

NORTH WEST FARNHAM RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 3rd June 2024

Present:

Richard Gunner (RG)
Dave King (DK)
Penny Marriott (PM)
Vivienne Miller
Anne Pullinger (AP)
Julie Russ (JR)
Graham White (GW)

Apologies: David Beaman

DK welcomed Graham White (GW) to the meeting and the committee members introduced themselves. GW said he is trying to encourage councils to talk to residents associations and encourage residents associations to talk to each other. He said he is Farnham Town Councillor for this Ward (North West Farnham) and lead of the Council. He is also a Waverley Borough Councillor where he serves on the planning committee. Waverley Borough Council (WBC) is far more political than Farnham Town Council (FTC). His background is in construction and he is used to dealing with planners.

David Beaman is responsible for the FIP.

Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising:

The minutes were approved with the following correction:

The sentence beginning "AP asked who is responsible for filling potholes in Waitrose car park" appears under Communication with members, etc and also under Any Other Business. It should appear only under Any Other Business.

DK mentioned that Paul Grindley is no longer a committee member as he has withdrawn.

RG had intended to send an e-mail to the Committee to remind them to set up standing orders for payment of subs, but he did not do so. The Committee need to set them up.

Waitrose car park: DK could not find out who is responsible for repairing the potholes. PM said it is WBC.

Treasurer's Report (RG):

There is £250 in the current account and £4,000 in the savings account. Only one more person has set up a standing order. The rate of interest has gone up on the savings account. The cost of nibbles and wine for the meetings has gone up and now averages £42.

VM asked what date should be set for the standing orders for subs and RG said 1st January, but this year's should be paid by cash/cheque.

Planning, Fields and Other Matters: (DK)

Old Park Lane development: There seems to be a problem with the Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANG). Farnham Park is oversubscribed as a SANG. This is the problem according to WBC, but DK thinks there are other problems, such as the drainage. DK has asked the council about it but has not received a reply.

Committee

Coxbridge: Many things are happening. Concerning Active Travel, it was pointed out that there is insufficient access and other problems. There is too much information to go through it all and DK asked GW if he could give the Committee an update on the situation.

GW said that the SANG for Abbey View is at Church Crookham and each household has to pay £162 per annum to Taylor Wimpey for it. The current situation for Old Park Lane is that Gleeson is the agent purchasing the land and will sell to the highest bidder. The main argument against the development is that the site is not in the Neighbourhood Plan but this has lost its gravity because of the housing supply. If the building rate is not at the agreed level, then developers can choose another piece of land and if it is not in the Neighbourhood Plan then it does not matter. The Neighbourhood Plan has been strengthened as its life has been extended from 3 to 5 years. The change has occurred since the plan was submitted and GW has asked what WBC's position is. There is an infrastructure issue as Farnham is up to the limit with secondary school places. WBC seem to be against building a new school or extending existing premises. If Surrey County Council (SCC) say it is all right nothing can be done about it as they are the lead authority.

Regarding the swale at Abbey View, the reason the water does not drain into it is because of the geology. There is a clay layer and water runs along the top and does not get away. If another development is constructed there will be even more water runoff. RG said the swale should be connected to other structures. GW said it is not possible at present to get the water to follow the easiest route and the most water which there has been in the swale is 6 inches. He said that the swale is not connected to anything, despite the fact that there is an inlet and an outlet pipe. The problem is that Farnham has an old system of combined sewage and water and this needs to be improved. Taylor Wimpey say they can handle the water and sewage but can the pipework handle it?

DK asked for a summary of the information on Coxbridge and GW said he would ask David Beaman who should be able to provide it.

The Old Park Lane (OPL) SANG situation: GW said that it is likely that Taylor Wimpey will offer their SANG at Church Crookham. Taylor Wimpey have access to the OPL site and have the money so will probably build it. It has not reached the Planning Committee yet but will probably be considered in July. VM said the letter that was sent round about OPL was vague about when it would be considered after the postponement. GW said it is a sustainable site as it is adjacent to an existing site and the town. He is not allowed to sit on the planning committee as he is a resident of Abbey View, and neither can David Beaman, but he can speak for 4 minutes.

In terms of the Borough, Godalming and Haslemere are tied by Greenbelt land. Hampshire has employed a barrister as they say Surrey should take more of the Hampshire housing allocation. 600 houses have been agreed at Dunsfold. It has outline planning permission and the density of the houses has been approved. A school and shops have to be built.

Coxbridge will be built by Cala Homes. JR asked if the developer should have to build a school there. GW replied that at present SCC consider that Farnham can take the strain. An infant school at Folly Hill is under-subscribed and there is another which is not in use. Both could be used for primary schools. Budgets are tight, will be cut further and SCC are looking to save money.

Website (DK):

DK's survey showed that not many people use it, though there was an increase in hits when the postcard was sent out. We have to pay £140 per year for it and DK up-dates it. It is disappointing that there are not many hits and DK asked how we can get more people to use it. GW asked who maintains it and was informed that it is Squarezone. He asked if we have coverage on the FTC website. We could advertise in Roundabout and Vantage Point. The information has to be submitted to Vantage Point before the 1st of the month for the advert to appear in the next month.

GW

GW encouraged the Committee to talk to FTC and to contact them at communications@Farnham.gov.uk, marked for the attention of Julie Jackson. PM said that FTC used to have meetings with all the residents associations in Farnham.

Footpath News (AP):

AP is hoping to find out more about the footpaths going over West Street from Coxbridge to Bourne Manor but so far has not succeeded. GW did not know about it but suggested sending an e-mail to David Beaman. AP has been in touch with Tim Devis, a footpath secretary for the Ramblers, about it. If someone wants to change a footpath they have to contact SCC and Tim Devis should be informed and also informed about new footpaths. AP said there are repeated problems in Claypit Wood and she has written to SCC but heard nothing. There is a problem with the footpath on the other side of the wood as it gets very muddy.

GW said that Catherine Powell is councillor for Farnham North. Andy Macleod and Catherine Powell are SCC councillors for the Farnham North West Ward. GW suggested copying Catherine in to correspondence about maintenance of footpaths, but initially just sending it to David Beaman. AP asked for the e-mail addresses.

JR mentioned that the footpath from Three Stiles Road to the field at the bottom is so overgrown with stinging nettles and other vegetation that she was unable to run along it. AP said SCC are responsible for maintaining the footpath. AP will report it as soon as her foot has healed and she can go and have a look. JR offered to report it and AP said she would send her the contact details.

Communication with members, deliverers, etc:

Clive Teague and his wife Beverley said they would consider becoming deliverers.

DK said there is a new date for the AGM, which will now be held on 2nd July. He asked PM about the newsletter and she said it would be ready at the end of this week. PM said she would also produce a poster.

Sue Ostrom said she would like to attend a committee meeting so she could decide if she will join the committee. She also said she would be a deliverer. DK said there is a Friends of Crondall Lane WhatsApp group and he would ask them if they would deliver. He will suggest at the AGM that when people sign in, they give their e-mail address and pay their subscription. He suggested that the Newsletter should also mention that subs of £5 should be paid at the AGM.

GW said there is a general demise in people's availability for residents associations, councils, etc. It is therefore a good idea to get residents associations to work together. VM said people get enthusiastic if there is an issue which affects them.

GW said that people have been encouraged to litter pick and clip back hedges as SCC do not do this any longer. We need to encourage people to get out and do things, especially young people and perhaps NWFRA could do something. There is part of the Farnham in Bloom competition called the Community Gardening Programme and those wishing to take part should contact stacey.wills@farham.gov.uk

DK said he would send a letter to the Farnham Herald and mention the AGM. RG will send something about the AGM once the newsletter has been produced to the Herald Clubs and Societies page. AP offered to laminate a poster and another for JR. DK asked the Committee to see if they could find some deliverers.

Use of funds (DK): DK has been communicating with the Friends of Crondall Lane WhatsApp group about a flashing speed sign in Crondall Lane. He has also spoken to Nigel Pond of SCC and will continue to pursue the issue. The present sign was not working and has been taken down.

AP

AP JR

PM

DK RG

AGM:

The newsletter will be sent out 2 weeks before the AGM. RG asked when he should send information to the Herald. DK asked how much notice has to be given and RG said he would find out but send in the information 2 weeks in advance, if possible.

VM requested that the Newsletter be produced as a Word document.

RG will get the wine and soft drinks from Majestic which also provides glasses and will also buy the nibbles. DK usually gets 6 bottles of red and 6 white wine plus orange juice.

JR will invite Catherine Powell and Andy Macleod to the AGM. DK will get the keycode for the door of St Francis Hall.

Chairman's Position:

DK said that PM has decided to retire from the Chairman's position. DK said he would take it on but will be looking for someone to take on other responsibilities. Stewart Edge might join the committee and take something on if he is able to fit it in with his political responsibilities. PM will stay on the committee.

Any Other Business:

AP asked what Active Travel means. DK suggested looking at the WBC Coxbridge planning site under documents, the number is WA/2024/W0599

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 25th September at 2.30 pm at PM's house

RG

JR DK