

FARNHAM WITH STRATFORD ST ANDREW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 11 November 2024 at the Riverside Centre

Councillors present: Ian Norman (Chair), Rosemary Conibeer (Vice Chair), Richard Ayres, 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 Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 October 2024

The Minutes were approved, without amendment, and signed as a true record.

4 Matters arising

(i) Delivery Group Meeting on 12 August 2024

Councillor Ayres referred to the Clerk's update to the October meeting and the lack of response to her repeated requests for updates on the agreed actions from the representatives who had attended the August meeting. It was agreed that the minutes of the Delivery Group and the relevant email trail be shared with Councillor Noble and Councillor Reid.

(ii) Emergency Planning

Councillor Ayres stated that the draft of the updated Emergency Plan would hopefully be ready for consideration in the Spring.

(iii) Bike rack

The Clerk advised that ESC was yet to release the funds to enable the bike rack to be purchased. She would continue to update the Council by email.

(iv) Fit Villages

Councillor Williams reported that the survey sheets had been distributed to residents within the community newsletter. An update on responses would be provided in December.

Signed(Chair)

Date.....

5 Reports from District and County Councillors

Councillor Noble updated the meeting on activity associated with SZC and other energy projects within the district. ESC was endeavouring to get the National Grid's DCO for transformer stations amended to reflect necessary mitigation. The Government's new housing target had increased by 87% and a coalition of councils within Suffolk was challenging this as unachievable. A new tree strategy was being compiled in conjunction with the Woodland Trust. A new campaign was being launched to replace 'pardon the weeds, we're feeding the bees', and new signs would now indicate 'nature at work'. The four river recovery project's contracts were currently with the ESC legal team for agreement – the project aimed to reduce pollution, address neglected sites which contributed to flooding, improve and encourage biodiversity, remove rubbish etc.

Councillor Reid had sent apologies for the meeting. In summary, his written report said:

- People across Suffolk aged between 40 and 74, without a pre-existing health condition, are being encouraged to take an annual NHS health check
- 177,000 Suffolk residents currently eligible for winter fuel payments should be protected from Government plans to cut the allowance (say SCC)
- Guidance issued to help protect the wellbeing of local communities impacted by large Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).
- Proposed in principle devolution deal, which would have brought more than £500 million to the county over 30 years, withdrawn by the Government
- Plans unveiled for A12 Major Road Network improvements in East Suffolk
- £25m flood defence funding announced

6 Questions from members of the public

Councillor Norman advised that an issue with dog walkers not removing dog excrement close to the church had been reported to him. Following discussion, it was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that an additional Fido bin would be purchased from Community Infrastructure Levy Funds and arrangements made with East Suffolk Services Ltd (ESSL) to empty the bin.

7 Response to the consultation on the proposed revocation of the Air Quality Management Scheme in Stratford St Andrew

The Council supported revocation of the Scheme but welcomed the continued monitoring of air quality, particularly in view of the increased traffic, including HGVs, travelling through the village to and from Sizewell. The Clerk was asked to respond to the consultation in these terms.

8 Appointment of an Internal Auditor for 2024/5

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that SALC be appointed to undertake the internal audit in 2025.

Signed(Chair)

Date.....

15 Urgent business for discussion (not decision)

Councillor Sayer referred to a derelict bungalow with caravan parked outside. This was discussed but no action was agreed at this point.

16 Items for future meetings

It was noted that the agenda in December would include a report on Community Infrastructure Levy funds remaining and timescales for spending; reports from external meetings or training; the annual review of the Clerk/RFOs performance and terms and conditions.

The meeting concluded at 20.25 hours

Signed(Chair)

Date.....