

NORTH WEST FARNHAM RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of 37th Annual General Meeting

14th June 2012

The Chairman, Dr Penny Marriott, opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to both the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Paddy Blagden, and Councillor Mrs Pat Frost (Surrey County Council) and to the members of the Association.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Barry Edwards, Mr Dennis Banks, Mrs Mary Soames, Mrs Anne Tweed and Mr David Hepper.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting held on 15th June 2011 were approved as a correct record.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave a presentation about the changes in the Planning Law.

She said there were three crucial documents which will control the decisions on planning applications in Farnham:

1. The Waverley 'Local Development Framework' (LDF) and in particular
2. The 'Core Strategy Document' which was out for consultation in the first quarter of the year.
3. The Farnham Town Neighbourhood Plan, a draft of which is currently being drawn by Farnham Town Council.

These are all governed by the National Planning Policy Framework.

The New Draft LDF.

The overall spatial Strategy for where development should go, places an emphasis on delivering new development in the main settlements of Farnham, Godalming, Haslemere and Cranleigh, with more limited development directed towards the villages, principally to meet local needs. The proposed approach both to the amount of new housing and where this housing should go seems consistent with the overall Spatial Strategy.

It is proposed that 3,734 dwellings in all will be built between 2011 to 2028, and Farnham has been allocated 1,324.

Neighbourhood planning gives us direct power to develop a shared vision for our neighbourhood and give us the sustainable development we need. Parishes and neighbourhood forums can use neighbourhood planning to set planning policies to determine decisions on planning applications.

The North West Farnham Residents' Association would continue to work towards the designation of the fields behind the art college as ASVI, and for part of the fields as Green Open Space, and for the new footpaths across the fields. We would work towards using the flat part of the fields for sports purposes to address the shortfall in the NW Farnham area, and we would encourage the use of 'brownfield' locations before any use of Greenfield sites.

TAG Airport

Committee member Graham Leach reported that there was little we could do about the increase in activities. Over time there would be more aircraft and air traffic but due to the current recession it was felt that business might have dropped off and that flights might be lower than normal.

Speedwatch

The Chairman thanked Chris Cleland and his team very much for their continued work with this project. There were still a few who drove through at speed and it was hoped that the Speedwatch presence would help to keep these within bounds. A resident asked if there could be another 'flashing sign' and Councillor Frost said she would ask again.

Bishop's Meadow

The Trust has now purchased three quarters of the Meadow.

Expansion of Potters Gate School

Due to the rising population, Potters Gate School has been designated as an area of possible expansion and it is expected to double in size to accommodate the increase in numbers.

Traffic will be a problem. Councillor Pat Frost will speak to the Planning Dept at next Wednesday's meeting (20.7.2102) for greater clarification about this. The road leading to Potters Gate will become one way.

The chairman confirmed that children from the Aldershot area would not be bussed in as there would be more than enough children within the immediate catchment area.

Our website

We were all strongly encouraged to look at our website especially now with so many forms and papers relating to the new planning application rules.

Keith Miller reported that there were 400 hits per month which was quite acceptable, and this fluctuates with the importance of local events and concerns.

He asked if everyone could send him any Jubilee photos please, for him to include on the Jubilee page. As always, the more the merrier!

There followed some questions from the residents:

Q Who is responsible for cutting back the lush hedgerows – there is no sightline at the end of 3 Stiles Road at the moment.

A Councillor Frost said it depended on who owned the land. All the verges and hedgerows used to be maintained by SCC but now this has been transferred to WBC. Unfortunately, many smaller roads in this area have been missed and SCC say they will be out to cut and it is in hand. Private owners of unkempt hedges would be sent warning letters from SCC and ultimately, if ignored, SCC would cut the offending hedge and bill the owner.

Q John Price asked if the Association was going to send a formal letter to Potters Gate School about the traffic.

A Councillor Pat Frost said it was too late to send in any letter but she is aware of the problems and will complain on our behalf as she is also very concerned by the increase in traffic.

Q Please could we have another bin in Beavers Road?

A Penny Marriott would ask Councillor Paddy Blagden in Farnham Town Council. Councillor Blagden said he had already noted the problem and would take it up with the bin department.

4. Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Mr Barry Edwards, the outgoing Treasurer, Dr Marriott thanked him very much for being Treasurer not once but twice and for all his hard work on our behalf. He reported that totals were up from 2011 and the sizeable amount was kept to hand in case any legal fees were needed with regard to The Fields.

Mr Dennis Banks has kindly agreed to become the new Treasurer.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed and this was seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

5. Election of Officers and Committee

The following were elected:	Chairman	Dr Penny Marriott
	Treasurer	Mr Dennis Banks
	Secretary	Mrs Harriet Ellis
	Committee	Mr Stewart Edge
		Mr David King
		Mr Graham Leach
		Mr Tony Ostime

These were all proposed, seconded, and unanimously elected.

The Chairman said that any other residents can be co-opted on via an email nomination if they would prefer.

6. Any Other Business

Various points were raised by the residents.

Q Could we have a working party to clear the rubbish in the Field?

A As former easy access to the land has been blocked off, the Council found it difficult to access the land and they were unwilling to risk trespassing on private land.

KM said there was so much rubbish a truck would be needed.

It was suggested we contact the land agent. The Chairman said she would keep trying but was not hopeful.

Mr Mark Constable suggested we added Biodiversity as one of our criteria. We could run a species survey across the college field. This could be a good way of adding another objective. Butterfly and moth counts could be made in the evening with moth lamps in gardens backing on to the Fields. Surrey Wild Life Trust have sent him a form for making these records. He will pass this on to KM to be added to the website.

Francis Holdstead had noticed that the farmer had been spraying and destroying habitat.

Queries of whether the footpaths were 'new'. Penny Marriott explained they were 'new' as we were trying to re-establish the paths that were not already on the map.

A resident had noticed that Wimpey Developments had sponsored a traffic survey along the stretch of Crondall Lane on 21.5.2012

Mr and Mrs Fen and Mrs White and many others were very unhappy with the local postal service and the very poor and unreliable service their area receives. She would like to make a door-to-door enquiry to find out how wide-spread this is. KM will make a note of this on the website so residents would be warned of her visit and understand what it was about. Mrs Fen felt the threat of the Herald and adverse publicity might help to improve the situation.

Margaret of Larkfield Road said it was probably due to casual labour and any complaints should be sent to the GPO in Plymouth. It was also suggested to contact our local MP, Mr Jeremy Hunt. (see website)

John Price offered congratulation to KM for the website.

He recommended the Surrey Cycle Guide No.4, available from the library, as a good local map.

There was a complaint about the camber on the pavement outside the garage at the bottom of Crondall Lane being dangerous. Both SCC and the garage say it is the other's responsibility.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Dr Penny Marriott opened the question and answer session by inviting the Councillor Paddy Blagden and Councillor Mrs Pat Frost to answer questions from the residents.

Dr Marriot closed the discussion at 9.15 pm and thanked the Deputy Town Mayor and Councillor Pat Frost very much for their contribution and for attending.