

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF FARNDON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 6th MAY 2025 AT 7.30PM in FARNDON WAR MEMORIAL HALL**

Present: Cllr H Williams (Chair), Cllr V Roberts, Cllr B Hillyer, Cllr A Foster, Cllr P Roberts, Cllr P Fish, Cllr G Dawson, and Mrs M Jones.

In attendance: Borough Cllr A Waddelove and Mrs C Taylor, Clerk.

PART 1

67.25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr P Amphlett, Cllr K Davies, Cllr F Henderson, Cllr M Rudd,

Resolved: that the apologies be noted.

68.25. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN TO FIRST YEAR OF TWO-YEAR TERM OF OFFICE.

Resolved: Cllr H Williams be formally elected as Chairman and Cllr F Henderson be formally elected as Vice Chair.

Proposed: Cllr P Roberts **Seconded:** Cllr G Dawson

Thanks were extended to Cllr Vera Roberts for duties carried out during her term of office as Chair for the previous two years.

69.25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No declarations of interest were made. Members to declare if anything arises further on the agenda.

70.25. GENERAL PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME.

i) Cllr Fish raised an issue on behalf of residents who had approached her regarding an increase in rat sightings in the village.

Resolved: Cllr Waddelove would make some enquiries and report back.

71.25. COMMUNITY SAFETY.

Police monthly report not available to circulate prior to the meeting. PCSO McKeivitt was not in attendance.

Resolved: Clerk to ascertain what level of engagement should be expected of PCSO and ask her to attend the next meeting.

72.25. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT.

Cllr A Waddelove was in attendance and reported:

Thanks to Cllr V Roberts for her efforts and interactions during her term of office as Chair.

i) A534 petition: There had been a huge amount of public support for the petition since the recent fatal accident. He had engaged with CWAC several weeks ago demanding some action on the road. The response had not been positive with CWAC stating that as there had only been 3 RTAs on the stretch of road in question they would not be taking any action. He had responded saying that that response was totally unacceptable and he had since (that day) received a more promising response and he was feeling positive that some changes (subject to budget) would be happening. There was a cross-border review approach happening and whilst nothing was confirmed it was possible that changes were being considered/ could be put in place.

ii) Sibbersfield Lane speed limit: To be implemented within the next 7 weeks.

Resolved: Noted.

73.25. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 1st April 2025 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.

Proposed Cllr P Fish Seconded Cllr B Hillyer.

74.25. MINUTES OF THE LAST ORDINARY MEETING.

Resolved: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 1st April 2025 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.

Proposed Cllr V Roberts Seconded Cllr A Foster.

75.24. CLERK'S REPORT.

Resolved: that the clerk's report be noted.

76.25. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

Resolved: that membership and responsibility for the following committees be agreed as follows:

Finance Working Group (Community Benefit/Project Fund) - Cllrs H Williams, F Henderson, P Roberts, P Amphlett.

Planning Working Group – Cllrs H Williams, F Henderson, A Foster, M Rudd.

Plumpton Harding Committee – Cllrs P Amphlett and B Hillyer.

Farndon United Charities – Cllrs V Roberts, P Amphlett and D Finlay.

Farndon War Memorial Hall Committee – Cllr P Fish.

Further resolved: Clerk to ascertain if D Finlay wished to remain on Farndon United Charities.

77.25. APPROVAL OF STATUTORY DOCUMENTS.

Resolved: Farndon Parish Council Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment be approved without amendment. The CWAC Code of Conduct be readopted. **Proposed Cllr V Roberts Seconded Cllr P Fish**

All agreed.

78.25. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Resolved: that Farndon Parish Council would renew subscriptions to the Cheshire Association of Local Councils, Playing Field Association, Cheshire Community Action, and the Mid Cheshire Footpaths Society. **Proposed Cllr P Roberts Seconded Cllr P Fish All agreed.**

79.25. ASSETS, DEEDS AND LEASES.

Resolved: that the assets, deeds, and leases held by the Parish Council were noted without amendments. **Proposed Cllr P Roberts Seconded Cllr P Fish. All agreed.**

80.25. ANNUAL INSURANCE.

Resolved: that the insurance quotation for 2025/26 be approved (a 5-year LTA having been entered into at renewal on 1 June 2022). The schedule remains unchanged.

Proposed Cllr V Roberts Seconded Cllr P Roberts All agreed.

81.25. DATES AND TIMES OF MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN 2025/26.

Resolved: that Parish Council meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of each month except for August.

Proposed Cllr G Dawson Seconded Cllr B Hillyer All agreed.

82.25. PLANNING.

Existing applications where decision is still awaited:

21/00882/FUL Lewis' of Farndon The Gateway High St Farndon Retractable awning over enclosed patio.

21/02184/S73 The Boathouse High Street Farndon CH3 6PU Demolition of existing café/dwelling house buildings and erection of a replacement dwelling house. Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission 15/02649/FUL (and 19/04100/NMA).

23/03669/FUL Rockside Cottage and The Vineyard High Street Farndon Chester CH3 6PU Demolition of dwelling known as Rockside, garage and caravan on land known as The Vineyard and construction of replacement dwelling on land known as The Vineyard.

24/01630/FUL Land at Barton Road Farndon Chester Change of use to a camp site for up to 15 tents trailer tents for 60 days a year.

25/00082/FUL Land adjacent to The Nook Churton Road Farndon Proposed single dwelling unit.

NEW APPLICATIONS:

25/01202/CAT Brewery House Churton Road Farndon Removal of tree due to lean, stability of roots, as in near proximity to bungalow.

25/00988/FUL Marsh House Marsh Lane Kings Marsh Chester Construction of a roofed Farm Yard Manure Store, replacement works to the Concrete Yard area.

25/01020/FUL Marsh House Marsh Lane Kings Marsh Chester To construct building to cover existing silage clamp.

DECISIONS:

Approved: 24/00651/FUL Sibbersfield Lane Farm Sibbersfield Lane Farndon CH3 6NX
Construction of Slurry and Dirty Water Lagoon and Silage Storage Pad.

Appeal dismissed: 24/01483/PDQ APP/A0665/W/24/3350214 REF 24/00108/REF Lodge
Farm Worthenbury Road Crewe by Farndon Chester Change of use of 2 agricultural
buildings to 5 residential dwellings. Requires permission.

Appeal made to Secretary of State against the decision of CWaC to refuse to grant planning
permission.

86.25. FINANCE.

Resolved: that the payment of salaries and expenses, the payment of
invoices for goods received and services rendered for April be approved and
the receipts and balances be noted.

Proposed Cllr P Roberts Seconded Cllr V Roberts.

i)CIL payment. **Resolved:** Agreed to decide on a list of priorities on which to
spend the funds. Once priorities were decided and the funds apportioned PC
to approach other potential funding streams/donors to ask if they would also
contribute to some of the projects as the list would potentially be quite long
and not all ideas could be funded in entirety.

87.25. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) 2024/25 PART 3.

i)The Clerk tabled the Independent Report from the Internal Auditor. **Resolved:** (a)
Noted and (b)agreed that SJC Chartered Accountants be appointed internal auditor for
2025/26.

(a)Proposed: Cllr A Foster

Seconded: Cllr G Dawson

(b)Proposed: Cllr H Williams

Seconded: Cllr P Roberts

ii)The Clerk tabled the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) for approval and
signing off by the Chairman for auditing purposes. **Resolved:** Approved.

Proposed: Cllr H Williams

Seconded: Cllr P Roberts

iii)The Clerk tabled the Annual Accounting Statements (Section 2) for approval and
signing off by the Chairman for auditing purposes. **Resolved:** Approved.

Proposed: Cllr H Williams

Seconded: Cllr P Fish

88.25. IT and COMMUNICATIONS.

A discussion was held about audit compliance and requirement for Parish
Councils to move to a Gov.uk domain.

Resolved: Clerk to further explore migration to a Gov.uk domain and
dedicated official email addresses for individual Councillors. Parish Council to
provide the Clerk with a dedicated PC mobile and number.

89.25. CORRESPONDENCE, PUBLICATIONS, AND INVITATIONS.

Received: correspondence, publications, and invitations.

i)Deva Triathlon 1 June 2025. **Resolved:** Noted.

ii)Revised date for West Cheshire Town and Parish Council Conference 16 July
2025. **Resolved:** Noted. Cllrs V and P Roberts expressed an interest in
attending.

iii) PROW: Section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Addition of Public Footpath No 20 and Public Footpath No 21 in the Parish of Farndon. Modification Order 2024. Order had been advertised 10 April 2025. **Resolved:** Noted.

iv) Parish Boundary (Farndon/Churton): Community Governance Review Committee were to meet 2 June 2025. **Resolved:** Noted.

v) VE Day Celebrations 10 May 2025 Raf Shawbury helicopter would be flying over Farndon and landing on the football field. **Resolved:** Noted.

vi) Town and Parish Connections Online meeting: Planning was to be held 22 May 2025. **Resolved:** Cllr Williams had expressed an interest in attending.

vii) Barnston Estate: Farndon Woods Management Plan Consultation: PC had been invited to consult on proposals to be submitted to the Forestry Commission. **Resolved:** Noted and all Cllrs to familiarise themselves with the plan.

90.25. HISTORY BOARD.

Cllrs G Dawson and P Roberts updated Members on progress to date. Two separate contractual arrangements were being progressed for (i) an illustrator and (ii) a physical board. Finer detail and options for both had been circulated in advance to members. **Resolved:** Cllr Williams would circulate a link to some of the work of potential illustrator. Thanks were expressed to the group for the work being undertaken on the project and it was agreed to discuss further at the June meeting.

91.25. FARNDON COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Cllr Williams reported: The main hall roof rebuild was now complete and trustees and helpers were working hard in preparation for hosting a reopening celebration on the evening of 10 May to which all fundraisers, supporters, residents, and user groups were invited.

Resolved: Members reiterated their thanks to the club trustees and their supporters for their efforts, hard work and perseverance leading to their success in 'Raising the Roof.'

The PC had received a concern about the mound to the left of the scout hut as you look down the field from the clubhouse along with a request for it to be removed as it was becoming overgrown and hampering residents' ability to cut the back face of their hedges. **Resolved:** Cllr Williams to make enquiries and report back.

92.25. STANDING CONSIDERATION OF HIGHWAY MATTERS.

Members inform the Clerk of any issues regarding highways and footpaths.

i) Public footpath across fields Farndon to Churton: Concerns raised that the PROW had been ploughed over in parts/directly up to the hedge line.

Resolved: Noted that CWaC PROW Officer had been out on site to assess and had confirmed that all was as it should be. The fields were currently

being ploughed and any footpaths ploughed over as part of the field ploughing would be reinstated.

ii) Report received regarding bee/wasp/hornet issue on boardwalk: **Noted:** Clerk had passed the report to CWAC and an Officer was to visit and investigate although their thoughts were that it was probably Sand Bees/Miner Bees which were harmless and don't nest build so no treatment would be possible.

iii) Avondale hedge reported as being overgrown in parts to the point of obstructing safe passage on the pavement again: **Resolved:** This had potentially now been cut back but Cllr Williams would assess.

iv) Complaint received from a resident regarding vehicles parking on pavement on Church Street. **Resolved:** Clerk would report to PCSO.

93.75. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING.

Resolved: that the date and time of the next meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd June 2025 at 7.30pm. To be held in Farndon War Memorial Hall.