

FAWKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Fawkham Parish Council** meeting held at **Fawkham Village Hall, Valley Road, Fawkham DA3 8NA** on **Thursday 3rd April 2025** at **20.00pm** to transact the following business.

This meeting will commence at 20:00 or after the conclusion of the Annual Parish Meeting which precedes it.

Grace Champion
Clerk to Fawkham Parish Council

Members of the Parish Council:

Cllr Laura Evans (Chair), Cllr James Cherry (Vice Chair), Cllr Will Johnstone, Cllr Duncan Harker and Cllr Karen Wilkes

1. Apologies for Absence

Noted: None.

2. Declarations of Interest for items relating to the Agenda:

Councillors to make any declarations that may be required by virtue of the Parish Council's adopted Code of Conduct.

Noted: Cllr L Evans declared an interest in a planning enforcement case due to it being a neighbouring property.

Noted: Cllr L Evans declared a pecuniary interest in repayments for FPC expenditure awaiting approval.

3. Public Session

Parish Council meetings are open to the public. In accordance with the Standing Orders, thirty minutes are allocated for members of the public to raise any matters and partake in discussions. There are no further opportunities for members of the public to speak during the Parish Council meeting. The Council may enter closed session at the end of the meeting to discuss a confidential item, members of the public still present will be asked to leave.

Noted: 2 MOPs in attendance, including Dst Cllr Sean Malone.

4. Planning Applications: to agree the Parish Council's responses to the following planning applications: (1) **25/00844/AGRNOT** - Speedgate Farm Mussenden Lane Horton Kirby. A new agricultural grainstore.

Resolved: the application was discussed and it was agreed that FPC would not make any comment on this application.

Noted: the Chair noted that the Clerk had been contacted by res-group regarding Chimmens Solar Farm querying if FPC would like an update/further contact at this stage. After discussion, it was agreed that the Chair would first establish with HK&SD what their latest position was.

5. Planning Decisions:

To note planning decisions received from Sevenoaks District Council:

- 24/02474/FUL - Land North West Of Canada Farm Canada Farm Road South Darenth. Demolition of existing barn and erection of new 4-bedroom dwelling with associated parking, amenity space, boundary treatment, hard and soft landscaping. **GRANTED.**

Noted: the Chair summarised the reasons for this decision and the new NPPF changes having an impact on this decision.

- 24/03158/DETAIL - Orchard Farm Fawkham Road Fawkham Kent DA3 7BJ. Details pursuant to condition 3 (Construction Management Plan) of 24/02120/MMA. **GRANTED**

- 25/00192/DETAIL - Former Depot North Of Salts Farm Fawkham Road Fawkham Kent DA3 7BJ. Details pursuant to condition 6 (verification report) of 22/01550/MMA (PART DISCHARGE - Plots 6, 7-12 and 13-15). **GRANTED**

Noted.

Noted: the Chair also asked Dst Cllr S Malone to look into an application for Chudleigh to check if the building in question will continue to remain ancillary to the main dwelling.

6. Approve Minutes:

Proposal: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6th March 2025, as attached.

Resolved: It was proposed through the Chair that the minutes be approved and signed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr Harker.

7. Matters Arising: matters arising relating to the Minutes, not on this agenda.

Noted: Southern Water pumping station: the Chair noted that the lights at the pumping station were being left on again. Clerk/Chair to find last email correspondence to make further contact.

Noted: Brands Hatch Lights: no update

Noted: Baldwins Green: the Chair noted that the area had now been raked and reseeded. The Chair also thanked Karen Proudfoot for donating 200 snowdrops bulbs, and David Mansfield for planting these.

Noted: Christmas Tree lights issue: the Clerk has now heard from the contractors again stating that the issue is resolved. Clerk and Chair to check before invoice payment.

Noted: FVH car park fencing: all in agreement to remove broken fencing.

Noted: FVH fencing in corner of car park: Cllr K Wilkes agreed to check the title deeds and revert back.

Noted: PROW: the Chair reminded all re the annual footpath checks and to inform the Clerk of any issues.

Noted: Asset Review: the Chair noted that this would be reviewed and signed off at the ACM.

Noted: SDC Settlement Hierarchy: the Chair noted that SDC had emailed to request all parishes complete a settlement hierarchy audit by 30/4. The Chair agreed to take a look at this and circulate a draft audit to all for agreement.

8. Finance Approval: (a) Expenditure and Income - details to be tabled. Approval of cheques and payments, including (b) online banking access update for Cllr Harker, (c) update on banking card.

| Payment list summary 3 April 2025 | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|---------|
| Date | Payee/For | Budget taken from | Amount |
| 03/04/25 | Clerk HMRC Tax & NI payment | Salary / NI | £131.38 |
| 03/04/25 | Clerk Salary APRIL - G. Champion | Salary / NI | £414.49 |
| 03/04/25 | SDC Dog Waste 2093167 | Dog Bin waste removal | £28.08 |
| 03/04/25 | REPAYMENT L EVANS VE Day Items | Community Events | £43.97 |
| 03/04/25 | KALC Annual Subscription | KALC + CPRE mem, Ins fees, Audit & ICO fees | £407.69 |
| 03/04/25 | Netwise annual hosting & domain renewal | Website costs | £552.00 |
| 03/04/25 | RH Gardening Services Inv059 | Grounds Maintenance | £365.00 |

| | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 03/04/25 | SDC Dog Waste 2096435 | Dog Bin waste removal | £29.64 |
| 03/04/25 | Lumberjack Tree Services | Repairs & Maintenance | £350.00 |
| | | Total | £2322.25 |

Resolved: (a) It was agreed to approve the payments listed in the schedule above. Signed by Cllr Johnstone and Cllr K Wilkes. (b) Cllr Harker agreed to call Lloyds bank to gain access.
Noted: the Clerk noted that the FPC account now had charges attached to it. The Chair noted that the new banking debit card may help with some of these charges.

9. **Small Grains: Proposal** to agree the SLA agreement proposed by SDC for the additional grass cutting at Small Grains.
Resolved: the SLA agreement was signed by the Clerk and agreed by all. Clerk to email signed copy to SDC and inform grounds contractor.
Noted: the Chair noted that SDC are planning to dispose of some assets during 2025 and Small Grains may be included. All were in agreement to submit an expression of interest if that were the case, and to make further investigation.
Noted: the Chair also noted that KALC are holding a training session on “taking on open green spaces” in July that she would like to attend. All were in agreement that this was a good idea.
Noted: some low level branches were reported at Small Grains under the asset review. Clerk agreed to contact SDC about these.
10. **Neighbourhood Plan:** to discuss the projects arising from the Plan and agree next steps.
Noted: the Chair asked Councillors to look at the project list and see which ones Councillors would be happy to get involved with.
11. **Highways Improvement Plan 2025:** to discuss and agree the HIP for 2025 and items to be raised with KCC in relation to maintenance issues.
Noted: the HIP was discussed and agreed. Cllr W Johnstone raised a maintenance issue which was added to the list for the upcoming maintenance meeting with KCC – potholes between Speedgate Hill and Three Gates Road.
12. **Fly tipping:** to note an update on next steps.
Noted: it was noted that a MS Teams meeting was due to take place on Monday with the SDC fly tipping team. **Noted:** SDC had undertaken a litter pick from the village hall to the village green; the Clerk will request a further session to litter pick from the church to the village hall.
13. **Chair and Councillors reports:** to note any items not listed on the agenda.
Noted: it was noted that a further call for sites had been released for the local plan, focusing on urban, PDL and grey belt sites; sites previously put forward do not need to be resubmitted.
14. **Open Forum for Councillors to raise matters to be placed on the next agenda:**
Members are asked to consider agenda items for the next meeting. The details of the agenda item will be sent to the Clerk by the Thursday (one week) before the published meeting. Late details cannot guarantee inclusion on the proposed agenda.
None.
15. **Date of Next Meeting:**
To note the next meeting, the Annual Council Meeting, which being held on **8th May 2025 (note change of date due to KCC elections)** at Fawkham Village Hall, time 19:30.
Noted.
16. **Confidential Item - Planning/Planning Enforcement: Proposal:** to review, update and agree actions for cases.

Resolved: The Council resolved to hear the item in a confidential session due to the nature of the content. Cases were discussed and actions agreed.

Meeting closed: 20:58.