

FARNHAM WITH STRATFORD ST ANDREW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 10 June 2024 at the Riverside Centre

Councillors present: Ian Norman (Chair), Richard Ayres, Rosemary Conibeer, Jill Pass, Tim Plant, Richard Sayer, Annabel Warne and Jeremy Williams.

In attendance: Katherine Abbott (Parish Clerk)

1 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2 Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest related to the agenda.

3 District and County Councillors' Reports

Councillor Noble had submitted a written report which was received. Councillor Noble had sent apologies for the meeting. In summary, the report referred to the following, further details to be found on the District Council's website www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk.

- £500,000 for communities in new emergency response fund
- Initiative "East Suffolk's Amazing: Let's keep it that way!"
- Helping people access affordable food
- Ease the squeeze on cost of living

Councillor Reid had submitted a written report which was received. Councillor Reid presented his report, summarised below, and answered related questions.

- Free compost, expert advice and bargain compost bins
- Foster East initiative
- Rendlesham archaeological find celebrations
- Norwich to Tilbury pylon proposals to be objected to and a pause in development sought
- New Cabinet

In addition, issues with footpaths within the parish were discussed with Councillor Reid and a consistent approach with SCC to working with landowners to remind them of their responsibilities to keep footpaths open, accessible, and safe was agreed. In summary, the Parish Council would send an initial letter to relevant landowners seeking their action to bring a footpath back into use. If there was no reply or no such action, a second letter would be sent by the Parish Council. If this too was unanswered and no remedial action taken by the landowner, the matter would be referred to the County Council which had additional powers and punitive measures it could use.

Signed(Chair)

Date.....

4. Questions from members of the public

There were no questions from members of the public beyond the issues with footpaths which had been raised by several residents – this was discussed at item 3 above.

5. Clerk’s report including correspondence

The Clerk reported that all documentation for the internal audit had now been submitted and the audit was underway.

The Parish Council’s transfer of its bank account to a new provider had gone smoothly.

The Deben Climate Centre had reviewed the results of the water sampling and analysis which had been obtained from the Alde and Ore Association. A local scientist had offered to attend a future meeting of the Council to explain the results, answer questions and discuss actions which might be required. The Parish Council agreed to invite the gentleman to the September meeting.

The Delivery Group for the landscaping and noise mitigation measures for the two villages bypass would be held on 12 August, in place of the PC meeting. SZC had confirmed that representatives of its customer relations and project teams would attend, and the County Council’s Transport Policy and Development Manager had also stated he would be present. The lead on landscaping matters at East Suffolk Council had also been invited and a response was expected. It was also agreed that the Parish Council would submit questions to the next meeting of the SZC Southern Transport Forum in mid-August.

6. Responsible Finance Officer’s report including the end of financial year income and expenditure report

There were two invoices submitted for payment, detailed below, and these were approved. The Clerk reported that the balance before the invoices were paid was £7665.30 and, after payment, would be £7248.99. Paperwork to reconcile the invoices agreed at the previous meeting was circulated, checked, and signed by two Councillors.

Item	Payee	Amount	Legal power
Clerk’s salary	K Abbott	£333.14	Local Government Act (LGA) 1972 s.112
PAYE	HMRC	£83.26	LGA 1972 s.112

The Clerk had circulated the end of financial year income and expenditure report. There was a discussion of the financial position and whether, or not, there would be sufficient funds for the remainder of the year. As usual, the budget would be carefully monitored. The Clerk reminded Councillors that, going forward, financial information would be presented to provide additional detail to assist with this monitoring.

Signed(Chair)

Date.....

7. Review of allotment rents

In consultation with the Allotment Manager, Councillor Plant, the Clerk had reviewed the current rents for the allotment plots, and which had remained unaltered for a considerable time. The Clerk had also made some recommendations on rents aligned to the size of plots to make this fairer. There was a discussion of the topic during which it was noted that the average cost of an allotment in Suffolk was £18 p.a. which was considerably more than the small increase which the Parish Council was considering.

It was agreed that, subject to Councillor Plant discussing the small increase proposed with tenants, the proposal would be approved and actioned in November 2024.

8. Updates from external meetings

Councillor Norman reported on the most recent meeting of the SZC Southern Transport Forum. It was agreed, as recorded in item 5 above, that the Parish Council would submit questions to the Forum when it next met in mid-August on landscaping and noise mitigation of the by-pass.

9. First aid training in the use of the defibrillator

The Clerk had circulated some indicative costs for this training which it was hoped would be paid for from the District Councillor's Enabling Communities Budget.

It was agreed that Councillor Sayer would investigate if this training could be provided by a retired palliative nurse and the Clerk would contact Suffolk Accident Response Services (SARS). It was also the wish the training, if costs allowed, would be extended to include some basic first aid.

The matter to return to the July meeting for decision.

10. Grant funded outside adult gym facility

The Clerk had circulated early information on examples of equipment, indicative costs, the need to consider tendering and procurement needs, as well as maintenance, repair, insurance etc, if the proposal progressed. The Riverside Centre had indicated it was happy to site the gym but could not commit to any funding, beyond the necessary insurance.

It was agreed that means of contacting residents to assess interest in the facility would be considered. The Clerk would also obtain more detailed pricings and sources of grant funding that would provide 100% funds. The matter would return to the July meeting for decision.

11. Footpaths

As recorded at item 3 above.

Signed(Chair)

Date.....

12. Urgent business for discussion

There were no urgent items of business raised.

13. Items for the next meeting

To receive the internal audit report; the draft agenda for the Delivery Group; the Q1 income and expenditure report; first aid training; outside gym.

The meeting concluded at 9.50pm

Signed(Chair)

Date.....