

FARNHAM WITH STRATFORD ST ANDREW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 9 October 2023 at the Riverside Centre

Councillors present: Ian Norman (Chair), Rosemary Conibeer (Vice Chair), Richard Ayres, Jill Pass, Richard Sayer, Jeremy Williams

In attendance: Katherine Abbott (Parish Clerk), Councillor Sally Noble (East Suffolk District Council)

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and approved from Councillor Tim Plant and Councillor Annabel Warne.

2 Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2023

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2023 were unanimously approved and signed as a correct record.

4 Matters arising from the last meeting

The main items of business raised at the last meeting were reviewed and updated, where appropriate.

5 Reports from County and District Councillors

A written report had been received from Councillor Sally Noble, East Suffolk District Council, and circulated. The Chair welcomed Councillor Noble to the meeting and invited her to summarise her report.

The main points of the report summarised at the meeting were:

- ❖ The passing of a motion on an energy strategy by Full Council in September.
- ❖ The projects agreed by the Community Partnership at its October meeting.
- ❖ Partnered investment in business support and development services, including advice on reducing carbon emissions.
- ❖ Consultation process on the draft Custom and Self-build Housing Supplementary Planning Document.
- ❖ The possible reduction in roadside maintenance of verges.

The Chair thanked Councillor Noble for her update.

Signed(Chair)

Date.....

6 Questions from members of the public

There were no members of the public present. No questions had been received from members of the public. Correspondence from one resident regarding a planning matter was noted.

7 Feedback from external meetings

(i) Briefing and discussion on the status of various energy projects proposed for East Suffolk (4 October 2023)

Councillor Pass advised that representatives of EDF Energy, Suffolk Highways department, and the County and District Councils had attended the public meeting to discuss with several parish councils and members of the public questions and concerns related to various energy projects. The meeting had also had representatives of several groups who spoke against the proposals.

(ii) Framlingham, Wickham Market, Kelsale and Yoxford and surrounding villages Community Partnership (5 October 2023)

Councillor Williams summarised the background behind the establishment of the Community Partnerships across the east Suffolk district and their aims. The meeting in early October had agreed several projects: intergenerational community cooking courses; funding to assist families struggling with the cost of living to ensure children were given equal opportunity to participate in activities and events; and, funding to increase biodiversity in private gardens and appropriate local areas. It was agreed that Councillor Williams would formally be the Council's representative on the Community Partnership going forward.

The updates were noted.

8 Review of the Standing Orders

The Standing Orders were submitted for formal annual review. The Clerk advised that the Standing Orders had been re-drafted to include the recommendations of the internal auditor to increase the procurement threshold from £25,000 to £30,000 to comply with the full requirements of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (amended December 2022).

The update was noted and the Standing Orders, having been reviewed, were formally approved and adopted.

9 Clerk's verbal report, including correspondence received

The Clerk confirmed that two representatives of EDF Energy's Community Relations team and one representative of its Advanced Works and Development Consent Order team

Signed(Chair)

Date.....

would attend the December meeting of the Parish Council. This was the rescheduled update from September.

A resident had volunteered to do regular sampling of the water in the Alde and Ore and would be working with a local informal experience sharing voluntary group across the Anglian Water area. It was agreed that the Parish Council would contribute £30 to the analysis costs.

The Parish Council would have use of thermal imaging survey cameras during most of December and early January. A leaflet would be distributed to homes to publicise the project to residents.

A letter had been sent to EDF Energy in mid-September to express concerns at the disrepair of The Shop, Farnham and had asked if a proper schedule of review, repair and maintenance was in place. A reply had been received from EDF Energy's Regional Property Manager which stated the property was visited regularly to identify signs of major structural issues. It was also checked annually by EDF Energy's property management company for any signs of deterioration that warranted further investigation.

The Clerk's report was noted.

10 Responsible Financial Officer's (RFO) verbal report, including balances and invoices for approval

The Responsible Financial Officer reported that the new mandate had not yet been received from the Parish Council's bank and, consequently, she was unable to provide the current account balance.

A total of four invoices were submitted by the RFO for approval.

Item	Payee	Amount	Legal power
Clerk's salary	K Abbott	£504.84	Local Government Act (LGA) 1972 s.112
PAYE	HMRC	£126	LGA 1972 s.112
Website hosting	One Suffolk/CAS	£60.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Insurance	Ansvar/CAS	£406.94	LGA 1972 s.111

The four invoices were approved for payment once the new mandate was in place. The new bank balance was therefore not available yet. The RFO stated that the necessary reconciliation of bank statements with invoices paid would be undertaken at the next meeting.

11 Urgent business for discussion

Bulb planting scheme

Signed(Chair)

Date.....

A large quantity of daffodil bulbs had been acquired through the District Council's bulb planting scheme. These would be shared between Farnham and Stratford St Andrew and planted at various locations.

12 Items for future meetings

EDF Energy: Update on the detailed design process of the two-village by-pass and timescales for its implementation (December 2023).

The meeting concluded at 20.45hrs.

Signed(Chair)

Date.....