



# EAST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Sarah O'Callaghan, Clerk to the Council

9 Court Lodge Cottages Lower Road East Farleigh Maidstone Kent ME15 0JL

T: 01622 726842 E: eastfarleighpc@googlemail.com

www.eastfarleighpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

## Minutes of the Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at the Old School Hall, Lower Road, East Farleigh

**Present:** Cllrs Peter Beasley (PB) (Chairman), Jackie King (JK), Perry O'Callaghan (POC), Lloyd Porter (LP) and Alan White.

**In attendance:** S O'Callaghan (Clerk), Borough Councillor Richard Webb (RW)  
No members of the public or press were present.

### 74. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs David Hussein (DH) (holiday), Glyn Charlton (GC) (holiday), John Wilson (JW) (prior engagement), Borough Councillors Brian Mortimer (illness), Emily Fermor (prior engagement) and Adam McKinley, Community Support Warden (prior engagement).

The Parish Council AGREED to accept the apologies with reasons given.

### 75. RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Cllr LP informed the meeting that they would be recording the proceedings.

Cllr PB had done some research into recording equipment and had found a unit which would be suitable for both Parish Council meetings and for Speedwatch. It was currently available for £150 (normally £200) and the Parish Council AGREED (Cllrs AW proposed, LP seconded) that he should purchase it.

### 76. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND LOBBYING

Cllr PB declared an interest in the JBLC Allotments and the Recreation Ground Charity (Trustee)

Cllr AW declared an interest in the Fete and the JBLC Allotments.

Cllr LP declared an interest in Tovil Parish Council.

### 77. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Council agreed that Item 92 (first piece of correspondence) required this.

### 78. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017

78.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017 were APPROVED and signed as a correct record.

78.2 Matters arising:

**Item 54.4.4 Manchester bombings donation:** the Clerk had taken advice and it was in order for the Parish Council to make a Section 137 donation.

**Item 57:** Cllr LP requested that the Parish Council find out what the cost would be of adding the Heath Road footpath to Pearson's contract. The Clerk would do this.

### 79. REPORT FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr PB summarised what had gone on. Draft minutes would be circulated as soon as possible.

### 80. APPROVAL OF HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

As Cllr JW was not present to report back, it was agreed to defer this to the next meeting.

## 81. PARISH COUNCILLORS

### 81.1 Events attended:

Cllr PB had attended a meeting in Collier Street of **the Joint Parishes Flood Group** (JPFG) with all associated agencies. It was well attended and questions from parishes were answered. However, in the end it was clear that flooding in the area cannot be prevented, but the effects can be mitigated.

### 81.2 Matters reported by parishioners:

**Defibrillator:** the Parish Council confirmed the model required and authorised payment. Cllr LP expressed concern that, by keeping it in a locked cabinet, access could be delayed, losing precious minutes in an emergency situation. As a cabinet is necessary to keep the equipment in the correct conditions, it was agreed to just see how it goes, once it's installed. Cllr AW reported that the Fete Working Party would pay for the cabinet (minus the VAT). He also offered the services of his daughter who is a first responder, to provide some training in the use of the defibrillator for those in the area. There was also a volunteer electrician to wire it all in. The Clerk would advise Mandy and Gary.

Cllr LP advised the Parish Council, that, as Tovil Parish Council had left KALC, he was no longer their representative, so he would be available to represent East Farleigh, if necessary.

### 81.3 Members' issues: none.

## 82. FINANCE

### 82.1 The Parish Council authorised payments made since the last meeting:

Car Park Attendant's Pay (evenings) June 2017	£83.33
Clerk's Salary Standing Order June 2017	£570.00

### 82.2 The following BACS transfer payments were APPROVED and will be authorised on Unity Trust Internet Banking by two signatories (Cllrs AW and PB) following the meeting:

04071701	KALC (2017 Good Cllr Guides)	£41.56
04071702	Sustainable Furniture UK Ltd (new bench for rec)	£560.00
04071703	Sarah O'Callaghan (Clerk's salary/expenses June 2017)	£282.54
04071704	HMRC (quarterly NI)	£537.16
04071705	RIP Cleaning (dog bins June 2017)	£76.80
04011706	Pearsons Landscapes (maint/litter/playground inspections)	£1,012.66

The following cheques were signed by two authorised signatories:

300242	KALC (Defibrillator, cabinet, sign, child pads)	£1,656.00
300243	Section 137 donation Manchester bombing (Red Cross)	£100.00

### 82.3 The financial statements for the period 1<sup>st</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017 (Week 13) were received.

### 82.4 Other financial matters: the Clerk confirmed that Cllr DH was now a signatory for Unity Trust Bank.

## 83. VILLAGE CAR PARK

Cllr PB submitted the monthly car park inspection: the bay markings were becoming less distinct and would need redoing in the Summer holidays, Pearsons had been asked to quote for spraying the weeds and pruning and strimming the boundary hedging and Cllr PB now had "No overnight parking" signs, but yet had to fix them in place.

## 84. HIGHWAYS

### 84.1 The July report was received.

Those allocated the portfolio for the traffic calming measures on Lower Road had met on 29<sup>th</sup> June. They had agreed that the suggested Option 3 in the “Small Works, Lower Road” report (March 2016) for the junction of The Green and Lower Road was the favoured one (£7-8,000) and that Option 3 for traffic calming in Lower Road, was the most practical (road cushions and signage, which would require street lighting) (£70-80,000). It might be necessary to ask the residents if they would be happy with this.

Cllr POC proposed that, although the Council might favour Options 3, it should make it clear that it is open to considering any more effective options. Some members would be meeting Matthew Balfour from KCC Highways and County Councillor Paulina Stockell on 14<sup>th</sup> July to discuss this and the Bridge Feasibility Study.

84.2 Bridge Working Party: nothing to report.

85. MAINTENANCE

The July report was received.

Cllr PB updated the meeting on the monitoring of Pearsons.

The Clerk would arrange for Pearsons’ timesheets to be sent to her promptly, so that they could be used as a guide by the person inspecting their work the day after they visit the village.

86. FOOTPATHS

The July report was received.

The Clerk would find out the number of the footpath which runs from the Old Dairy to Dane Park.

It was agreed to make it an agenda item next time to look at how the Parish Council manages footpaths – the Clerk would get a map)

87 RECREATION AND PLAY AREAS

The July report was received.

Pearsons’ weekly inspection of the Vicarage Lane play area was received: Cllr AW will monitor the fence and look at the play equipment faults and Cllr PB will organise some signs giving contact information.

Cllr PB submitted the monthly inspection report for the Recreation Field: he would be meeting Landscape Services to discuss the dock on the football field and he pointed out that the time was approaching when the trees would need topping out. The Parish Council had been putting money away for this purpose over the last five years, so funds were available.

88. SPEEDWATCH

A deployment had taken place on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 4-5pm in Dean Street, monitoring traffic travelling north. There were 16 first offences and 7 hand delivered offence notices, of which 3 were for travelling more than 15% over the limit (first time offences), 3 were for multiple offences and one was a second offence. One vehicle was reported to the DVLA for having no tax or insurance.

Further deployments are planned.

89. FETE

This had been a success and had made a profit of approximately £1,200. It was noticed that fewer older people attended, maybe because of the change of format. Members asked the Clerk to thank the Fete Working Party for their hard work.

Though dogs are not permitted on the recreation field and the majority of attendees left their dogs at home, some people still persisted.

Cllr PB highlighted MBC Dogwatch: if members of the public report a particular area as having a problem with dog mess, they will increase their vigilance in that area.

90. **BROADBAND**  
BT Openreach had moved that date for faster broadband in the area to November 2017.
91. **BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION**  
The Clerk would send prizes to the winners for each of the five areas in the village.
92. **CORRESPONDENCE**  
This Item was considered with no members of the public present.  
Cllr LP had lodged a complaint against Cllr GC in connection with an exchange at a recent meeting. The complaint had been dismissed by MBC, with no appeal possible, but Cllr LP wished to express his disgust at this outcome.  
The Parish Council received notification of the Maidstone International Arts Festival and Gala Concert on 15<sup>th</sup> July, the Mayor's Garden Party on 26<sup>th</sup> July and the Mayor's Charity Event at Headcorn Aerodrome on 19<sup>th</sup> August.
93. **FORTHCOMING ABSENCES**  
These were noted.
94. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  
The next meeting will be Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017, at 7.15pm in the Old School Hall, Lower Road, unless deadlines necessitate one on 1<sup>st</sup> August.
- The meeting was closed at 9.22pm.