

# WEST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17<sup>th</sup> JULY 2017 AT THE GOOD INTENT, WEST FARLEIGH

**PRESENT:** Cllr B Scott (Chairman), Cllrs M Merritt, G Martin, L Johnson, J Morgan, H Swan, Borough Cllr R Webb, Mrs A Broadhurst (Clerk)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Four parishioners were present.

Cllr Scott requested, if anyone intended to record the meeting, that they inform the Parish Council.

There was no public discussion.

### 1. APOLOGIES

Cllr C Stockwell, Borough Cllrs B Mortimer, Borough Cllr E Fermor and PCSO Jasmine Day

### 2. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS

There were no declarations.

### 3. MINUTES of the Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017

The Minutes of the meeting had been previously distributed and Cllr Martin proposed that the minutes were a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Swan, with all in favour. The Chairman signed off the official copy.

### 4. POLICE MATTERS

The Clerk reported that there had been one crime since the last meeting in May, which was a theft of saddles. Cllr Martin stated that these figures were not correct, as he was aware of four additional burglaries in Hunt Street and a further one at Bow Hill Oast the following week. It was also noted that the Sports Club gates had also been smashed. The Clerk was asked to query the figures with the PCSO.

#### **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Scott stated that, at the last Police Forum, it had been noted that Inspector Jody Gagan-Cook was to leave in June. Sgt Racheal Cumberland had stated that, in future, there would not be a Parish Council meeting held, that the village PCSO did not attend, as shifts would be altered to ensure full attendance. It was noted that the PCSO for West Farleigh had not changed her shift and so had given apologies for the meeting. Councillors asked the Clerk to contact the PCSO to find out why her shift had not been changed for the meeting.

**ACTION: Clerk**

After further brief discussion, Councillors ask that a meeting be requested with Matthew Scott, the Police & Crime Commissioner to discuss Policing concerns with him.

**ACTION: Clerk**

### 5. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATH MATTERS

#### 5.1 Highways Issues in West Farleigh

Cllr Martin reported that the Willow trees by Teston Bridge are causing sight line issues – these are the property of Rookery Estates.

**ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Martin reported that the Laurel hedge at the Thatched House, coming from Coxheath, needs cutting back.

**ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Martin reported that the potholes in Bow Hill had been painted 4 months ago, these had been remarked 2 weeks ago as the paint had worn away, but again, the paint is fading.

**ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Johnson reported that there had been issues in Church Lane with the waste collection due to overhanging trees. MBC had been contacted as the trees have TPOs and they had given permission for them to be cut back. Currently the bin collections are running a week late with the black bins due to be collected tomorrow with the recycling now not being collected until next week.

#### 5.2 Teston Bridge

Cllr Scott reported that there was no update, but that this matter could be discussed with the Police Commissioner, when a meeting is arranged.

#### 5.3 Speedwatch

This item was deferred as Cllr Stockwell had sent apologies.

### 6 MATTERS OF REPORT

#### 6.1 County Councillor's Report

No report provided.

## 6.2 Borough Councillor's Report

Borough Cllr Webb reported on the recent Planning Committee meeting, where the Berry Gardens fruit distribution centre had been approved for expansion. This will increase the lorry deliveries through surrounding villages and problems had already been photographed outside the Hatched House. It had been confirmed that the Company had looked for a more suitable site, however there were none in the area. Cllr Scott voiced concerns that the Councillors on the Planning Committee do not seem to understand the traffic issues experienced in small villages.

Cllr Scott stated that, at a recent Planning Committee meeting that he had attended, he had been disgusted by Borough Cllr Clive English's attitude towards Cllr Stockell. There was brief discussion whereby it was noted that this was not a 'one off incident' and similar issues have been noted at other meetings.

Borough Cllr Webb also reported that Borough Cllr Fermor had been monitoring the works to be completed by South East Water.

Borough Cllr Webb reported that a local Postman had been suspended after crossing the level crossing whilst the lights were flashing.

## 6.3 Individual Councillor's Reports

Cllr Swan reported that there is Japanese Knotweed on the footpath by the Sports Club, which is owned by Rookery Estates and also on Lower Road by Butlers Field opposite the layby down the bank, this was noted as being Highways land.

**ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Morgan reported that she had spoken to Tim Knowles, who had been acknowledged for his work at the last meeting. He had informed her that he had been litterpicking around the village for 20-30 years!

Cllr Martin reported that, after 3 weeks of no litter in Hunt Street, the lager cans are starting to appear again.

Cllr Scott asked that all Councillors respond to emails as soon as possible.

## 6.4 Clerk's Reports

- Internal Audit: The Clerk reported that she had circulated the internal audit report. As mentioned at the last meeting, there had not been any issues found on the day of the audit however, subsequently there has been a problem with the EIS website which has resulted in a number of website related issues being highlighted in the final report (these were links not working). The Clerk voiced her disappointed that this had occurred when so much hard work had been put into the site to meet all the requirements of the Transparency Code.
- Website: Following on from the discussion regarding the internal audit report, the Clerk reported that she had spoken with EIS, regarding the broken links when they became apparent. EIS have since managed to resolve most of the issues although the website now looks different in places and there appears to be two copies of the website working alongside each other. They have not been able to explain what the issue is and how the links all stopped working. The Clerk asked Councillors to consider whether it would be beneficial to look into moving the website to Hugo Fox. Whilst this move may be time consuming, at least the Councillors would then feel confident that the Parish Council will have a reliable website to ensure the requirement of the Transparency Code are met. The move would require the Parish Council to have a logo to be able to list forthcoming events and the Clerk asked that a good photograph of the village sign be taken for this purpose. The Clerk highlighted that the website will also require a domain name, which will cost in the region of £40 for 2 years, which will then need to be renewed. All Councillors are in agreement that Hugo Fox should be approached and asked that the Clerk progress this.

**ACTION: Clerk**

## 7 FINANCE

### 7.1 Budget Monitoring

The Budget Monitoring Report to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 was **Noted**.

### 7.2 Income received since the last meeting

There had not been any income since the last meeting.

### 7.3 Cheques for signature

It was proposed by Cllr Scott, seconded by Cllr Johnson "that the Council approve the following payments".

101165 – Mrs A Broadhurst – Nett Salary for July	£678.86
101166 – Harrietsham Parish Council – Clerk's SLCC Membership (shared)	£ 67.80
101167 – David Buckett – Internal Audit	£228.60
101168 – Mr B Merritt – Expenses (Cartridges)	£ 31.99
101169 – Mrs A Broadhurst – Nett Salary for August (Post-dated)	£678.86

#### **7.4 Donation for Litterpicking Equipment**

The Clerk reminded all Councillors that, at the Annual Parish Meeting, the litterpicking volunteers had asked whether the Parish Council could consider making a donation towards equipment as MBC were unable to supply all the items required. After brief discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Martin that £50 be made available to the volunteers. This was seconded by Cllr Swan, with all in favour.

#### **8. PLANNING MATTERS**

##### **8.1 Any planning applications received before the meeting**

No applications had been received.

The Clerk reminded all present that an email had been received from Teston Parish Council regarding the application at The Tickled Trout pub. Councillors felt that the lights were now proposed to be at an angle that would not affect residents in Teston therefore no further comment was required to the Planning Officer.

Councillors then queried whether Teston Parish Council had recommended refusal in the past for the lights at Barham Court, which are extremely bright, and can be seen from some miles away. The Clerk offered to contact the Clerk to find out.

**ACTION: Clerk**

#### **9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next full Council meeting will be held on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 7.30pm** at The Good Intent.

It was noted that the Clerk may not be able to attend the next meeting and Cllr Swan also gave apologies.

*With no further matters to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8.13pm*