

EAST FARLEIGH PARISH
Annual Parish Meeting 2019
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 30th April 2019 at the Old School Hall,
Lower Road, East Farleigh at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Glyn Charlton (Chairman), Cllrs Peter Beasley, Brian Dorton, Jackie King, Perry O'Callaghan, ; Sarah O'Callaghan (Parish Clerk), Borough Councillors Richard Webb and Lottie Parfitt-Reid and approximately 25 representatives of village institutions and the general public.

1. OPENING ADDRESS
The meeting was opened by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Glyn Charlton, at 7.30 pm.
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies for absence were received from Adam McKinley (Community Support Warden), PCSO Martin Chivers and Roseanna Smitherman-Cairns (Montessori School).
3. RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS
No one present intended to film, photograph or record any items.
4. REPORT FROM POLICE REPRESENTATIVE
No representative attended and no report was sent.
5. MINUTES
The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24th April 2018 were approved and signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.
6. MATTERS ARISING
Item 11: it was reported that Gallants Lane is to be resurfaced from top to bottom this year.
7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT
The County Councillor was not present and had not submitted a report.
8. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS
No reports had been submitted.
Borough Cllr Richard Webb reported briefly on issues he had been involved with in East Farleigh including the fact that the East Farleigh moveable SID's were inspiring other parishes. He greatly enjoys working with the parish.
9. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF EAST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
A copy of this is attached.
10. REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES
The major points to emerge from verbal or written reports from village institutions were as follows:-
 - 10.1 East Farleigh Pre-School
Steve Shearman attended and presented a report, which is attached.

- 10.2 Sir John Franklyn Almshouses Trust
Richard Yaxley attended and read out the attached report.
- 10.3 East Farleigh Club
No one attended and no report was sent
- 10.3 John Bunyan Leaver Charity
Cllr Peter Beasley, trustee of the Charity, reported that they have 35 plots, and a huge variety of fruit and veg is grown. The Charity has donated to Dandelion Time this year.
- 10.4 Speedwatch
Cllr Peter Beasley reported that East Farleigh Speedwatch deploys twice monthly at certified sites and he thanked the volunteer operatives for their work. Volunteers are always needed.
- 10.5 East Farleigh Brownies
No one attended and no report was sent.
- 10.6 West Farleigh Youth Football Club
No report was sent, and no one attended.
- 10.7 East Farleigh Primary School
Mark Rivers, the Head Teacher attended.
He outlined links with other schools, which help forge new relationships and allow greater sporting opportunities. The school had held fundraising events over the year (World Book Day and Rock Start Day) and had made increased use of the church (Remembrance, Harvest, Christingle, Leavers service). The Friends of East Farleigh are a valued asset, raising funds for the school. Wi-fi was now available and the WI help with young readers.
- 10.8 Church/East Farleigh Parochial Church Council
Peter Callway attended and explained that the benefice faces challenging times: numbers are growing, but not in East Farleigh. Remembrance, Mothering Sunday, the Christingle and Carols round the Tree are all well attended but other services are not: there are only 10 regular attendees.
- 10.9 Farleighs WI
The President, Wendy Barrott, attended and read out her report: attached.
- 10.10 Priory Close Residents Association
In spite of fears that it might close down, the association is continuing.
No one attended and no report was sent.
- 10.11 Montessori School
No one attended and no report was sent.
- 10.12 Farmers Markets
No one attended and no report was sent.
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- 10.13 Gardening Club
No one attended and no report was sent.
- 10.14 Old School Hall
Gary and Mandy attended, and their report is attached.
- 10.15 Fete Committee
Adam Palmer read out the report attached.
- 10.16 Community Support Warden
Adam McKinley was unable to attend but had sent the attached report.

11. PUBLIC FORUM

A resident complained that Dean Street is often like a racetrack and that only physical obstructions will work.

There was some discussion over the introduction of charging in the Station car park and the effect that it is having on parking on Station Hill.

A resident enquired if there were plans for a new Parish Plan – the Chairman replied that Neighbourhood Plans are now in vogue, but this was too costly for the Parish Council to do.

A resident asked about mirrors for concealed entrances/difficult junctions and the Chairman explained that residents can decide to put them up if they so wish.

12. NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The next Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday April 28th, 2020, commencing at 7.30 pm in the Old School Hall, Lower Road, East Farleigh.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8.24 pm.

EAST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018-19

Dear Resident,

Please spare a little time to read about what has happened in your village in the past year.

Though the Parish Council has had a challenging year, we have also had some considerable success. As I write this annual report, we are looking forward to the traffic calming scheme being put in place along Lower Road and through the village centre with work due to commence on the 25th of March. In addition to this, we also are expecting improved signage and a buildout on the Barming side of our bridge to discourage large vehicles, improve pedestrian safety and give guidance as to the best place to park for the optimum view of oncoming traffic. This will enhance the new level crossing, which has been installed to improve operator safety: unfortunately, it is unlikely to reduce the time the gates are closed. This work has been delayed due to work across Kent for Brexit. Both these road improvements come after many meetings with Kent County Council Highways representatives when the possibility of traffic lights was discussed at length and ruled out as definitely not feasible on safety grounds with the complications of the level crossing and four-way traffic.

Traffic volume and speed continues to be of huge concern and is only going to be made worse by all the new developments on our village's borders and the large lorries that use our country lanes. We have joined with Maidstone Borough Council to have some pollution monitoring tubes installed around the bridge and village centre to measure if traffic pollution is excessive.

Drivers will have noticed the new moveable Speed Indicator Device (SID) which has seven possible positions around the village. I say seven, but we await the replacement of the one on Dean Street following its unauthorised removal a week or so after installation. The Fete Working Party has donated £1,000 and our Kent County Councillor Paulina Stockell £2,100 towards an additional SID, which will enable us to cover all corners of the village more effectively. Achieving these results requires dedication from Parish Council members who give of their time voluntarily. Much of this work arose from the Parish Plan adopted in 2009 and it brings the main objectives to a successful conclusion.

Village maintenance and litter picking are a huge problem for us and we have this year introduced an improved method of monitoring work done by Pearsons, our contractor, as we moved into our new three year contract with them in January. Unlike other villages where it is safe to organise resident litter picking, East Farleigh is too dangerous because of a lack of footpaths. It doesn't seem to deter drivers opening their car windows and discarding their rubbish. We have tried to reduce costs by employing our own lengthsman to do work required off the highway.

In the last twelve months, we have installed a defibrillator outside the Old School Hall. As I write, we are installing a second one in the telephone box at the top end of Gallants Lane. County Councillor Paulina Stockell has contributed to these as well as the Fete Working Party. We understand that the Almshouses in Workhouse Lane are also considering installing one. This will mean that there are three in the village - let's hope we never need to use them, but at least they are there if required.

All the usual things continue with Speedwatch operating as often as volunteers and weather allow. Our Planning and Parish meetings continue on the first Tuesday of every month and we have our **Annual Parish Meeting on 30th April** this year at 7.30pm in the Old School Hall, Lower Road. At

this meeting, we hear from many of the local groups that strive to improve what East Farleigh has to offer. Amongst these, a report from the Fete Working Party is always presented and you can hear what the profits are spent on, including what is becoming the well-attended lighting of the Christmas tree celebration in early December at the entrance to the church yard (weather permitting). We extend grateful thanks to all those volunteers that organise these groups and we extend a warm invitation to all residents to come along on 30th April. Refreshments will be available after the meeting.

This year, John Wilson resigned as a councillor in East Farleigh and he has now joined Coxheath Parish Council.

In a year's time, it will be elections again at the end of our four-year term. Consideration should be given by everyone as to whether you could stand and take your turn, as there are likely to be vacancies at this time. In addition, Sarah, our Clerk, is retiring in September and she will be greatly missed.

The car park causes us significant management effort and, although we fully accept the huge benefit it brings in relieving school congestion and enabling increased use of our lovely recreation ground, we are trying to get an understanding with the school over future maintenance.

There is a move to improve Parish Council communication with residents via social media. This is very much in its infancy, so in the meantime, a letter delivery remains the only way to ensure you are all informed.

I would wish to thank all the councillors on your behalf for their commitment, especially Peter Beasley for his contribution as Vice-Chair and Sarah for her clerking. We strive to make East Farleigh an enjoyable place to live and would welcome any comments that you may think would help.

Glyn

East Farleigh Pre-school – Report for Annual Parish Meeting 2019

Steve Shearman – Committee Chairman – East Farleigh Pre-school – 30-04-2019

The last year has seen us well subscribed, which is a great sign that we are doing a good job. We have an excellent reputation, of which we are very proud of!

It is a challenging time in Early Years Education; we have ever more requirements from KCC and Ofsted - reports to complete, 'hoops' to jump through, and I'm happy to report that even in the face of such challenges the staff take it all in their stride, whilst continuing to give the children excellent care and a superb start to their education. Balancing the books is a constant challenge too; We are committed to providing the 'Living Wage' to our lowest paid employees, and as and when that increases, we make the same increase to all other staff. How long we can continue to do that is another question, especially as there has been no significant increase in the funding provided by KCC for some time.

I'd like to thank Mandy and Gary, as their main tenant we do have a superb relationship with them both, and always know we can rely on them when needed!

Also, thank you to the Parish Council for their donation this year, it was very much appreciated. The following is an update from our Manager, Nicki Saunderson.

"The year got off to a good start with a full pre-school full of new children, including lots of the younger 2-year olds, who had come to join us. We started off by learning all about autumn, exploring autumn colours and collecting lots of autumn nature to use in various art and craft activities. For Halloween, we all celebrated by dressing up in fun costumes and having a party at pre-school which included lots of Halloween themed games for us to play. We carried on the term learning about how to stay safe on firework night and finished up celebrating Christmas with a song concert for all our parents in church and a fundraising Christmas Bazaar.

The new year activities followed our current interest in Superheroes, we looked at lots of books about a character called Supertato and his arch enemy The Evil Pea! We have learnt about different cultures with Chinese New Year and made pancakes in pre-school for Shrove Tuesday. World Book Day was celebrated with us dressing up as our favourite story book characters and writing our own stories (with our teacher's help) and we raised money for Comic Relief by coming to pre-school with crazy hairstyles and wearing our pyjamas!

We showed our Mummy's how much we loved them by holding a special Mother's Day Cream Tea and held an Easter Egg hunt around the church grounds, along with an Easter Bonnet competition. This current term we are learning all about new life, growing and planting. We have planted potatoes outside in pots and sown tomato, sweetcorn and lettuce seeds – we can't wait to see them grow.

With still lots of things to come this year, we have a visit from the minibeast roadshow lined up for next month, sports day at the recreation ground in June and our pre-school trip in July is to The Hop Farm. We will say goodbye to all our older children going to big school in September at the end of term with a big party and a visit from our favourite magician – Marli!"

THE SIR JOHN FRANKLYN CHARITY FOR ALMSHOUSES

CHARITY NO. 210899

ANNUAL REPORT – 2018 - 2019

Committee

The committee members:-

Richard Yaxley	-	Chairman
Debbie McCay	-	Trustee Treasurer
Hilary Moon	-	Honorary Secretary
Peter Jennings	-	Trustee Building Maintenance
Trevor Jones	-	Trustee Garden Maintenance

Introduction

Once again the year has flown by since my last report. The early Spring weather has encouraged the keen gardeners of the almshouses to set too, the tulips and daffodils we planted on top of the new boundary wall look particularly splendid.

The residents continue to enjoy living in the almshouses that date back to 1609 and over the years they have been continuously updated, renovated and maintained and this year has been no exception, with the renovation of the out-buildings and landscaping.

Last year I reported that one of the porches had been demolished by a car, this has now been rebuilt and the other two refurbished, long may they remain standing!

Committee

This year we have seen a change in our Committee. Paul Khan, who last year moved to Kings Hill, has reluctantly resigned and his post as Trustee responsible for building maintenance has been filled by Peter Jennings who moved into Paul's old house. Upon moving in I told Peter that the job went with the house and thankfully he accepted and has been working hard for the charity ever since. The rest of the Committee remains the same as last year.

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking all past and current members of the Committee for all their work they do in supporting this charity.

Trustee – Gardens

Trevor Jones continues in this role and this year has been busy organising the re-landscaping of the gardens to the west of the almshouses aided by local workmen. This re-landscaping should make it easier for us to keep the garden looking tidy with minimum effort. The keen gardeners amongst the residents help considerably towards the upkeep of the gardens but as you all know gardens demand continuous attention so we are pleased to have the assistance of a local gardener.

Trustee – Building Maintenance

As previously mentioned we are pleased to have Peter Jennings as our new Trustee responsible for Building Maintenance on board. Since being in the post he has overseen the installation of new heaters fitted to the cottages, refurbishment of the outbuildings that included new roof and doors and the re-working of the rear car park that included a new Ragstone wall.

All in all Peter has been rather busy since taking on this role. I hope it hasn't put him off – thanks for all your efforts Peter.

Hopefully, next year will be a quieter and less of a strain on our finances and Peter. However, we are investigating the possibility of having a defibrillator sited at the Almshouses.

Trustee – Treasurer

Debbie McCay continues her sterling work as Treasurer, the Treasurer's duties attract a high degree of responsibilities and can be rather tedious and time consuming, in producing quarterly finance statements and ensuring incoming and outgoing payments are made on time.

Honorary Secretary

Hilary Moon continues to sort out all the administration, minutes the meetings and gets onto me when I have not done what I should have. Just as well maybe, let's hope it continues!

Summary

With the continued support of the Committee, we will continue our work for the Charity in maintaining the cottages and the gardens to ensure a pleasant environment for all the residents to live in.

Chairman
Almshouses

R.F. YAXLEY

The Farleighs WI

This year we have had very varied and interesting speakers, from Women in Aviation to the Dogs Trust and local speakers from Blooming Green to Tia Bissenden -Ayears telling us about her trip to Ecuador for which she had to raise £5,000.

Our W.I. has many clubs and activities, Craft, Art, Walking, Keepfit, Darts, Theatre and day trips, Petanque, Safari supper, Ten pin bowling, Whist and we are soon to try Walking netball.

We helped in the community by knitting and crocheting lots of poppies for the churches to commemorate the ending of W.V/.1.Made blankets for the elderly ward at Maidstone hospital. Helped Yalding W.I. make bags for the hospice, we have even made jumpers for the featherless rescued battery hens at the school..A group of ladies go to East Farleigh school to hear the children read and we made lots of delicious cakes for a refreshment tent at the fete and for a Mcmillan coffee morning.

We continue the endless task of fund raising to keep our hall in good order. It is hired by many members of the community and is a great asset We are grateful for the donation we received this year. The next project is to replace the soffrts and facias. The fund raising events for both the hall and W.I. have included a Barn dance, Summer Prom, Whist night and we plan a Pamper evening on the 10th May.

The most exciting event to happen is that we celebrate 100 years of The Farleighs V/.I.in July , something we are very proud of and thank themany previous members who built a marvellous W.I. Many thanks to the Hall and W.I. committee's for their continued support.

Wendy Barrott President

Old School Hall

Maintenance of the building is ongoing though nothing substantial has been done in the past year. The creation of our dwelling upstairs is also ongoing.

We are fortunate to have a good range of regular community users such as Preschool, Brownies, Parish Council and the Farmers' Market. We have weekly fitness and yoga classes and, as you may have heard, the samba band rehearsals. In the last year we have a new life drawing classes on the second Tuesday each month. And the National Childbirth Trust, which in the past has been an occasional booker, is using us more and more for its parenting courses. We've had quite a few baby showers in the past year, which may be directly related to the NCT courses.

For four days in the summer, we'll be the venue for the National Citizen Service 'The Challenge' project, which aims to build work and life skills for young people. It will be good to help an organisation that, particularly at a time when this age group has been so much in the news, presents them with new challenges and an opportunity to make friends.

We are having just five antique markets this year, four on bank holidays and one at Christmas.

THANKS

Finally, we'd like to thank all the local organisations and individuals who support and help us.

EAST FARTETGH FETE WORKTNG PARTY 2018/9 SUMMARY

2018 was the second fete with a musical focus and feedback suggests it went down very well with visitors. So, this year we will build on that success with another "Fete de la Musique" which will be on Saturday 22nd June from 1pm to 5pm. As usual on the village recreation ground behind the school. Plans are already underway to organise it, but if you know any musicians who might be interested in performing please let us know.

If you'd like to help with organising the fete or would like to help on the day we'd love to hear from you too. We have a small core on the East Farleigh Fete Working Party, but we can always use more volunteers, however big or small their commitment. We plan to erect the Marquees on Friday evening 21st June starting at 7pm. Many hands make light work, so do come and help if you can!

We are really pleased that the school will be running a BBQ at the event this year and they also intend to run an inflatable assault course. Of course, the WI will be selling their tea and cakes and there will be other stalls and games for the family to enjoy, as well as the music. Last year we managed to make over f 1.350 profit. Proceeds are donated to various village-based good causes. We also fund and run the Christmas tree carol event. We invite village projects to contact us if they would like to request a donation.

The East Farleigh Fete Working party would like to present £1,000 to the parish council to contribute towards a mobile speed monitor, which we hope will help keep the village roads safe and benefit all in our community.

Fete chairman -Adam Palmer

COMMUNITY SUPPORT WARDEN'S REPORT

I work for Kent County Council as a Community Warden. My role is to act as trusted friend, providing a visible, reassuring presence in the community. Listening to and working with residents and partnership agencies to resolve community issues and improve quality of life. If I can't solve a problem directly my role is to refer people to the appropriate agencies that can help. I work to reduce social isolation and assist vulnerable people.

This year I have had 6 priorities: Domestic abuse, antisocial behaviour, safeguarding vulnerable people, serious & organised crime, preventing extremism and hate crime, substance misuse and road safety.

Acting as the 'eyes and ears' for local residents we tackle low level crime and antisocial behaviour. We are accredited to Kent Police. Part of our role includes offering advice on home security and property marking.

As well as working closely with local Parish Councils and Maidstone Borough Council, I also work with other professional authorities to ensure residents are able to access the support they need. For example:

Kent Fire & Rescue Service
Kent Trading Standards
Schools
Environmental Protection
Social Services
NHS

The aim is to enable residents to take a proactive approach to work together to build safer and strong communities and improve the quality of life for vulnerable residents.

Our work with GP's and the NHS has grown significantly over the past couple of years. Working closely with Maidstone Borough Council on an initiative called 'Helping you home' we have been able to give direct support to residents who have been in hospitals by ensuring that they have practical support to enable them to come home. Sometimes this has involved sourcing beds, occupational therapy equipment, food parcels, helping with debt issues, helping to complete benefit forms, and other service needs that need to be met so the resident can be discharged.

As well as being first aiders, Community Warden's are now trained Mental Health First Aiders and so we have been able to use our skills and knowledge to give direct support when it is required to enable those who have mental health conditions to live safely and independently. By direct intervention we can help to stop matters escalating to crisis point.

We also help to tackle social isolation with the help of voluntary agencies and local charities. During the last year I have been supporting residents with dementia; hoarding; food parcels, self-neglect and welfare visits, some requiring hospital treatment. The oldest resident I visit is 104!

We are also KCC Incident Liaison Officers working closely with the Kent Resilience Team in times of emergency. We will have a role to play across the county with any identified issues relating to Brexit. In the past I was involved in assisting residents during the flooding in Yalding and Boughton Monchelsea and distributing food and water during operation stack (a few years ago) and last year distributing water in areas with burst water mains shortly after the snow.

Community Wardens continue to work closely with Trading Standards to help educate and support residents affected by various Scams, we are also regularly asked to give talks on a range of subjects, including Road Safety, Anti Bullying, Think Jessica, Internet Awareness, Beat the Bogus Caller and Stop the Scammers.

Volunteer Support Warden's

Do you like meeting new people, want to learn new skills and provide valuable support to local residents? Kent County Council, working in conjunction with the Kent Association of Local Councils have introduced an exciting new Volunteer Support Warden role in selected areas in Maidstone. Boughton Monchelsea and Chart Sutton currently have vacancies.

The role will be challenging but rewarding and you'll be making a real difference to local communities. For more information and to find out which areas this role is being launched contact Community Wardens on 03000 413455 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/communitywardens .

Adam McKinley