

Farnsfield Parish Council: Minute Book 2025/2026

Minutes of the meeting of the full Farnsfield Parish Council at 7pm on Tuesday 24 February 2026

Councillors present: Lesley Healy (chair), John Cracknell, Joss Dixon, Mickey Gavin, Nick Greene, Corinne Moore, Rachel Parkin, Sally Savage, Joyce Shakeshaft, Maurice Shakeshaft and (from minute FC220) Michele Wilson

In attendance: County Cllr Bruce Laughton, Locum Clerk Peter Leppard and c.20 members of the public

It was noted that a member of the public was audio-recording this meeting.

2526.FC214 Apologies for absence

Nil

2526.FC215 Declarations of Interests appertaining to items on the agenda

Nil

2526.FC216 Public Participation

- A member of the public commented on aspects of the financial information shown in the meeting pack, and noted that NSDC had yet to report on their review of the Parish Council's S106 expenditure in 2024.
- A member of the public commented on the Council's 'A2R' relief-road project, the need to improve The Acres football pitch, and how to identify potential uses of the solar-farm grant received by the Council.
- A member of the public commented on the Council's budget-setting process, and noted that the Public Participation agenda item is for the public to make comments but no answers are given.
- A member of the public spoke in support of agenda item FC227b, and noted that NSDC charges for refuse removal after a public event have risen.
- A member of the public spoke about the forthcoming lease renewal for Farnsfield Library.
- A member of the public commented on the draft minutes of January's full Council meeting.
- A member of the public commented on the condition of The Acres football pitch, road safety, and the Council's recruitment advertising.

2526.FC217 Reports from County and District Councillors

Cllr M Shakeshaft (in his District Cllr role) spoke about NSDC's current budget-setting activity. County Cllr Laughton explained the current shortfall in addressing potholes, and gave an assurance that no public library closures are currently envisaged.

2526.FC218 Report from Police

No Police officer was in attendance.

2526.FC219 Co-option into vacant Council seat

It was noted that one candidate for co-option had withdrawn his application. It was resolved to co-opt Michele Wilson into the Council's one vacant seat, and she signed a Declaration of Acceptance.

2526.FC220 Approval of Minutes of the full Council Meeting of 20 January

It was resolved to approve the draft which was tabled.

2526.FC221 Draft minutes of the Staffing Committee of 10 February

These draft minutes were noted.

2526.FC222 Council's Risk Scheme

Further to the Council's decision at its 21 October meeting to defer acceptance of the latest update to this document, it was now resolved to accept it, unaltered (except for correction of 1 typo) from the draft tabled on 21 October.

2526.FC223 HM Government's 5 Feb consultation on Local Government Reorganisation in Nottinghamshire

It was resolved to submit a "No Comment" reply to this consultation.

2526.FC224 Correspondence

The Clerk noted that (a) a letter had been received from Michelle Welsh MP on 30 Jan seeking a meeting with the Council but that a proposed date is currently awaited from her and (b) he had recently complained in writing to the Council's external auditor (PKF Littlejohn) re their ongoing failure to send an audit report for FY2024/25.

2526.FC225 'A2R' relief road project, Parfitt Drive to Cotton Mill Lane

It was unanimously resolved to formally discontinue this project, while noting that, as a result, a future project may be needed to improve disabled access to The Acres.

2526.FC226 Future uses of available funds

- a. It was resolved to seek bids from the community for grants funded by the £15k payment received from the operator

of the solar farm at Crifton Lodge, with a view to deciding the successful bidders at the Council's April meeting.

b. It was resolved to decide at the Council's March meeting the use of £8,238 of CIL funds expiring on 16 April.

2526.FC227 Grant applications

a. In response to an application from St Michael's School, it was resolved to award a grant of £1,000.

b. In response to an application from the Royal British Legion, it was proposed and seconded to award a grant of £2,000. An amendment to that motion was then proposed and seconded that the amount be £1,000. That amendment was carried, and the main motion, thus amended, was then carried.

2526.FC228 Financial position as at 31 January

The tabled accounts and bank reconciliation were noted.

2526.FC229 Approval of items for payment

It was resolved to approve for payment the items listed in the meeting papers.

2526.FC230 Items for consideration for inclusion on the next full Council agenda

It was proposed that there be a discussion on Youth Council project(s).

2526.FC231 Date of next meeting

This was confirmed as 24 March 2026 at 7pm in the Village Centre, Farnsfield

2526.FC232 Exclusion of press & public

It was resolved that, in view of the confidential nature of the following agenda item, the press and public be excluded from the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

2526.FC233 Contract renewals

a. It was resolved, after considering comparative quotations, to award the Council's gas-supply contract to British Gas for a 3-year period in accordance with their quotation dated 23 February.

b. It was proposed and seconded to agree a tabled new lease to Inspire libraries from 1 April 2026 for use of the existing library space in the Village Centre at an increased price (reflecting inflation) from the previous lease. An amendment to that motion was then proposed and seconded that the price remain the same as the previous lease. A further amendment was then proposed and seconded that the rent be reduced to a peppercorn. The first amendment was then carried and the second amendment was not carried. The main motion, amended by the first amendment, was then carried.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm.