

Draft Minutes are subject to Approval at the next Council Meeting

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Farnsfield Parish Council held at 7.00pm
on Tuesday 21st July 2026**

Commenced at 7pm. Conclusion at 9.14pm

Councillors present: Rachel Parkin (Chair) Joyce Shakeshaft, Michele Wilson, Sally Savage, Maurice Shakeshaft, Mickey Gavin, Nick Greene, Corinne Moore (Minute Taker)

Other Attendees: County Cllr Bruce Laughton; District Cllr Maurice Shakeshaft; Oliver Scott, Business Manager Planning, Newark and Sherwood District Council (NSDC) and 51 members of the public.

2627.FC068 Chairman's Welcome: Cllr Parkin welcomed all those present acknowledging that many of those present had attended because of interest in Item 14 on the Agenda, which was going to be addressed by Oliver Scott and would include time for questions and discussion. Cllr M.Shakeshaft proposed that item 14 of the agenda, be moved to item 3, with a 20 min discussion from O.Scott and 10 mins of questions. Cllr Parkin stated the agenda item could only be moved with no changes to the agenda item and that there would be no restriction on time, which is why it was at the end of the agenda in the first place and that it would have to be moved to agenda item 4, after the declarations of interest. A motion was passed to move agenda item 14 to agenda item 4. Proposed Cllr M.Shakeshaft, Seconded Cllr Wilson 1 abstention.

The Chair said there would be a short public forum for members of the public to ask questions or make brief statements to the Council in respect of any item on the Agenda excluding agenda item 4.

2627.FC0 69 Public Participation: the following comments were made by members of the public.

- A member of the public pointed out that a Councillor / District Councillor should declare a pecuniary Declaration of Interest as the person was on the NSDC Planning Committee and is listed as a Director of the Company Arkwood Developments, which is a company owned by NSDC, and should not take part in any discussion related to the planning matter to be discussed.
- A member of the public queried the reason for the Agenda not being placed on the website until the day of the meeting. The Chair said it had been placed on the Home page on Thursday evening.
- A member of the public also raised declarations of interest and that Cllr Shakeshaft is very active with planning and should declare an interest. She then queried the reason for the Parish Council spending £750 on NALC for training

when they have an ongoing contract with Breakthrough who also do Councillor training.

- A member of the public asked why the Bunds had been mowed before the work with the weed killer had begun and it was too early for the wildflower seeds to be set. They had been cut to the ground. If there had been a Bunds policy this would not have happened. Can the Parish council agree a new bunds policy. In relation to the bunds being cut it was part of the twice yearly cut. Cllr Shakeshaft asked why it had been cut to the ground when the bunds policy states it shouldn't be cut so low. The Chair explained that there had been a request from the Police to ensure the bunds around the entrance of the carpark be kept at ground level at all times, as they obscured the view getting out of the car park and there had been incidents of children nearly being ran over. The dry weather hasn't helped and we've had lots of response in relation to the fire risk it was posing. The Hemlock consultant had pointed out that Hemlock had been there for years and that cutting it had not delayed the treatment of the Hemlock, which will commence towards the end of August. Streaming the Hemlock has made no difference to the treatment of it.
- A member of the public requested to see the Terms of Reference of the Governance Review. The Chair said that the Clerk had been responsible for sharing the Terms of Reference and did not know why it hadn't been sent out to residents who were taking part. The Chair said that the person conducting the review would be meeting with the Clerk and Monitoring Officer the following week and would ask.

2627. FC070 Reports from County Councillors and District Councillor;

County Cllr Bruce Laughton reported that roadworks would begin on Main Street and Cockett Lane 4th and 5th August.

The changes that are taking place with the reorganization of Local Authorities were being decided. There will be 2 new councils covering all of Nottinghamshire, Greater Nottingham Council would merge Nottingham city council with Gedling, Broxtowe and Rushcliffe. The other merger would create a Nottinghamshire Council which would cover Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Mansfield, Newark and Sherwood and remaining parts of Gedling, Rushcliffe and Broxtowe not absorbed into Greater council.

Councillor Maurice Shakeshaft spoke about NSDC current consultation on the Local Plan, comments will be received until 31st July. The framework of the new arrangements is being decided and will be placed on the NSDC website.

2627.FC071 To Discuss with an NSDC representative the proposed housing development on Southwell Road:

2627.FC072

See addendum attached

Apologies for Absence: To receive and accept apologies where valid reasons have been given to the Parish Clerk prior to the meeting: Cllr Lesley Healey, Cllr Joss Dixon. These were accepted. Proposed: Cllr Parkin Seconded: Cllr Maurice Shakeshaft

2627. FC073 To receive declarations of interest under the Localism Act 2011 – being any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in agenda items not previously recorded on Member's Register of Interests. Cllr Maurice Shakeshaft said he had no interests to declare.

2627.FC074 To approve as a correct record the notes of the meeting of the Council held on 9th June 2026 and 23rd June and authorise the Chairman to sign the official minutes. The amended Minutes of the Council Meeting 9th of June were accepted as a correct record of the meeting. Proposed: Cllr Parkin; Seconded: Cllr Savage. All agreed. The Minutes of the Council Meeting of 23rd of June: Cllr Parkin pointed out an error in the Bills for Payment VAT figure for the Handicentre invoice listed as £18.41. This should read £15.34. The amendment was proposed by Cllr Parkin; seconded by Cllr Moore. The motion was carried.

2627.FC075 Training – Staff and elected members. To receive the latest training availability via the National Association of Local Councils and consider and book relevant places for staff and elected members. The cost of the NALC training day was discussed: £750.00. This has been budgeted for, and to be effective all Councillors need to be available. Cllr Parkin proposed that the NALC training day costing £750 be accepted; seconded Cllr Maurice Shakeshaft. All in favour

2627.FC076 Chair's report:

1. Cllr Parkin praised all involved with organising Party in the Park. It was an amazing village event that was well attended by all ages. Thanks to all who had worked so hard to put this event on. The Chair praised the event for showcasing 'Ask for Angela' all around the event. As VAWG ambassador for Nottinghamshire Police and Crime commissioner, she said it was great to see it in action at a village event.
2. An incident of vandalism of a local business had occurred. Council will not tolerate any racism or vandalism in the village.
3. There had been 2 contacts from the ICO, closing down 2 investigations– GDPR training had been recommended.
4. Work has been commenced on the Football pitches on The Acres. With the first weedkiller application having taken place.

5. Cllr Parkin had attended the AGM of the Scouts. Fantastic to see such a great group of volunteers and children from the village.

2627.FC077 Parish Matters: to receive updates in respect of:

- a) Library leak: Cllr Parking reported that 2 quotations had been received. A third quotation has been sought.
- b) Grants Solar Panels: the Chair reported that 3 Councillors had formally requested that the Tea at Two application be reviewed, in light of the email received from the donors. A grant of £550.00 was proposed by Cllr Moore; seconded Cllr Joyce Shakeshaft. The motion was carried with 1 abstention.

Farnsfield Athletico had also requested £750 towards a new kit. This was agreed. Proposed: Cllr Parkin; seconded: Cllr Maurice Shakeshaft. All in favour.

The Halifax War Memorial application for a second part of their grant of £1500 having received a first grant of £1500 was discussed. The second grant is to be used towards a Bench and Noticeboards. Proposed: Cllr Parkin; seconded: Cllr Maurice Shakeshaft. All in favour.

The Chair reported that 2 other applications had been received which are not suitable for the Solar Panel grant. They will be resubmitted at the September Council Meeting along with the application from the Cricket Club, once they have submitted further information.

- c) Poison Hemlock quote and action: this matter had already been discussed during questions from Members of the Public. The treatment was never able to be done over night and was always planned for mid August. The Hemlock will need treatment over 3 years. The total cost of all visits would be £3685.00. Cllr Wilson said she was concerned that the Budget was not transparent and that transparency was important. This item is not included in the budget which could not be seen on the website. This was disputed. Discussion followed. The budget is on the website under the Budget section, this was verified by a member of the public who brought it up on his phone. Cllr Wilson argued that this was not a budgeted spend and therefore should not be put through. The chair explained that this item is an Emergency expenditure and regardless there is money included in the budget for grounds maintenance. Cllr Parkin proposed that the initial payment of £400.00 be made, so the first set of treatment can be done. Seconded: Cllr Savage. The motion was carried

2627.FC078 Correspondence: to receive and dispose of correspondence received since the last meeting. Cllr J. Shakeshaft raised that there had been a complaint in

relation to the Bunds which needed to be discussed. Cllr Parkin reported that there had actually been 13 emails in relation to the bunds, 10 in favour of them being cut and 3 against. These will be discussed at a later date. There had been no other correspondence.

2627.FC079 Christmas: To pass a motion to accept the Terms of Reference for the Christmas Research/Advisory Group. Subject to the following wording be added “To ensure the group runs effectively and maintains public confidence, all councillors are expected to adhere to the groups agreed rules and decisions. If a Councillor acts contrary to these agreements or fails to follow the agreed standards, the group may be disbanded with immediate effect, and the matter may be referred as a potential breach of the Code of Conduct for consideration”

Proposed: Cllr Parkin; seconded: Cllr Sally Savage. The motion was carried.

To pass a motion to agree to the Christmas Tree Lights switch on event to be Sunday 29th November. Proposed: Cllr Parkin; Seconded: Cllr Joyce Shakeshaft. The motion was carried.

To pass a motion to delegate power of authority to the Chairman of the Council to apply for the road closure permit. Proposed: Cllr Parkin; Seconded: Cllr Maurice Shakeshaft. The motion was carried.

In view of the time Cllr Maurice Shakesft proposed that the meeting be extended by 15 minutes. Proposed: Cllr Maurice Shakeshaft; seconded: Cllr Parkin. All agreed.

2627.FC080 Autumn/Winter Youth Sessions: Proposal to provide a regular facility for Young People in the village: The cost of 19 sessions run by Extreme wheels from November until March would be £6,654 which covers staff and equipment. Cllr Savage raised the importance of catering for all needs and whether disabled access, and asked if insurance were included. It was suggested that further quotes be obtained for similar activities, and whether there were other providers. Cllr Shakeshaft agreed to explore this. It was agreed to defer the discussion to the next meeting or an Extraordinary Meeting to review the proposal

2627. FC081 Financial Matters:

- a) To note bank balances on bank statements as of 21st July 2026. Cllr Parkin reported that these 3 banks remained the same as the previous meeting:

Unity Bank: £90,925.03.

- b) To note income

- c) To authorise the signing of orders for payment for period 24th June – 21st July 2026 Invoices were available. Proposed: Cllr Parkin; seconded: Cllr Maurice Shakeshaft. All in favour

July Bills for payment

VAT

nsdc	£75.00	£15.00	£90.00	
Dalc audit fees	£448.00	£0.00	£448.00	
zest	£185.04	£0.00	£185.04	DD
PWLB	£455.27	£0.00	£455.27	DD
EE	£19.94	£3.99	£23.93	DD
EDF football	£28.60	£1.43	£30.03	dd
unity chq				
charge	£2.80	£0.00	£2.80	
gms	£136.35	£27.27	£163.62	
staff wages	£2,830.66	£0.00	£2,830.66	
Rialtas year				
end	£980.00	£196.00	£1,176.00	
window				
cleaner	£60.00	£0.00	£60.00	

2527.FC082 To note the date of the next full Council Meeting as 22nd September 2026 at 7.00pm.

Summary of Oliver Scott's (NSDC) Comments

1. Status of the Site East of Farnsfield

- OS confirmed **no planning application has been submitted** for the site.
- A **screening assessment** has taken place (this is usually to determine whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required).
- He was invited to provide information and discuss the site, not to present a proposal.

2. Housing Targets and Local Plan Pressure

- Government policy includes a national target of **1.5 million homes**.
- NSDC's previous Local Plan required **454 homes per year**, mostly around Newark.
- Following changes to Government policy, this has increased to **707 homes per year**, meaning NSDC must revise its Local Plan.
- OS said this creates **difficult decisions**, and if a scheme comes forward, it **may be hard to resist**.
- Development is already happening in former colliery villages.

3. Infrastructure Concerns

- A resident raised concerns that communities often have to "catch up" after development.
- OS stated NSDC would **not support major development** without commitments to address infrastructure impacts, including:
 - NHS facilities
 - Libraries
 - Schools
 - Other community services
 - Section 106 contributions
- He clarified that **highways, pumping, and drainage** are handled by other departments, not Planning.

4. Landowner Engagement

- A resident asked whether NSDC had approached Cotton Mill Farm.
- OS said **pre-application discussions are confidential**, and **any landowner may put land forward**.

5. Growth in Farnsfield and Decision Timescales

- A resident noted Farnsfield's population has grown **10%**, compared with **5% across the District**.
- OS said councils must continue their work despite the upcoming **Unitary Authority**, which may also have a view.
- The **East Midlands Combined Authority** will have an overarching vision.
- Planning liaises with Highways, Landscape, and considers settlement expansion.

6. Neighbourhood Plan

- OS asked whether Farnsfield has a Neighbourhood Plan.
- Discussion followed.
- He noted that **the Neighbourhood Plan will need updating** (this is normal when Local Plans change or when new development pressures arise).

7. Public Participation

- OS emphasised that **no application has yet been submitted**.
- If one is submitted:
 - Residents can make **written representations**.
 - **Cumulative comments** carry weight.
- NSDC is currently **reviewing its Local Plan**.

8. Advice to Residents

OS suggested residents could:

- Use **Planning Aid**
- Speak to **councillors**
- Follow **planning reforms**
- Challenge decisions through the **Ombudsman**
- Email their **MP**

9. Other Matters

- OS offered to attend a future meeting.
- A **speed limit assessment** between Farnsfield and Edingley is underway.

Clarification: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

- A resident asked for clarification about the EIA.
- OS explained that an EIA considers **cumulative development**, meaning:
 - The impact of the proposed site **plus** other existing or planned developments (e.g., other estates, infrastructure pressures, environmental constraints).
- The Chair agreed that **feedback should be given on the EIA** if an application comes forward.

This is correct: EIA screening looks at whether the scale, nature, or cumulative impact of development requires a full Environmental Impact Assessment.

Clarification: Neighbourhood Plan

- OS asked whether Farnsfield has a Neighbourhood Plan.
- Residents confirmed it does.
- OS noted that **the Neighbourhood Plan will need updating**, especially because:
 - NSDC's Local Plan is being revised.
 - Government housing targets have changed.
 - New development pressures may need addressing.

This is a standard planning comment — Neighbourhood Plans must remain aligned with higher-level plans to retain weight in decision-making.