

FARNHAM WITH STRATFORD ST ANDREW PARISH COUNCIL  
Minutes of the meeting held Monday 13 September 2021 at the Riverside Centre

Present: Councillors Ian Norman, Gordon Gilbert, Richard Ayres, Michael Light, Rosemary Conibeer, Jill Pass, Tim Plant  
Apologies: Carol Poulter (ESC), Andrew Reid (SCC)  
In attendance: Parish clerk Debbi Tayler

**1 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Reid and Poulter.

**2 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3 Minutes of meeting held 9 August 2021**

The minutes of the meeting were unanimously approved and signed.

**4 Questions from the public**

There were no questions.

Councillor Norman updated the council about the allotments. The planned work to repair the fence and tidy have been delayed slightly but a start has been made. Councillor Norman received an email from the planning applicant at The Bungalow, Stratford St Andrew, querying the council’s comments on the application. The chair has responded.

**5 Reports from County and District Councillors**

Reports have been received and circulated.

**6 Clerk’s Report**

The correspondence log was circulated prior to the meeting.

**7 RFO’s report**

On 31 August there was £8319.32 in the council’s bank account. There were four invoices for approval.

		Legal power
Clerk’s salary	£203.60	LGA 1972 s.112
PAYE Month 6	£51.00	LGA 1972 s.112
Insurance renewal	£260.68	LGA 1972 s.111
Fence post/staples	£13.44	LGA 1972 s.111

The new balance is £7804.04. There were no receipts during the month.

**8 To discuss planning application DC/21/3872/ROC**

This is a planning application for the removal of condition 4 of C96/0139 – the proposed removal of the agricultural occupancy condition at Fromus Farm, Friday Street, Farnham. The application was discussed in detail and put to a vote. Three councillors voted in favour, one against and three abstained. There was therefore no objection to the application.

Signed .....(Chair)

Date.....

**9 Update re village sign**

The clerk has received another quote for the refurbishment work from Jon Lear. The estimated cost is £700, this is the price without scaffolding whereas the one from Ian Sedge for £900 included the cost of scaffolding. The quotes are therefore very similar. The council discussed the reasons for refurbishing the sign in colour. It was felt that in its present colour, ie black, the sign is not as visible as the Stratford St Andrew sign is. In any case the sign will need repainting as it is starting to show signs of wear.

Councillor Conibeer proposed the council vote on the refurbishment of the Farnham village sign in colour up to the cost of £1000. Councillor Light seconded the proposal. There were five votes in favour and two abstentions.

If any parishioner in either Farnham or Stratford St Andrew has any comments or interest in this matter the council would like to hear from them. The work will probably start in Spring 2022 and will cost up to £1000. The sign needs refurbishing as it is deteriorating and the council are thinking of colouring it to make it more visible and more of a statement for the village. Residents should contact the clerk with their comments before the next meeting on 11 October 2021.

**10 To discuss a casual vacancy**

Councillor Norman advised the council that he has received a letter of resignation from Councillor Tayler. He wished to take the opportunity to thank Councillor Tayler for his service as Vice Chair and Allotments Manager.

The clerk will now advise East Suffolk Council so that a notice of a casual vacancy can be advertised for a councillor to represent Stratford St Andrew. The vacancy will also be advertised in the parish magazine. Councillor Light agreed to be Vice Chair and also a third signatory for finance approvals. Councillor Plant will take on the role of Allotments Manager.

**11 To discuss the renewal of the annual insurance premium**

The clerk presented the Parish Protect schedule as the annual insurance premium is now due. The council discussed the level of cover and agreed that these were adequate to mitigate and manage any perceived risks.

**12 To receive an update on The Sizewell Project**

Councillor Ayres explained an issue that has just come to light concerning the proposals for the rerouting of some footpaths that bisect the proposed Two Village Bypass. Footpath 29 will be rerouted across the new road which would involve pedestrians having to go down a 2m cutting on each side and then crossing a 60mph road. There are also issues with footpaths 3 and 4. It was agreed that the clerk will write to SCC in support of Mrs Ayres' email. The clerk will check the subjects for deadline 8 on 24 September. The examination ends on 14 October.

**12 Reports from external meetings**

There have been no external meetings.

**10 Items for future meetings**

Expenditure v budget report, update on Farnham village sign, audit checks.

The meeting was closed at 21.24.

Signed .....(Chair)

Date.....