

FARNHAM WITH STRATFORD ST ANDREW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 11 May 2026 at the Riverside Centre

Councillors present: Ian Norman (Chair), Richard Ayres, Jill Pass, Richard Sayer, and Jeremy Williams.

In attendance: Katherine Abbott (Parish Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer)

One member of the public was present.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Rosemary Conibeer, Cllr Tim Plant and Cllr Annabel Warne.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda.

3 Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 12 May 2025

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in 2025 were approved without amendment.

4 Annual Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council

The Chairman's Annual Report was received and noted. The report provided a summary of the key aspects of the Council's work during 2025/6 and the contributions by all Councillors towards achievement of the statutory roles and responsibilities of the Council.

5 Annual Report by the District Councillor

The Council received, with thanks, the Annual Report of the District Councillor, Sally Noble.

County Councillor Julia Ewart had been elected to the role on 8 May and, as such, an annual report had not been requested. Councillor Ewart had been unable to attend the meeting as it had coincided with the first meeting of Full Council at Suffolk County Council.

6 Annual Report of the Alde Valley Luncheon Club

Due to ill health a report was not submitted on behalf of the Luncheon Club.

7 Riverside Centre Executive Committee Annual Report

Mr David Pass had provided the report given at the Executive Committee's recent General Meeting; at present, there was no Chairman. The Council received the report with thanks and noted its contents.

8 Annual Report of the Parish Parochial Council

Reverend Rob Leverett referred to the Parochial Council's Annual Report. The Parish Council received this with thanks and noted the contents.

Volunteering for our Community

The Chairman introduced the next item which provided an opportunity for residents to find out more about ways to give their time, energy, skills and experience in an unpaid capacity which benefits the local community and the volunteers themselves. Volunteering can help meet the needs of our community, provide new skills and perspectives, increase contact within the local community etc. The Council was keen to hear from residents who would like to be on a volunteer database that records some basic contact details, skills and expertise etc: GDPR policies will apply to the storing and retention of data.

During discussions of areas of volunteering which could be explored and pursued, the following suggestions and actions were agreed:

- To invite local speakers to provide talks on, for example, protection of hedgehogs (Cllr Noble), bats and habitats (Mrs Pearce), inclusion in the bee café route etc.
- To consider the establishment of a local Wildlife Group
- To consider the establishment of a Neighbourhood Watch through which alerts about local incidents and concerns could be shared
- To consider the creation of a welcome letter for new residents
- To consider an Open Day on Volunteering opportunities
- To consider a stall at the Village Fete in July on Volunteering opportunities
- To consider the establishment of a Growing Club for children at one of the allotments
- Rev Leverett to consider a breakfast/brunch event

The Meeting concluded at 7.56pm