



# EAST FARLEIGH

PARISH COUNCIL

## NEWSLETTER

**AUTUMN 2023**

**ISSUE: 1**



We would like to introduce everyone to our **first** edition of our new **bi-annual** newsletter. With the demise of grapevine, we wanted to create a new way to communicate with everyone in the village and we hope that you will enjoy the newsletters which will be issued in Autumn and Spring.

We hope to update villagers, new and old, of all the latest news and keep you informed on future plans and events.

Any feedback will be greatly welcomed.

All future issues of the newsletter will be published on our website [www.eastfarleigh-pc.org.uk](http://www.eastfarleigh-pc.org.uk) and social media. We will also email it all on our mailing list. Please email or call the clerk to join the emailing list, to receive future newsletters.

[clerk@eastfarleigh-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@eastfarleigh-pc.org.uk) 07999 414712

If you struggle to access email or the internet and would prefer a printed copy delivered to you, then please call the clerk and she will arrange this for you.

# GENERAL UPDATE

## COUNCILLORS

The Parish Council, for the second year, voted Alex Fullwood to be our Chair. We were lucky to gain a few new Councillors this year, so we are pleased to announce that we have a full contingency of Councillors.

We would like to thank Desiree Home, who resigned earlier this year from the Parish Council, for her hard work during her time as clerk and wish her well for the future.

We wish a warm welcome to Nina Henley, our newly appointed clerk.

Your Parish Council has, as ever, been very busy this year with all the normal Parish council matters, including reviewing and commenting on every planning application, renewing the village playground, liaising with highways, and dealing with all issues which arise in the village.

We currently meet every other month for Parish Council meetings. There can occasionally be extraordinary additional meetings scheduled, and these will be publicised on our website, Facebook page and Next-door app. Our meeting schedule is as follows:

Tuesday 9 January 2024

Tuesday 5 March 2024

Tuesday 2 April 2024

Tuesday 7 May 2024 Annual Meeting

We welcome anyone to attend our meetings. If you would like any matters to be raised in our meetings, then please email our clerk directly on [clerk@eastfarleigh-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@eastfarleigh-pc.org.uk)

**Our meetings are held at 6.30pm at East Farleigh Primary School, Vicarage Ln, East Farleigh, Maidstone ME15 0LY**



# KINGS CORONATION FETE

The East Farleigh Parish Council Fete working party hosted a great event for the Kings Coronation which had a huge turn out and raised lots of funds for East Farleigh Primary School and for other projects in the village.



It was a wonderful afternoon! The Major of Maidstone, Cllr Derek Mortimer kindly officially opened the fete and judged the children's crown making competition. The weather was kind, and we were treated to music, a bird of prey display, East Farleigh Primary School choir, The Old School Samba Band, BBQ, Pimm's, tea and cake from the WI, a bouncy castle, and many fun activities for the children.



Thank you to the fete working party, the Friends of East Farleigh Primary school, the WI, and everyone else who volunteered to make this event so successful. A big thank you to East Farleigh Primary School for allowing us to use the schools' facilities.

We had an amazing raffle line up. Thank you again to all our sponsors.



# RECREATION GROUND- PLAYGROUND

If you haven't visited already, please go, and visit our newly refurbished playground on the East Farleigh Recreation Ground, 12 Vicarage Ln, East Farleigh, Maidstone ME15 0LY.



These grounds along with the playground were gifted to East Farleigh Parish Council many years ago in a charity trust. The playground was becoming very tired and had some arising safety issues. The Parish Council worked very hard on this project, gaining various quotes, and going through many design options, to best benefit the playground and also to be very mindful of village funds. We replaced two of the existing items of play equipment that were getting worn out with three new items, complete with new gates and surfacing where required.

We received the following grants towards the refurbishment:

£1000 members grant from Simon Webb  
MBC

£1000 grant via KALC /KCC Helping Hands

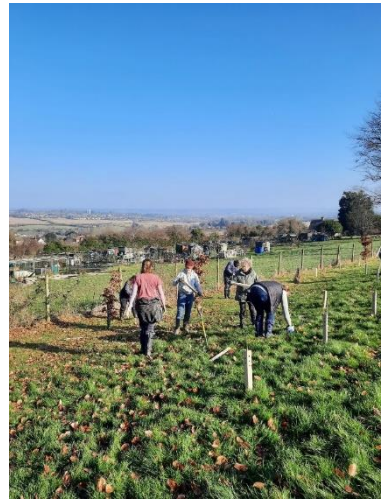
£500 grant from Goldings Homes



We used £5844.60 from CIL contributions. The Community infrastructure Levy is a charge that local authorities can set on new development in order to raise funds to help fund the infrastructure, facilities and services.

# RECREATION GROUND- TREE PLANTING

We jumped upon the chance to join in with Kent County Councils' ambition for Kent to extend tree cover by 1.5 million new trees. Working with Medway Valley Countryside Partnership we planted many new trees on the Recreation Ground. Thank you for all the local volunteers for your hard work on this great project.



# THE BULL INN EAST FARLEIGH

The pub has been closed since the last owners vacated many months ago. It is owned by Stonegate Group and the Parish Council reached out to them to find out what they had planned for the future. Stonegate's regional manager attended a meeting with us and said that they were currently advertising the pub for lease, but had not yet ruled out development if they couldn't find new tenants.

The Parish Council decided to hold a public residents meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023, to discuss the options available and to bring together members of the community to discuss the future of our historic landmark.

We had a huge turnout to the meeting and a working group has now been formed (outside of the Parish Council). Thank you to everyone who attended our meeting and to those that are now also part of the working group.

# THE BULL INN EAST FARLEIGH CONT.

The working group has given the following statement:

*The Bull Inn is boarded up and has been closed for a year; its structure is deteriorating at an alarming rate, forming an eyesore at the heart of the village. Additionally, you may have noticed that a large part of the car park and garden have been separated from the main site by a substantial fence. This is because Stonegate, the PubCo that owns The Bull, intends to apply for planning permission for housing development.*

*Following the village meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July, a working group was formed to look into how the village may be able to acquire the pub on behalf of the community. After considering various financial projections, taking on the tenancy of the pub under Stonegate's terms was considered commercially unviable. We have since spent our time preparing for the day when it may be possible to buy the freehold of the pub, if Stonegate can be persuaded to sell. We hope to be able to send out a village-wide questionnaire soon, to poll which activities and services residents would like to see at a community-owned pub. In the meantime, we have a new website and Facebook page to keep you in touch with developments. These have only just been constructed so please excuse any early errors! You can register your interest and support on the website which will help us to assess whether there is sufficient momentum within our village to make a community-owned pub feasible. Wouldn't it be nice to have a community-owned pub run by the community on behalf of the community! Over to you! The Farleigh Bull Community Pub Group*

Please visit us at:



<https://thefarleighbull.co.uk>



[www.facebook.com/TheFarleighBull](http://www.facebook.com/TheFarleighBull)

Please "Like", "Share" and "Follow" our Facebook page.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup> East Farleigh Parish Council and members of the community remembered those that fought for our freedoms. We meet yearly at East Farleigh Parish Church by the Memorial on Remembrance Sunday to pay respects to the fallen from both world wars who lived in East Farleigh.

Refreshments were served after in the church.



## WI

The WI meet twice a month – the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday each month at 7pm for a meeting with either a speaker or activity and the last Monday of each month for a catch-up lunch and natter at 12 noon. They also have a craft/art group that meets each Tuesday morning plus a darts team and walking group. School reading group, quiz team and monthly lunch club. Regular outings and events are arranged from suggestions by members. In addition, the W.I offers the opportunity to learn new skills, whist drives, paddleboarding and bell ringing are just some of the events members have taken up this year. Our fundraising events enable us to subsidise events for members. The **11<sup>th</sup> November** meeting has speaker Collette Lee talking about Fashion and later in the month (**29<sup>th</sup>**) we have the fabulously entertaining Tony Harris presenting Poirot with audience participation in solving a murder! This event is open to the public (subsidised for W.I members). If you are interested in joining please e-mail: [Thefarleighs@wkwfi.org.uk](mailto:Thefarleighs@wkwfi.org.uk) - The Farleighs W.I Hall – Forge Lane East Farleigh.





## HIGHWAYS CONT.

In addition, your council has asked for slow warning signs and road markings in Gallants Lane at sites where there is a blind bend, to draw attention to the possibility that there may be pedestrians walking unseen.

The highest priority on our improvement plan is to resolve the issue of heavy goods vehicles causing delay and damage in Dean Street. We are considering an independent video survey over a 3-day period in 2 locations in Dean Street in an attempt to capture incident footage that can be presented to KCC highways as evidence as part of a case for measures to alleviate the problem.

Potholes and pavement surface degradation had been a concern in our village in common with many other towns. Such issues can be reported to KCC highways directly by any member of the public using their website facility. You can also use this link to report drainage and overgrown vegetation.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>

There is a Public Information Notice on the EFPC Website to inform residents of the “CountryEye” app where reports can be made of **fly-tipping and unsuitable HGVs** using the village roads/lanes <https://countryeye.co.uk> Or, visit the EFPC Website: <https://eastfarleigh-pc.org.uk> for other links where village issues can be reported direct to the relevant departments.

For all other **fault** reporting please contact Maidstone Borough Council-  
[www.maidstone.gov.uk](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk)

## MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Please visit our website or use the QR below to view the maintenance schedule for the village. We currently use Pearsons Landscapes for all our maintenance works.



# USEFUL INFORMATION

## DEFIBRILLATORS

East Farleigh has two Defibrillators – they are located at the following locations:

1. Old School Hall on wall at the end of the alley between the Hall and the adjacent house.
2. Gallants Lane near Crittenden Bungalows in a BT phone box

A map of where these are located is available on the EFPC website:

<https://eastfarleigh-pc.org.uk>

The two defibrillators are registered with The Circuit which alerts the emergency services when the defibrillators are utilised. They are checked weekly to ensure that they remain in full working order.

## FLOOD PLAN

EFPC have a Flood Plan Policy (recently updated) and this can be viewed on the EFPC Website via the following link: <https://eastfarleigh-pc.org.uk/documents/flood-plan-updated-may-2023>

## PLANNING MATTERS

All Planning matters can be viewed on-line at [www.https://pa.midkent.gov.uk/onlineapplications/](http://www.https://pa.midkent.gov.uk/onlineapplications/) or in the Minutes of EFPC meetings [www.eastfarleigh-pc.org.uk](http://www.eastfarleigh-pc.org.uk)

# CONTACTS

## **East Farleigh Parish Council:**

Please send all enquiries to our clerk- [clerk@eastfarleigh-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@eastfarleigh-pc.org.uk)

Telephone: 07999 414712

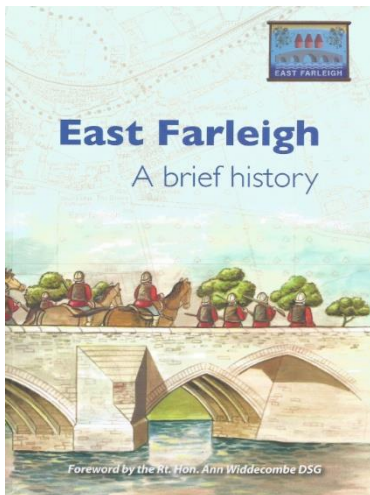
Website: [www.eastfarleigh-pc.org.uk](http://www.eastfarleigh-pc.org.uk)

## **Community Warden:**

Our community warden is Sandra Edmonds.

[Sandra.edmonds@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Sandra.edmonds@kent.gov.uk)

Tel: 07969584183



## **East Farleigh- A brief history**

Do you have a copy of the booklet produced by the Parish Council? It's free to all residents. Contact Nina our clerk and she will post one out to you

**If you would like to advertise your business at the end of our next newsletter, or have an event you would like mentioned, then please contact the clerk.**

# CAROLS BY THE CHRISTMAS TREE



Saturday 9th December at 4pm

East Farleigh Churchyard

Come and sing carols by the Christmas tree followed by complimentary **mulled wine & mince pies** in the church.

All are welcome, so come along and share some Christmas cheer.

The lights and the refreshments will be provided by the East Farleigh Parish Council Fete working party.