



## Farnfield Parish Council: Minute Book 2025/2026

Draft minutes of the meeting of the full Farnfield Parish Council at 7pm on Tuesday 19th March 2026

**Councillors present:** Joss Dixon, Corinne Moore, Rachel Parkin, Sally Savage, Joyce Shakeshaft, and Michele Wilson. Maurice Shakeshaft arrived and joined the council a little late and missed the initial agenda items due to a conflicting meeting for N&SDC.

**In attendance:** County Cllr Bruce Laughton, and 21 members of the public

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

**Introduction:** Councillor J Shakeshaft expressed her thanks to Chair Lesley Healey for her year as Chair, in a difficult year, especially operating with out a clerk for periods of it. Councillor J Shakeshaft then re-iterated the rules around public participation.

Councillor J Shakeshaft informed the council that Councillor M Shakeshaft will be late due to another district council meeting he needed to attend.

### **2627.FC018 Election of Parish Council Chairman**

Councillor Rachel Parkin was elected chair with 4 votes (2 abstained)

### **2627.FC019 Election of Parish Council Vice-Chairman**

Vice Corinne Moore was elected Vice Chair with 4 votes (1 abstained)

### **2627.FC020 Apologies**

Mickey Gavin, Nick Greene, Lesley Healey (Maurice Shakeshaft will be a little late joining the meeting) All accepted

### **2627.FC021 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests**

Cllr Parkin declared an interest in FC036 and shared her disappointment that this item be included in a public forum and suggested this should be in a closed forum.

Councillor Dixon shared that he supported that this item should have been a closed council item.

### **2627.FC022 Public Participation Session**

Member of the public shared that council had failed to produce supporting docs in time for the meeting as per standing order. 3 quotes were included with suppliers names – this is a breach. Bank statement shouldn't be shared – as part of application – Council has shared this publicly – includes private individuals names and cost – Breach of

GDPR. At the last meeting there were calls for resignations, the fact there are here is making more work.

Chair – Apologised for GDPR breach and will follow GDPR process to address this.

Member of the public made application for bid – it is not hospitality – it is voluntary community hub to help address loneliness and mental health. We help attendees with care in the community. Every week for 2 weeks. I recommend approval of the application.

Chair explained that she attends and it is care in the community in her opinion.

Member of the public shared their opinion that the SAR request, disappointing that you would have this on the public agenda, they have happened in the past and been done in private. Researched this and it is not best practice.

Member of the public shared that they were appalled at the last Village meeting – both people on each sides said they will never attend again.

Councillor Dixon responded to share that he felt whilst direct, it didn't quite reach the tolerance to be unacceptable, but appreciate it is often a subjective line.

Councillor Moore advised that people being called liars should not be accepted, as quite rightly it isn't in parliament.

Member of the public stated the clerk sort had been set without coming to full council first. S106 money has been spent, residents money should not be owed and a deep dive should have taken place before paid back.

Councillor Savage shared that the council benchmarked salary – 1<sup>st</sup> recruitment was unsuccessful as salary too low. We feel relatively confident we have the salary at the right level.

Member of the public shared disappointment at villagers being blamed for the clerks departures.

Councillor Dixon responded and shared that we welcome villager participation, that multiple causes led to the high turnover of clerks and with new councillors, and new roles, he believes this will improve communication.

Member of the public requested we look again at the S106 again and review fraud

Councillor Michelle shared that an audit had taken place and no fraud found. Mismanagement possibly and we will review, learn any lessons and target any opportunities.

Member of the public asked who made the decision not to have a governance review .

Councillor Moore shared that it was decided by the Clerk and Councillors originally, but we now have agreed to a Governance review and NSDC have been informed.

Councillor M Shakeshaft joined meeting.

### **2627.FC022 Reports from County and District Councillors**

County Councillor Laughton Update – 2 pot hole machines delivered. We are expecting a decision on government reform in 5 weeks.

Councillor Wilson asked for update on potholes – Member of the public shared that we need to report them. But we are on the list to be done.

Councillor Dixon shared that he is working with Councillor Laughton with a view to improving the paths and hedging on Station Lane.

Member of the public asked for speed restrictions – Council agreed to take this forward as a future agenda item.

District Councillor M Shakeshaft - Re-warding of local authorities - 16<sup>th</sup> of June drop dead date and decision will be out before that. Knife Angel in Newark being moved. Hedges on Station Lane being reviewed for action.

Councillor Parkin proposed we get bleed kits for all defibs. Once clerk in place will progress with proposal.

### **2627.FC024 Minutes**

Minutes from last meeting approved with only 1 change requested regarding Governance review not ops review. Agreed would be amended and brought to next full council.

### **2627.FC025 Changes to scheme of delegation**

F&E Change to 5 from 4 – Councillor M Shakeshaft asked for clarification on 5 + chair and vice or 5 inc. Chair confirmed 5 +2.

Councillor J Shakeshaft advised already is 5. Motion amended that if committee loses member, new one selected at next meeting. Voted unanimously (7) No change made to Scheme of delegation

### **2627.FC026 Review of Scheme of Delegation**

Proposal to approve existing scheme of delegation and committee terms of reference (as published on Council Website) Voted unanimously (7)

### **2627.FC027 Review of Standing Orders**

Standing orders remain unchanged – Voted unanimously (7)

### **2627.FC028 Review of Financial Regulations**

Propose to accept the current financial regulations – Voted unanimously (7)

### **2627.FC029 Committee Membership**

F&E Committee – Proposed new committee Councillors Gavin, Healey, Parkin, Greene, J Shakeshaft (for projects we can co-opt or work groups) – Voted unanimously (7)

F&G – Councillors M Shakeshaft, Wilson, Parkin, Savage, Greene – Voted unanimously (7)

Staffing Committee – Councillors Dixon, Moore, Savage – Voted unanimously (7)

### **2627.FC030 Committee Chairs**

F&E Committee – Chair: Councillor Healey – Voted unanimously (7)

F&G – Committee Chair: Councillor Wilson – Voted unanimously (7)

Staffing committee – Chair: Councillor Dixon – Voted unanimously (7)

**2627.FC031 Meeting Dates** - To agree the dates and times of Council Meetings for the 2026-27 municipal year up to and including the next annual Council Meeting in May 2027 – Council agreed to the dates listed in the schedule (Annual Parish Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> May 2027 6:30pm)

**2627.FC032** To appoint power of delegation to F&E committee to start the Grant application process for pitch improvements to F&E. Request for Weedkiller £350+VAT – No risk to animals only weeds. – Voted unanimously (7)

**2627.FC033** Proposal to accept Zurich renewal, we asked Clerk to get quotes, also Zurich are pending claim for Library – Recommendation is accept the renewal, then review next year. Asset register remains the same. – Voted unanimously (7)

**2627.FC034** Proposal to keep the hire charges the same for 2026/27. Propose to review in F&E specific group hire rates who have requested review.– Voted unanimously (7)

**2627.FC035** To approve grant applications received in relation to the solar farm money.

Councillor Dixon asked if we have enough to approve all? As don't want to vote before hearing all applications in case some we review later, miss out.

Councillor Parkin said yes, but due to no clerk we need to ensure we haven't missed any, If we have, we have other funding options.

Councillor M Shakeshaft shared other specific funds available if more needed.

Bid 1) Friends of Farnsfield Halifax Memorial: £3000 to refurbish.

Councillor Sally requested monitoring of fund spending as this is a new group.

Councillor M Shakeshaft advised he supported a partial grant approval, with consideration to full in future.

Councillor Dixon proposed approval of full amount.

Councillor Moore proposed approval of Half.

Councillor Parkin proposed approval of 50% now with decision on further funding at next council meeting – Voted unanimously (7)

Bid 2) Local History Society – Request for money to order a Plaque for the “Lock Up”– Voted unanimously (7)

Councillor Wilson agreed Grant process will be used for grants

Bid 3) Warm Spaces – Grant is not for Religion, Political and Hospitality. Proposal made by Councillor Dixon that we defer decision 1 month so those councillors that want to visit – can. 4 Votes for, 3 Votes against – Agreed.

**2627.FC036** Authorisation for a council spend for a SDAR from a Councillor to be conducted by Zest – Voted unanimously (6) (Councillor Parkin left the room due to declaring an interest).

**2627.FC037** – Items for next agenda:

Bids we may not have identified in time for this agenda (Cricket Club)

Xmas planning

Governance Review Readiness

AGAR

Hiring VC over Xmas

Consideration of 18<sup>th</sup> Jan Consultation.

**2627.FC038** To confirm the date of the Full council meeting as being 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2026 - Voted unanimously (7)

**2627.FC039** To pass a resolution “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”. Voted unanimously (7)

– Exclude Press and Public – Councillor M Shakeshaft escorted councillor J Shakeshaft out as she had to leave and couldn’t take part in the remaining meeting.

**Closed session.....**

**2627.FC039** To consider the recommendation of the staffing committee to approve the appointment of a new clerk/RFO.

Proposal made to offer a casual contract in the short term of up to 25 hours per week, with a permanent contract starting on 3<sup>rd</sup> of August. Voted unanimously (6).

This was confirmed as 19/05/2026 at 7pm in the Village Centre, Farnsfield

Meeting closed at 9:15pm