



FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL

B

Notes Community Enhancement Working Group

Time and date

9.30 am on Wednesday 27th January, 2021

Place

Held remotely by Zoom

Attendees:

Members: Councillors Alan Earwaker, George Hesse, Michaela Martin and Pat Evans (ex-Officio)

Officers: Iain Lynch (Town Clerk), Iain McCready (Business and Facilities Manager) and Stacey Wills (Community Enhancement and Projects Officer)

1. Apologies For Absence

POINTS	ACTION
Apologies were received from Cllr Sally Dickson, Cllr Paula Dunsmore	

2. Election of chair for meeting

POINTS	ACTION
In the absence of the Lead Member, it was agreed Cllr Hesse would chair the meeting.	

3. Disclosure of Interest

POINTS	ACTION
None received.	

4. Notes of the last meeting

POINTS	ACTION
The notes of the previous meeting were agreed.	

5. Farnham In Bloom

POINTS	ACTION
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Farnham Town Council officers outlined the proposed list of events for 2021. Cllr Hesse asked if the events for 2021 were on hold due to the pandemic and the current lockdown situation. Officers explained that where it was possible events would be arranged virtually or online. 2. It was agreed to support the community groups leaflet, to offer a zoom “meet” to the community groups and for the allotment lecture. 3. Officers updated the members on the result of the Design a Carpet Bed competition which took place with local schools. The winning design was by a Year 3 student from South Farnham School and the design will be created in a new bed situated between the war memorial and the bridge. 4. The Working Group was updated on the progress of the Green Flag Awards submission. An external company Idverde was preparing the submission on Farnham Town Council’s behalf. Despite the progress being slow, officers were confident that the deadline would be met. 5. CIL bid element of the Idverde submission had been delayed. Cllr Hesse proposed that the submission be delayed until the next round of applications. This was agreed by Cllr Martin and Cllr Earwaker. 6. Members noted that John Collins who had produced the Farnham In Bloom video in recent years has now moved away from Farnham. Members agreed a video should be prepared for 2021 and asked officers to investigate alternative film makers. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Officers to arrange the Big Meet and allotment lecture on Zoom alongside the community leaflet. 2. Council notes that the CIL bid be submitted in the next round of applications. 3. Officers to seek alternative film makers for the 2021 Farnham in Bloom video.

6. Allotments

POINTS	ACTION
<p>Members noted that all plots were remapped using GPS last year to ensure that nonstandard plots were charged correctly. Most of the larger plots were at the Six Bells allotment site. Members noted that payment reminders were being sent out and new plots would be allocated to those on the waiting list. Winter maintenance such as hedge cutting was ongoing and plot holders had been reminded not to encroach on to the footpaths between the plots.</p> <p>The Town Clerk reminded members that Farnham Town Council charged an admin fee of £25 for new plots. This charge helped to offset the potential loss of rent which can occur when plots become vacant.</p>	

7. Street Furniture

POINTS	ACTION
The Working Group were informed that a kind donation of £700 has been	1. Officers to arrange

<p>offered by Richard Pettigrew, a former Farnham resident who now lived in the USA. Members agreed that a good quality specimen tree with a hand-crafted metal guard to protect it from vandalism should be planted in Gostrey Meadow.</p> <p>No outstanding graffiti issues.</p> <p>Cllr Hesse asked if new trees would be more appropriate than the sculpture which has been previously agreed on the land between the Maltings and the Churchill Retirement flats. The Town Clerk advised this was a matter for the Task Group that had recently been appointed.</p> <p>Councillors were pleased with the recently installed Dibond wrap of the electrical substation near Robert Dyas noting that one element needed to be repaired.</p> <p>Officers advised that a bin had been requested at Hale Recreation Ground and this request had been forwarded to Waverley to action. Cllr Hesse also asked that officers raise the problem of the bin doors swinging open.</p> <p>Members were informed that the bus stops would be cleaned in the Spring.</p>	<p>the purchase and installation of the tree for Richard Pettigrew.</p> <p>2. Officers to raise the issue of bin doors swinging open with Waverley.</p>
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8. Finance update

POINTS	ACTION
<p>Members received an update on the finances, noting that as previously reported income was down and expenditure was reduced.</p> <p>Officers confirmed that there was capacity within the budget to do specimen tree planting. The Working Group noted that funds were earmarked for the public conveniences refurbishment. Officers confirmed that a surveyor's report was expected in the next few days.</p> <p>Members noted that the refurbishment of the Gostrey Conveniences had been postponed through the process of acquiring Gostrey Meadow from Waverley and possible plans to re - site the toilets and the play area.</p> <p>It was noted that the funds were allocated for all public conveniences not just Gostrey Meadow.</p>	<p>1. Officers progress additional tree planting funded from the 2020/21 budget.</p>

9. Famous Names

POINTS	ACTION
<p>The Working Group were informed about the need to clarify the criteria for deciding those nominated for the Famous Names Wall. The Working Group noted the history of the listing started by the Farnham in Bloom Group in 1985.</p>	<p>Recommendation to Council:</p> <p>1. The revised criteria for inclusion</p>

<p>Those nominated must fall into three of the four following criteria: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They must either be born, lived for a significant period of time or died in Farnham. • They must have contributed to the local community of Farnham in a remarkable way. • Their achievements will or have outlived them. • Their achievements are nationally or internationally renowned. <p>Members agreed to recommend to Council that the criteria for the Famous Names Wall be updated. Members also agreed to endorse the nomination for Sir John Verney MC Bt.</p>	<p>onto the Famous Names Wall be adopted.</p> <p>2. Sir John Verney MC Bt. to be added to the list of Famous Names.</p>
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10. Specimen / Semi mature tree planting

POINTS	ACTION
<p>1. Members considered a report on the proposed tree planting of semi-mature specimen trees on land which Farnham Town Council had recently acquired from Waverley. The need to plant more trees was agreed along with handcrafted forged tree guards to support Farnham's World Craft City status.</p> <p>2. Officers advised that there would be a mix of British Native Trees along with Japanese Acers to provide substantial visual interest.</p> <p>3. Cllr Hesse reminded members of the request that the memorial bench in Gostrey Meadow, which was made by an UCA student, be moved to the Evelyn Borelli garden.</p>	<p>Recommendation to Council:</p> <p>1. That the Gostrey Memorial bench be moved to the Evelyn Borelli Garden.</p> <p>2. The Working Group agreed to allocate £3000 of the 2020/21 budget on planting trees in Gostrey Meadow, Evelyn Borelli Garden and Battings Garden, with an additional £2000 for protective tree-guards.</p>

11. Items for Future Meetings

POINTS	ACTION
<p>1. A tree stump beautification competition was suggested as a possible Farnham in Bloom project.</p> <p>2. Rewilding in parts of Farnham. (Officers confirmed that there had many wildflower areas added over the years and a new section would be seeded in a recently cleared area in Haren Gardens. The health and safety aspects of keeping grass long still restricted wild areas in cemeteries. However, there was a large wildflower section creating a green corridor to Bishop's Meadow in West Street Cemetery).</p>	<p>1. Officers to prepare ideas on how such a competition might work.</p> <p>2. Officers to review options for rewilding where it was appropriate management of open space.</p>

12. Date of the next meeting

POINTS	ACTION
24 March 2021 at 9.30am.	

The meeting ended at 11.00 am

Notes written by Stacey Wills