean and her manager is the Countryside and Policy manager Mr Nigel James.
- The Community Lead for Farringdon and the surrounding area is Mr Chris Paterson.

7. Chief Inspector Clare Jenkins and Inspector Darren Ord - Chief Inspector Jenkins is the District Commander and is responsible for a wide area on North Hampshire up to the Hindhead Tunnel. She has 25 years of service in Hampshire Police. In her time in Hampshire Police the profile of crime has changed from car crime due to the increase in car security to cybercrime. This has led to a need to restructure the Police teams so that they have now got a greater emphasis on intelligence gathering. In addition, the shift to cyber crimes has required partnerships to be made between the Police and universities in order to better understand how to tackle crime.

- Cuts to the Police's budget has meant that there are 1,500 less officers, with the "999" teams covering larger areas than previously. However, there is a response team in Alton, who will deploy the nearest, most appropriate officers to any issues in Farringdon.
- Chief Inspector Jenkins understood that the main issues in Farringdon were speeding vehicles, burglaries and thefts from cars, though these had decreased from the previous year.
- The number of Police stations in the area are to be reduced, with the Alton office moving into HCC Hatch House. The Petersfield Police station is being vacated, however, their move to the EHDC offices had been delayed due to problems with the building.
- Inspector Darren Ord from the roads policing unit then spoke. Darren is based in Havant and covers a wide area from Chichester and Hamble to Petersfield, Farringdon and Alton.
- The biggest problem seems to be excess speeds, particularly by motorcycles, on the A32. Because of the beautiful countryside many different groups of people are attracted to the area – bikers, walkers, cyclists and car enthusiasts.

- Whilst speeding is a problem, the number of accidents along the A32 are relatively low, with 2 accidents in the last 5 years. The Policing budgets are allocated in line with the crime statistics, so unfortunately although it is a recognised problem it is not deemed to be a high risk area with regard to accidents so there is a limit to the resources that can be dedicated to tackling the speeding problem. However, there are regular patrols in the area by both marked and unmarked Police cars and good results have been achieved from liaison with the interested groups.
 - Cllr Batley, from the Parish Council, asked what else was being done to tackle speeding on the A32. The Officers responded that there are automated number plate recognition cameras which are often sited near the Meon crossroads on the A32, this enables them to identify offenders and move the regular offenders out of the East Hampshire area. The Officers left the meeting at this point.

8. FARRINGDON VILLAGE HALL CHARITABLE TRUST - Cllr Peter Durrant

- Parish Cllr Durrant started by updating the meeting with the redevelopment project for Massey's Folly. The Planning Permission for the flats and 2 new bungalows took 18 months to gain approval as there were several requirements that the developers needed to comply with. One of those requirements related to bats, but the bats should be out of the Folly by the end of the month, then the redevelopment can start in probably 6 to 8 weeks, with the shell of the Folly to be watertight by this Winter.
- He then updated the meeting with the progress of the project to build a new Village Hall for Farringdon. One of the options was to develop the land near the Church - comments were invited regarding this site. Cllr Durrant thanked Mrs Ann Charrington and Cllr Clive Elderton for their assistance in getting the project to this stage. In addition, Cllr Durrant thanked Mr Andy Partridge from the Village, whose contacts had led to a tree root survey to be carried out on the trees on and around the site near the Church.
- If the Church site is not deemed suitable as the location of the new Village Hall, then land would need to be purchased, somewhere in the Village. As the VHCT has approximately £400,000 in the bank from the sale of the Folly, any land purchase would impact on the money available to then build the Village Hall.

9. FARRINGDON PLAYGROUND TRUST – Tim Charrington Chairman

- Mr Charrington introduced the Trust. The Trust has 4 Trustees, 2 of which are HCC Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee and Parish Cllr Clive Elderton. The Trust is the Farringdon and Newton Valance Playground Trust which is to make available funds for the education of children under 25 years of age, in the Village and surrounding area. Funds could be provided for educational trips or visits, the Trust has approximately £2,500 to put towards such trips or visits.

10. FARRINGDON SOCIAL GROUP – David Horton Chairman

- The Farringdon Social Group has not been particularly active in the last year or so due to the loss of the Folly Village Hall as a venue. Mr Horton is confident that once a new Village Hall is built that the Social Group and possibly the Village Hall 100 Club will be restarted.

11. FARRINGDON & CHAWTON VILLAGE MAGAZINE – report from Patrick Fuller editor

- The magazine is dependent on voluntary help and has limited funds, which are derived from the adverts in the magazine. The magazine funds the Farringdon.biz website, run by Douglas Shewin, and are able to fund a limited amount of other things such as an annual pantomime visit for the children of the Village.

12. OPEN SESSION: The meeting was invited to raise any questions.

- A question regarding any future housing development policy was raised. Mrs Howard, from the SDNP commented that whilst she didn't know the specific housing need in Farringdon, it was high in the South of England in general. However, the presumption in the National Planning Policy is that major developments will not take place within any National Park. Cllr Elderton added that the Parish Council is keen to preserve the character and other valuable qualities of Farringdon and would resist major developments.

NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY 4th APRIL 2018.

The meeting finished at 9:30pm

FARRINGDON PARISH COUNCIL

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