

FARNHAM WITH STRATFORD ST ANDREW PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held Monday 8 March 2021 by video via Zoom

Present: Councillors Ian Norman, Gordon Gilbert, Ian Tayler, Tim Plant, Richard Ayres, Rosemary Conibeer, Michael Light

Apologies: Jill Pass,

In attendance: Parish clerk Debbi Tayler, Andrew Reid (SCC), Carol Poulter (ESC), Sasha Ayres

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Pass.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda. It was noted that Councillor Ayres has an interest in item 12 but it is non-pecuniary.

3 Minutes of meeting held 8 February 2021

The minutes of the meetings were unanimously approved and will be signed by the chair.

4 Questions from the public

There were no questions.

5 Reports from County and District Councillors

Councillor Reid has provided a report which the clerk circulated. He noted that the numbers of Covid 19 cases in Suffolk have reduced to 30 per day and numbers have decreased in all districts. There has also been a 50% reduction in cases in Ipswich over the past ten days.

A pilot Automated Number Plate Recognition system is to be introduced at recycling centres. This will work alongside the booking system to improve efficiency.

In February a project was announced to pump 60,000 tonnes of rainwater that would normally go into the river Deben into farmland for irrigation. SCC has doubled their drainage budget.

Two major infrastructure projects have started in Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft. Work is also underway for signalised junctions to improve through traffic from Seven Hills through Seckford to Woods Lane.

The council's budget for 2021/22 has been approved. There will be an increase of £40 million which gives a total of £597 million net of education. No services have been cut but there has been a fall in revenue.

Councillor Poulter's report was forwarded. She noted Suffolk are doing very well with regard to the numbers of vaccinations given so far. Congratulations were given to Saxmundham surgery.

ESC Community Partnership are looking for ideas from parishes.

Green bin collections will start again this week.

Councillor Light offered his thanks for the support given by the council to small businesses throughout the pandemic.

Signed(Chair)

Date.....

6 Clerk’s Report

The correspondence log was circulated prior to the meeting. A request had been made to discuss the jet wash at Stratford Service Station. Someone has complained about the amount of soap suds produced that are running into the road. As the surface is tarmac it was not thought this would be a slip hazard.

There have been two requests for a third grit bin for Stratford St Andrew, at the hill by Little Stud Cottage and at the junction opposite Main Farm. It was agreed siting a bin at Little Stud Cottage would be difficult as there is nowhere to put it that would be safe and there is no history of accidents either there or at Main Farm. Also the bad weather we had recently was unusual. If there was more support for grit bins this will be considered again.

7 RFO’s report

On 26 February there was £5986.22 in the council’s bank account.

There were three invoices for approval.

		Legal power
Clerk’s salary inc admin	£243.62	LGA 1972 s.112
PAYE Month 12	£57.20	LGA 1972 s.112
CAS donation	£30.00	LGA 1972 s.111

The clerk advised that her invoice includes the monthly Zoom subscription of £14.39. The annual membership for Community Action Suffolk is due. This is free but donations are requested. It was agreed that a £30 donation would be made as in previous years. The invoices were all approved. There has been a VAT refund of £335.08 and the balance of funds is now £5655.40.

The approvals sheets and bank statements will be delivered to Councillors Pass and Gilbert to sign.

8 Appointment of internal auditor

It was agreed that the council should retain the services of SALC as internal auditor for the financial year 2020/21. The clerk will attend an audit briefing this week.

9 Planning application DC/21/0470/FUL – 1 Low Barn Cottages

This is an application to convert a garage into a self-contained dwelling although the paperwork calls it a bedroom. The plans show it includes a bathroom, kitchen area, lounge/bedroom with a wood burner and patio area. It was agreed the council has no objection to the plans in principle but there are concerns about parking. There are four cottages with little room for all the vehicles so some park across the lane on a grass verge which has become very churned up. If the annex planned was to be let with another vehicle there would be nowhere for it to be parked. The clerk will comment along these lines.

10 Planning application DC20/0724/VOC – Manor Farm

This is an application to discharge Condition 2 of the original planning application. The amendment is for a slight increase in a roof line and changing the appearance of the north wing to add corrugated steel to the north façade to create a visual connection between the new and existing buildings. It was agreed there were no objections, the clerk will comment accordingly.

Signed(Chair)

Date.....

11 Planning

Councillor Light attended a planning presentation by ESC last week. The clerk will forward the presentation to the council.

12 The Planning Inspectorate Preliminary Meeting – The Sizewell C Project

The clerk advised she has received the Rule 6 letter from the Planning Inspectorate which invites the council as an Interested Party to the Preliminary Meeting. It also sets out the timetable for the EDF DCO to be examined. The Preliminary Meeting is to discuss arrangements for the examination of the application for Development Consent, it is not to discuss the merits or otherwise of the application.

Item 4 of the Preliminary Meeting agenda is to discuss the Principal Issues identified. It has been suggested that the council should request to speak at the PM and to ask that the proposed Two Village Bypass be listed individually as a Principal Issue rather than be subsumed into other headings such as Transport. The bypass is a big issue that affects more than just our two villages and it was felt it should be seen as a single issue to focus people's minds on the importance of it and the route. It was agreed that the clerk will make the request.

13 Reports from external meetings

There have been no external meetings.

40 Items for future meetings

Councillor Pass will lead a discussion on planning at the April meeting. An item will be included as suggested by Sarah Morgan for the council to decide whether to have a nature strategy.

Date of next meeting 12 April, the clerk will issue a Zoom Outlook appointment nearer the time.

The meeting was closed at 21.05.