

FARNHAM WITH STRATFORD ST ANDREW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 13 April 2026 at the Riverside Centre

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

2 Declarations of Interest

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

3 Reports from the District and County Councillors

There were no reports as the pre-election period had commenced.

4 Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of 9 March 2026 were approved without amendment.

5 Matters arising

(i) Transition to gov.uk email

Cllr Pass was currently unable to move to her gov.uk email address and to act as 'pathfinder' in this regard. Cllr Pass to advise the Clerk once she was able to do this.

(ii) Allotments

As expected, an allotment plot was now vacant. Cllr Plant to speak to the people who had previously expressed an interest. The plot had been left untidy by the previous tenant and it was agreed that, because of this, any new tenant would not pay rent until November.

(iii) Alde and Ore Association

Cllr Sayer had been in contact with representatives of the Association and had circulated the information on reading the data to the Council. It was agreed that Cllr Ayres would be the designated person to monitor results for fluctuations and early indicators etc. on behalf of the Council and alerting it to any issues.

6 Questions from members of the public

(i) Stratford Lodge

The new owner of Stratford Lodge had issued an invitation to Councillors to meet with him at the premises and see the alterations etc. It was agreed that three Councillors would attend this meeting in mid-May.

(ii) Rose Hill Farm planning application

Several residents had contacted the Council to express concerns at the planning

application and to complain that the planning authority (East Suffolk Council) had not consulted with neighbouring properties. It was clarified that Rose Hill Farm was within the Benhall and Sternfield parish and its Council was responding to the consultation. Further, some of the neighbouring properties were within Farnham and so would not be included in the consultation process. The Clerk had written to advise the residents where consultee responses could be accessed and how to register to have sight of the application's progress through the planning process.

(iii) Call for sites

Following East Suffolk Council's call for potential sites for development, an indicative plan had now been published to show all the sites submitted for consideration. It was noted that not all the potential sites would proceed to the next iteration of the Local Plan nor to development and that the creation of the Local Plan was a process over several years.

(iv) Precept

Cllr Norman had received two generic enquiries from residents related to the Precept for 2026/7. Cllr Norman had explained the Council's rationale.

7 End of financial year report

The Responsible Finance Officer stated that, at the end of the financial year, the balance had been £1924.88. This was a much healthier end of year balance than last year and showed that the increase to the Precept had been necessary to make a positive difference to the Council's financial position. As agreed, in March, and under delegated powers (Financial Regulations para 6.9 (iv)), £1000 of the balance would be transferred to the General Reserve/Contingency account once the first half of the Precept arrived.

The CIL balance was £1361.06.

8 Data Protection and Information Management Policy

The Clerk had prepared a draft policy for consideration. This drew together into one document a range of data protection issues including IT security, passwords, data sharing, and use of the internet etc. It was one of the documents within the checklist of policies needed by smaller councils and a requirement of Assertion 10 of the audit's Annual Governance and Accountability Review (AGAR).

The policy was approved for adoption subject to Councillors having the opportunity to comment on it by 17 April. (Clerk's note: No comments were received and the policy, as submitted, was duly adopted).

9 Responsible Finance Officer's report

There was nothing further to the report at item 7.

10 Clerk's report

(i) Marlesford Open Meeting

Marlesford PC was holding an open meeting on 14 April to brief the community community on the upcoming A12 road improvement works at Marlesford (due to commence end of May).

(ii) Pay offer 2026/7

The Clerk informed the Council of the current negotiations and proposals.

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/council-employees-pay-offer-announced-7>

11 Urgent items

There were no urgent items of business.

The Meeting closed at 8.20pm