



FARNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL - Clerk to the Council: Helen Penney.
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Farningham Parish Council met for the first time under new chair Daryl Burns on 24th May to consider planning applications. The first full meeting of the council was on Wednesday, 14th June, after this edition of Trident went to print.

Councillors:

We still have two vacancies for Councillors and have also noted the very low turnout of 26.25% for the Local Council Election on 4th May. To try and stimulate interest in our village we have introduced a regular Newsletter, which Councillors deliver to every property in Farningham, and have updated our social media sites. We have also run two Fetes since the Pandemic and introduced a Christmas Tree lighting-up ceremony. These events have been well supported but we would welcome your views on what more can be done. Please contact our Clerk Helen Penney in the first instance, particularly if you would like to become a Councillor.

Planning:

Our May meeting considered the planning application for eight gypsy/traveller pitches at Farningham Hill Stables opposite King's Garage. We have noted the many comments from residents on the SDC planning portal and continue to vigorously oppose this application. Apart from the obvious and dangerous traffic situation on the A20 it is noted that 12% of the total of such pitches within the Sevenoaks District are now in Farningham. Swanley Town Council, in opposing the site, also commented on the concentration of pitches in the north end of the District and called for a fairer distribution.

It is a sad state of affairs that Sevenoaks District Council has continually failed to produce a policy document on the provision of Gypsy and Traveller Sites and their abject failure of enforcement has led to a catalogue of issues in Farningham with the on-going serious situation at the Old Stables in Maplescombe Lane a further case in point. The fact that SDC has now approved storage facilities at Maplebank Poultry Farm – meaning a succession of heavy good vehicles using a very narrow lane – is simply rubbing salt into the wounds.

Himalayan Balsam

The North West Kent Countryside Partnership have confirmed that they will be working in Horton Kirby on Thursday 6th July (meeting at the Westminster Fields car park at 10.00 am), and Farningham on Wednesday 16th August to carry out some Himalayan Balsam management along the river. More details will be available nearer the time. Volunteers are very welcome at both events.

Friends of Farningham:

On a more positive note, our bi-monthly volunteer group have been meeting regularly and working hard to keep our village spic and span. Apart from the regular litter-picks we have cleared the weeds from Cinder Path and cut back the overgrown vegetation on Valley View Terrace and along the riverside path from The Lion. We have also worked in and around the Village Hall to good effect.

Many hands make light work and while thanking all those who have made such a difference, we would welcome more members. We work for about an hour on the first Saturday and third Wednesday in each month and further details are available from our Clerk.

Regular updates:

If you would like more regular updates from Farningham Parish Council they are available on Facebook or by email. To receive email updates, please complete the sign up box at the foot of the home page www.farninghamparishcouncil.org The Facebook link is www.facebook.com/farninghampc

Our next Parish Council meeting is on Wednesday, 19th July 2023, 7pm in the Shand Hall, which is adjacent to the Church. There is an allocation of time for public participation and if you would like to attend, please contact the Clerk via the links at the head of this page.

Cllr Carol Salmon