



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR EAST FARLEIGH**  
**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7.30pm in The Old School Hall, Lower Road**

Present: Cllrs Alex Fullwood (Chair), Steve Shearman (Vice Chair & Trustee – Rec Ground), David Hussein, Adam Palmer, Barry Older

In attendance: Desiree Home (Parish Clerk)  
Borough/County Cllr Simon Webb  
Glyn Charlton (Trustee – Rec Ground)  
6 representatives of village institutions and the general public.

**1. OPENING ADDRESS**

The meeting was opened by the Chairwoman of the Parish Council, Cllr Alex Fullwood, at 7.30 pm. The Chairwoman first wished to thank all those for attending and also, for all their hard work on behalf of the village in their capacities as Trustees, volunteers, village organisations and representatives.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were noted and accepted from;  
Cllrs John Wilson, Gina Ashcroft, Angela Howe, Sarah Shearman (EF Preschool), Peter Beasley (Trustee – Rec Ground), Mark Rivers (Headteacher EF Primary School), Diane Scott (WI), PCSO Megan McLeod, Penny Kidner-Hill (East Farleigh Social Club)

**3. RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS**

The Clerk was recording the meeting for the Parish Council.

**4. REPORT FROM POLICE REPRESENTATIVE**

No representative in attendance and no report was sent.

**5. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were approved and signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

**6. MATTERS ARISING:** None

**7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Simon Webb read out his report (copy attached).

**8. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Nothing to report.

**9. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRWOMAN OF EAST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL**

Cllr Alex Fullwood (Chair) read out the salient points of the Annual Chairperson's Newsletter – copy attached.

**10. REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES**

*Verbal or written reports from village institutions were as follows:-*

**10.1 Trustees of EF Recreation Ground**

Two trustees were in attendance, but no written report was received.

**10.2 John Bunyan Leaver Charity**

Cllr Peter Beasley, trustee of the Charity, sent apologies but submitted a written report which Cllr Alex Fullwood read out – copy attached.

As Peter Beasley was not present, there were no reports on the village **Speedwatch Scheme or "Operation Scarecrow"** police speed checks.

**10.3 East Farleigh Pre-School**

*Apologies were received from Sarah Shearman and Cllr Steve Shearman read out the EF Pre-School's Annual Report:*

Preschool operated all the way through the pandemic lockdown period, even when schools were instructed to close, preschools had to open initially for key workers children, then for all children on role.

Fundraising through this period has been very hard, and funds have been affected badly. We did benefit from a couple of small KCC grants, which have been a big help.

Numbers attending preschool are currently good, pretty much where we expect to be coming into the Easter holidays. This is partly due to Yalding preschool recently closing, so we have had a number of children join from there.

We still have an excellent reputation, all due to the amazing team of well qualified and experienced staff we have, a huge personal thank you to all of them from me.

A thank you also to Mandy and Gary, our landlords, we have pulled together with them throughout the pandemic, to make it work. Their assistance had been very much appreciated.

#### **10.4 Sir John Franklyn Almshouses**

Apologies received and Cllr Alex Fullwood read out a report on behalf of the Sir John Franklyn Almshouses – copy attached.

#### **10.5 East Farleigh Social Club**

Apologies received but no report was received.

#### **10.6 East Farleigh 1<sup>st</sup> Brownies**

No representative present and no report received.

#### **10.7 West Farleigh YFC**

No representative present and no report received.

#### **10.8 East Farleigh Primary School**

Apologies received and Cllr Alex Fullwood read out a written report from Mark Rivers, Headteacher – copy attached.

#### **10.9 Diocese of East Farleigh Parish Church**

George Moore, Church Warden, was in attendance and read out the Annual Report for EF Parish Church – copy attached.

#### **10.10 Farleighs WI**

Apologies received and Cllr Alex Fullwood read out a written report from Diane Scott – copy attached.

#### **10.11 Priory Close Residents Association**

No representative present and no report was received.

#### **10.12 Montessori School**

No representative present and no report was received.

### **10.13 Old School Hall**

Gary Hindley was present and read out the written report for the Old School Hall, Lower Road – copy attached.

### **10.14 Fete Committee**

Hilary Whibley, on behalf of the Fete Committee, confirmed that this year's fete will be in the form of a "Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration" to be held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June. She continued to read out the Annual Report – copy attached.

### **10.15 Community Support Warden**

No representative present and no report was received.

## **11. PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no further comments.

## **12. NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

- To be advised
- Next Parish Council Meeting is Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.15pm after the Planning Committee Meeting (Agendas and Meeting links are on the Parish Website <https://eastfarleigh-pc.org.uk>)

There being no further business, the meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8.20 pm.

## **Item 7. County Councillors Report**

**Kent County Councillor**  
**Simon Webb**  
**07878018997**  
**Simon.webb@kent.gov.uk**

Autumn Cottage  
Grove Lane  
Hunton  
Maidstone  
ME15 0SE

### **Maidstone Rural West Residents' Update 2021/22**

*Dear Resident,*

It has been my privilege to represent you at County Hall for the last 12 months. The learning curve has been high, however, meeting many residents and liaising regularly with Parish Councils has been extremely worthwhile. KCC is continuing to make Kent a great place to live, despite the financial challenges and rising demand for our services creating additional pressure.

The COVID pandemic has caused many people significant upheaval and sadly we have lost many relatives due to the virus and its variants. The government has given KCC additional monies to support the most vulnerable and also many of its residents. To this end KCC Members were given £6,000 to distribute as they saw fit to support people within their division. Below is a list of the projects I have supported. I am also allocated a Members grant of £10,000 per year and I have been very careful to allocate some of the funds to support a wider range of projects.

Although receiving a better-than-expected settlement for the forthcoming year, pressures coming from a combination of factors, including rising prices, the rising demand to support both our elderly residents and the most vulnerable young children has given KCC a shortfall of many million pounds. The resulting cost cutting measures agreed for the budget to discretionary services has caused concerns, many of these service cuts and the respective details are currently out for consultation. Please ensure your voice is heard and respond.

I sit on four cabinet committees, which give me a broad section of work to complete, these:-

1. Adult Social Care (vice-chair of this committee)
2. Public Health
3. Audit and Governance
4. Growth and Economic Development

I would like to pay tribute to the Leader of KCC, Mr Roger Gough, who leads by example and continues to fight for our residents at both a local, regional and national level.

### **Examples of support provided in Maidstone Rural West:**

2021/22 has seen a variety of projects being supported by the COVID RECOVERY Grant alongside the Combined Members Grants on behalf of the residents of Maidstone Rural West including:

| <b>Communities</b>            |   |               |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------|
| <b>Applicant</b>              | <b>Project</b>  | <b>Amount</b> |
| Nettlestead Parish Council    | Additional sport equipment for use KGV Field, Nettlestead   | £700.00       |
| Hunton Bowls Club             | Contribution to replacement mower   | £650.00       |
| 21Together                    | Supporting vulnerable children for a Dinosaur Fun Day   | £750.00       |
| Yalding Pre-School            | Replacing IT Laptop   | £500.00       |
| Dandelion Time, East Farleigh | Therapeutic Support Time for vulnerable young people  | £2000.00      |
| Linton Cricket Club           | Replacement Nets for Youth Development  | £1500.00      |
| Covid Grant                   |   | £6000         |
| <b>Highways</b>               |   |               |
| <b>Area</b>                   | <b>Project</b>  | <b>Amount</b> |
| East Farleigh Primary School  | To install a footpath adjacent to the front of the school to allow for parents, buggies and elderly people access to the school | £4320         |
| West Farleigh Parish Council  | Improve/support replacement of equipment on the sports field  | £1000         |
| Members Grant                 | There will be a roll forward of £4680 into the next financial year.   | £5320         |

As a Member of the County Council, I welcome contact with residents, support groups and local business. The Member Grant will always be available to assist vulnerable groups, be they of any age and if I can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to be in contact with me.

Simon  
 Simon Webb  
 Member for Maidstone Rural West  
[Simon.webb@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Simon.webb@kent.gov.uk) 07878018997

## **Item 9      Chairwoman's Annual Report**

### **Chairwoman's Annual Newsletter – Feb/Mar 2022**

I have lived in the village 13 years and been on the Parish Council for 3 years but, this is my first year as Chairwoman. There is still much to learn but thanks to more experienced members of East Farleigh Parish Council and our fantastic Clerk, I feel very supported in the role. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the previous Councillors for all their hard work over their long tenure. They have truly made a difference to our village and given endless hours of their time.

Being new to the role, I hope to breathe a bit of fresh air into the Village and the Parish Council. We have a great team of Councillors, many of whom joined after the election and, some of whom are brand new to the village. This gives us all a fresh perspective and I look forward to working with them in 2022.

My priorities for the village are perhaps also new which I hope will be welcomed by villagers. Being a mother of young children myself, I would like to focus on the younger members of our community, who have no doubt suffered greatly during the pandemic. We are working on bringing a much-needed refurbished playground to the recreational ground. Our Vice Chairman, Steve Shearman, is very engaged with both the Primary and Pre-school and we hope to bring more activities for these community groups.

Alongside the **Village Fete Working Party**, we hope to make a fantastic event this summer for the **Queens Jubilee celebration** in June. We have obtained 100 saplings to plant around the village in honour of the Jubilee and to encourage sustainability. If there are other ways you think we can help nature in our village, please let us know. Sustainability is definitely a goal for 2022 and beyond...

Of course, our highways challenges continue and are still an EFPC priority. Attached to this letter, and available on our Website and social media, you will find a **Public Consultation Paper** about reducing speeds in the village. In addition to speed around the village, we will focus on the challenges of HGV traffic which is problematic for all the residents in East Farleigh, particularly on Dean Street. There have been many initiatives on Forge Lane and, while that work continues, it is clear we need to focus on other areas in the village. We have a dedicated **Highways Working Group** on the Parish Council which is focused on HGV traffic, speeding and other issues. The speeding experiment begun by the previous Parish Council has been a success and therefore, we will continue to have police enforcement around the village. So, don't get caught out and keep to the speed limit!

We have a fresh website which features all the information from meetings and events in the village. Since joining the Parish Council in 2019, I felt we needed to make more use of social media to engage with the community.

The Covid-19 pandemic drove this forward even more swiftly. This will be the last “paper” Annual Letter from the Chairperson and we will now go forward as a paperless council. If you can, please join our **Facebook** page or follow us on **Nextdoor** to get regular updates and do check out our website <https://eastfarleigh-pc.org.uk> (the minutes and agendas to all of our monthly meetings can be found on our website). This is the best way to keep in touch with us. As EFPC will no longer be doing paper leaflet drops after this, it is important that villagers without access to the internet contact our **Clerk (Tel: 07999 414712)** to ensure that they still receive distributions and news. Alternatively, please check our regularly updated Notice Boards around the village.

At the end of the Public Consultation paper, we want feedback from you. I believe it is time to hear more of your opinions about what we can do better and where we should focus funds from the CIL monies granted to us as well as the precept fund.

I look forward to hearing your views.

Sincerely yours



Chairwoman  
EFPC



## **Item 10.2 John Bunyan Leaver Charity Allotment**

JOHN BUNYAN LEAVER CHARITY J B L C VICARAGE LANE ALLOTMENTS JOHN BUNYAN LEAVER CHARITY ALLOTMENTS.

John Bunyan Leaver, Chairman of East Farleigh Parish Council, in 1936 gifted 3.5 acres of land in Vicarage Lane to the council, on condition that the land was to be used only for the purpose of allotments, and a Christmas Charity formed to gift 5 cwt bags of coal to needy families from the income after expenses, etc. This gave rise to the it being known locally as the Coal Charity. Four trustees were elected to administer the running of the Charity and the first donations of coal were distributed Christmas 1937 and continued each year up to 1950's when the trustees decided to give donations in money, as coal was still being rationed. The Charities Commission later drew up a scheme under which the allotments are administered by a body of trustees who in accordance with the deeds relieve either individually or generally the conditions of need, hardship, or distress of persons resident in East Farleigh by grants of money, or services. The Charity has around 35 plots and a smallholding, all of which are in tenancy, with a waiting list. The trustees carry out an annual inspection of plots and meet twice a year to consider and agree ongoing maintenance requirements, individual plot housekeeping, insurance matters, and latest guidance from the National Allotment Society of which the charity is a full member, and of course charitable donations. Tenants are again looking forward to an enjoyable growing season and harvest of all manner of vegetables and fruit, and especially a summer BBQ, as last years was rained off.

Peter Beasley Chairman  
JBL Charity Allotments.  
March 2022

## Item 10.4 Sir John Franklyn Almshouses

REPORT TO EAST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

THE SIR JOHN FRANKLIN CHARITY FOR

ALMSHOUSES

CHARITY NO. 210899

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

### Committee

The Committee members:-

Richard Yaxley – Chairman

Debbie McKay – Trustee Treasurer

Hilary Moon – Honary Secretary

Peter Jennings – Trustee Building Maintenance

Malcolm Smith – Trustee Building Maintenance

### Introduction

Another difficult year has passed and we are all learning to live with Covid, in spite of the restrictions the committee have managed to meet, serving the charities needs.

### Cottages

Being over 400 years old the cottages are in need of constant attention and expenditure, with the easing of restrictions we have been able to catch up with some of the work namely – electrical work re-decoration and the complete refurbishment of No. 1 Cottage that became vacant early this year.

We have also managed to catch up on the boundary hedging that had been neglected over the years.

### Residents

This year saw the leaving of long term residents Keith and Gina Nichols from one of the cottages, we are currently seeking a new resident to take over No. 1 cottage.

Despite the difficult times the residents continue to live in relative harmony and in good health.

### Committee

Last year I reported that one of our Committee members – Trevor Jones was resigning,, fortunately he has been replaced by Malcolm Smith whom is a resident of Workhouse Lane, we wish him well. Very recently our long serving Treasurer resigned, we are currently looking to fill this position. Debbie joined the Committee in 2013 and inherited a rather arcaic way of working, turning it into a computer generated system, that is very efficient. I would like to thank Debbie for her hard work and diligence.

### Summary

With the support of the Committee and in spite of Covid we will do our best to continue our work for the charity in maintaining the cottages and gardens, to ensure a pleasant environment for all residents to live in.

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

**R.F. YAXLEY**

## **Item 10.8 East Farleigh Primary School**

2022 School Update – Parish Council

It seems like an awful lot has happened since my last report, from pandemic recovery to large scale grounds projects, East Farleigh Primary has certainly not stood still.

As a school that has been on a remarkable journey of development and improvement, it has been incredibly encouraging to receive words of recognition from others within the profession as well as from members of our local community; the following was received after a recent visit from a senior local authority education advisor:

*“Some days, you visit a school and you are so impressed with what you have seen you float back to the office on a high! Today was one of those days! East Farleigh has transformed provision, you should be so very proud of your achievements.”*

Revitalising our school curriculum has been a labour of love, and we are still working hard to develop and finalise our programmes of study to ensure that our young learners are offered the very best start to their education. A common thread that we have prioritised throughout is recognising the beauty and value of our local area. From investigating the River Medway which meanders through the village to exploring the Victorian influence on village architecture, our children thoroughly enjoy taking their learning outside of the classroom to engage in these authentic and meaningful learning experiences.

There have been a number of projects, some still underway, which intend to improve access to our outside space. Our Early Years area has received yet another upgrade with a mock construction site for children to dig and explore; this has already proved to be a popular addition to the outside classroom. We are also in the process of redeveloping our front play area to include an AstroTurf surface that children will be able to enjoy all year round; our school council already have lots of ideas about how this space might be used. You may have also noticed that a new path has been installed in front of the school which allows children to safely walk up and down the lane without needing to spill out into the road. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Diane Scott for her hard work and determination in finding a solution and seeing it through to completion.

We have a busy calendar of events to look forward to as we move towards the summer months. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee will undoubtedly capture children's interests, and we are excited to be involved in the village plans for the celebratory event in June. Other planned school events include our annual Year 6 residential, Sports Day, Year 6 production, end of term services at the church and a myriad of fundraisers that have been expertly organised by the Friends Association. As always, a huge thank you to Karen Barker and her team for their continued efforts in raising much-needed funds which are currently going towards resourcing our newly refurbished school library. With excellent pupil numbers on roll and an oversubscribed cohort for 2022-23 – the highest number of first choice places in the past seven years – it really does feel like our school is going from strength to strength. This progress would not be possible without the determination of our incredible team of staff, who show relentless commitment and energy, and our parents and extended family members, who continue to offer their time and support. With such terrific personal investment, East Farleigh Primary School really is a wonderful place to be engaged, excited and empowered!

Mr. Mark Rivers  
Headteacher

## **Item 10.9 Diocese of East Farleigh Parish Church**

### **Report from George Moore, Church Warden**

Over the past couple of years East Farleigh Church as with other institutions around the country has suffered in one way or another from the Covid epidemic. The church overall has seen a decline in numbers attending and the revenue has dropped considerably. In fact, it costs around £39,500 to keep the church viable and at present we are making a loss of approximately £6,500 per annum. If it wasn't for the rent we get from the cottage and the interest from investments made over the years, the loss would be considerably higher. However, the church is not a company whose aim is to make profits but a charitable institution and is run as such.

Our difficulties have been compounded by the retirement of our Rector, Peter Callway. We knew that he would be going in September last year but such is the Church of England's constitution we could not start looking for a replacement until after he had physically left the Parish. This we are now doing and an interview committee has been drafted and an announcement of the vacancy has been placed countrywide by the Diocese. The process is lengthy with a number of people involved and it will take some time for a replacement to be in situ. Meanwhile, Revd. Lorna Faulkner together with Revd. David Jones who are the only two ordained ministers have been holding the fort throughout the Benefice. Lorna is only "on loan" to us from the Diocese and is due to move to a new parish sometime this year.

Meanwhile, worship rotas have been drawn up over the past months to help the ministry team cope with the needs of the Benefice. East Farleigh church has helped as best we could by sharing our worship pattern with West Farleigh which meant that we could have a service locally every week. It is hoped that this co-operation will continue into the future. A thing for the new Rector to consider. He will have a huge task ahead of him.

On the physical side of the church, as the wiring that was installed with the heating system was declared dangerous, we have had to have the heating system rewired by the company who put in the Church's original electrics. The heating system works as well as can be expected and the insurance company is happy with the outcome.

Danny Paine mentioned to us that the retaining wall in the West churchyard that abuts his field was badly in need of repair and due to the grand work done by Gary Hindle this work has been satisfactorily carried out.

Some of you would have noticed that the "Strangers" cross has been removed. The base of this memorial had deteriorated causing it to fall over. We have commissioned a new stone memorial which it is hoped will be installed shortly. Also, on the repair side, the roof of the lychgate was also in a bad state of repair and has had to be renewed.

I am sorry that I have painted such a gloomy picture but I am not alone the other churches in the Benefice are also suffering the same lack of interest and setbacks but it is hoped that with a new Rector in place and the lifting of Covid restrictions, the future will become brighter and hopefully the church will again flourish.

## **Item 10.10 The Farleighs WI**

Report from Diane Scott

This year has been extremely difficult as a result of Covid. Many of our members are vulnerable or have vulnerable members of their family. As a result, those meetings that we were able to hold were not very well attended. With the exception of the walking group in house groups were postponed until July. Now that Covid rules have eased we hope to resume the Volunteer Reading group at East Farleigh School very soon.

We were able to have our annual trip to Broadstairs and as the weather was not great, we spent some time at Westwood Cross Shopping Centre for some overdue Retail Therapy. And of course, we had a Pantomime.

Zoom meetings filled any gaps for meetings with a variety of speakers and we had a lovely Christmas Lunch at The Walnut Tree – East Farleigh.

Our Hall remained closed until July but thanks to grants the Hall is undergoing refurbishments with new storage, new curtains and Double glazing being installed,

Thankfully Our loyal hirers returned as soon as they were able with very few spaces left.

As a Rural W.I we are looking for New Members to inject fresh ideas and become part of our friendly group – we have lots to offer.

### **Item 10.13 The Old School Hall, Lower Road**

Report to East Farleigh Parish Council AGM 2022

#### **HALL USE**

In the 12 months since our report to the 2021 AGM we are at least starting to recover from the financial hit of the pandemic.

Preschool has continued uninterrupted all year. Old School Samba rehearsals resumed on Friday evenings after rehearsing outdoors at the recreation field all summer, and the karate class on Saturday mornings is back. We have a new disco dance class on Thursday evenings that has proved so popular the teacher has extended from one to two hour-long sessions. We are pleased to have Parish Council back on the first Tuesday of each month. Brownies, however, has not yet returned though it does intend to when its risk assessments and training have been updated, possibly just after Easter. Party bookings are getting busier. Some of those for very young children are the first opportunity for families to finally meet their newest members, having been restricted by Covid-19 precautions for up to two years and we feel privileged to be part of people resuming something approaching normal family gatherings.

Having (with extraordinary bad timing) taken out a wedding and civil partnership licence just before the pandemic closures, we have – finally – secured one wedding and reception in the hall for April 2023 and another couple is seriously considering having an eco-friendly and sustainable wedding day here, possibly later this year.



## **COVID-19**

Government regulations and even guidance for multi-use halls has fizzled out and venues such as ours are now left to operate using common sense. Our regular users take responsibility for the precautions relevant to their activity in the hall and we trust one-off/party bookers to take the necessary steps to protect their guests and visitors.

However, we have increased the extent of our re-set and cleaning between users and in light of this our standard hourly rate has increased to £25 per hour or £250 for the whole day.

During this year we qualified for a further MBC grant of £2,667 to assist community halls affected by the pandemic.

## **BUILDING**

The building remains in good, stable condition.

We've haven't been able to return to the upper floor conversion in any meaningful way due to lack of funds. The major financial impediment to moving in (and being able to remove the caravan and marquee from the car park) is having to have a fire-suppression system approved by Building Regulations in place. If anyone has knowledge or experience of grant assistance we could apply for for the fire suppression and also to continue replacing the windows we would be very grateful if they could contact us.

Gary Hindley and Amanda Howard

17 March 2022

## **Item 10.14 Fete Committee**

PLATINUM JUBILEE FETE

Coordinated by EFFWP. DATE - Saturday 4th June 2022

For obvious reasons there has not been a village fete in recent years. This year we plan to have a village fete to celebrate the Queen's platinum Jubilee and hope this will be an opportunity to come together as a village.

The event will be held on Saturday 4 th June 2022 on the village recreation ground. It will be in collaboration with the school and the WI. There will be a BBQ, tea and cakes and a Pimms and beer tent. There will be entertainment for all the family including live music, stalls and games. We encourage a red, white and blue theme.

We are in the early planning stages and the next meeting will be on 20th April at 7.30pm in OSH. This will also be a brief AGM for the EFFWP. If you are interested in helping in any way please make contact or come along to the meeting. You don't have to give a lot of time; we appreciate whatever help you are able to offer. Whilst the main aim of the EFFWP is to promote community cohesion, we also hope we will have funds to support a local initiative.

So please also tell us if you have any ideas or nominations for how we might spend any profit. We intend to host another Christmas tree event with carols, mulled wine and mince pies.

EFFWP contacts - Adam 07711 318714 or Hilary 07775 756181.

- End -