

FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

Judith Hall
Clerk to the Council
clerk@farnhamroyal-pc.gov.uk
01753 648497

Farnham Common Village Hall
Victoria Road
Farnham Common
SL2 3NL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 7.30PM AT FARNHAM COMMON VILLAGE HALL, VICTORIA ROAD, FARNHAM COMMON, SL2 3NL

Present

Tony Birkett (Chair)
Katherine Damsell
Amandeep Dhillon (from 25/92/PC below)
Dev Dhillon (until 25/91/PC below)
David Moore (until 25/91/PC below)
Clive Robinson
Paul Rowley (from 25/92/PC below)
Mukund Sondagar (from 25/92/PC below)

In Attendance

Judith Hall (Clerk)
One member of the public

A period of fifteen minutes was made available for members of the public and Buckinghamshire Councillors to comment on any matter. A summary of matters raised can be found at the end of these minutes.

The meeting was declared open at 7.30pm.

25/87/PC Apologies for absence

To receive, and consider for approval, apologies for absence and reasons given

No apologies were received.

25/88/PC Declarations of Interests

Members are reminded to declare any interest in any item on this agenda at this time, or at any time during the meeting, in accordance with Farnham Royal Parish Council's Code of Conduct.

Dev Dhillon declared an interest in item 25/91/PC as he is related to one of the applicants.

25/89/PC Items to be taken in private session

To decide which items, if any, on the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded under S.1(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 in view of their confidential nature

RESOLVED No items on the Agenda will be taken with the public excluded.

25/90/PC Minutes of last ordinary meeting

To receive and sign the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 21 July 2025

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2025 are a true record of the meeting.

25/91/PC Co-option of members to the council

To consider the co-option of members to the parish council

Paul Rowley, as a nominee, was invited to make a brief statement. Following his statement a discussion took place

during which, one member objected to the co-option. Tony Birkett proposed his nomination as a parish councillor and a vote followed.

RESOLVED The co-option of Paul Rowley was approved by a majority.

Mukund Sondagar, as a nominee, was invited to make a brief statement. Following his statement a discussion took place. Tony Birkett proposed his nomination as a parish councillor and a vote followed.

RESOLVED The co-option of Mukund Sondagar was approved unanimously.

Amandeep Dhillon, as a nominee, was invited to make a brief statement. Following his statement a discussion took place. Tony Birkett proposed his nomination as a parish councillor and a vote followed. Dev Dhillon abstained from the vote.

RESOLVED The co-option of Amandeep Dhillon was approved unanimously.

Dev Dhillon and David Moore's appointments as members of the Parish Council ceased automatically following the co-option of new members above and they moved to the audience.

25/92/PC Clerk's Report

To receive a report from the Parish Clerk for information only

The Clerk's Report circulated to parish councillors was reviewed.

RESOLVED That the Clerk's Report is received

25/93/PC Items for consideration and resolution

93.1 To consider making a donation to the Chiltern Society

Following a discussion, Tony Birkett propose donating a sum equal to the lowest quote received for installing the K Barriers on footpaths FAR/6 and FAR/7 to a maximum of £500. In addition, he proposed that any donation was subject to obtaining the agreement of the Thames Valley Police Community Fund as it would be paid from the grant obtained from them.

RESOLVED That a donation would be made to the Chiltern Society from the grant obtained from the Thames Valley Policy Community Fund, subject to obtaining agreement from the Fund and that the donation would be equal to the lowest quote received for installing the K Barriers on footpaths FAR/6 and FAR/7 to a maximum of £500.

93.2 To ratify the cost of the surveyor's report for the wall at St Mary's Churchyard

On 24 July 2025, the Clerk commissioned a surveyor's report for a wall at St Mary's Churchyard in Farnham Royal at a cost of £1,600 plus VAT.

RESOLVED That the action of the Clerk in commissioning the surveyor's report at a cost of £1,600 plus VAT is ratified and approved.

93.3 To ratify the cost of the temporary bracing for the wall at St Mary's Churchyard

On 16 September 2025, the Clerk instructed Price Building to install temporary bracing on a wall at St Mary's Churchyard in Farnham Royal at a cost of £1,875.

RESOLVED That the action of the Clerk in commissioning the surveyor's report at a cost of £1,875 plus VAT is ratified and approved.

93.4 To consider the cost of preparing the schedule of works for the wall at St Mary's Churchyard

After a short discussion Tony Birkett moved that the cost of preparing the schedule of works of £1,250 plus VAT

provided by the surveyor be agreed.

RESOLVED That the cost of £1,250 plus VAT is agreed.

93.5 To ratify the cost of the living Christmas tree

On 30 August 2025, the Clerk purchased a living Christmas tree for Temple Dell from Majestic Trees at a cost of £2,370.72 plus VAT.

RESOLVED That the action of the Clerk in purchasing the living Christmas tree for Temple Dell at a cost of £2,370.72 plus VAT is ratified and approved.

93.6 To consider the cost of decorating the living Christmas tree

After a short discussion, Tony Birkett moved that the cost of decorating the living Christmas tree of £3,213.60 plus VAT provided by the Parish Council's Christmas lighting contractor be agreed.

RESOLVED That the cost of £3,213.60 plus VAT is agreed.

93.7 To consider the insurance arrangements for 2025/26

After a short discussion, Katherine Damsell moved that the renewal quote of £3,793.72 provided by Hiscox Insurance Company Limited and recommended by Authur J. Gallagher be agreed. In addition, Katherine Damsell moved that the Parish Council enter into a three year Long Term Agreement with Hiscox Insurance Company Limited.

RESOLVED That the renewal quote of £3,793.72 is agreed and that the Parish Council enters into a three year Long Term Agreement is agreed.

93.8 To ratify the cost of the defibrillator battery and pads

On 15 September 2025, the Clerk purchased a new defibrillator battery and three pads from Imperative Training Limited t/as defibshop at a cost of £460 plus VAT.

RESOLVED That the action of the Clerk in purchasing a new defibrillator battery and three pads at a cost of £460 plus VAT is ratified and approved.

93.9 To consider Farnham Common Tennis Club's request for Padel courts

Following a discussion, it was decided that whilst the Parish Council supports the Tennis Club and the wider Sports Club's attempts to increase the sports available to meet current demand, it is not possible to take a position on the introduction of Padel until more detailed plans are put forward.

RESOLVED That the Clerk advise Farnham Common Tennis Club that the Parish Council cannot currently take a position but is happy to consider more detailed proposals once available.

93.10 To consider representation at Remembrance events

Following a discussion, it was decided that Tony Birkett would lay the wreath at the War Memorial in Farnham Royal on Remembrance Sunday and attend the service in St Mary's Church. It was also decided that Katherine Damsell would lay a wreath at the service on Kingsway Green on Remembrance Day and Paul Rowley would place small wreaths on each of the 15 Commonwealth War Graves in St Mary's Churchyard. In addition, all parish councillors are invited to attend any of these events.

RESOLVED That Tony Birkett will lay the wreath on Remembrance Sunday and attend the service, that Katherine Damsell will lay the wreath on Remembrance Day and that Paul Rowley will place the wreaths on the War Graves.

93.11 To consider CityFibre's request for a wayleave agreement

After a short discussion, Tony Birkett moved that the request for a wayleave agreement at Farnham Common

Sports Club is granted.

RESOLVED That the wayleave is granted.

93.12 To consider the revised location for the EE 5G antenna

Following a discussion, Tony Birkett moved that the revised location on the southern corner of the junction of Beaconsfield Road and Kingsway (near Golden Oak Close) be agreed as a better location than on Kingsway Green as originally proposed by EE.

RESOLVED That the revised location on the southern corner of the junction of Beaconsfield Road and Kingsway (near Golden Oak Close) is agreed.

93.13 To consider a response to Buckinghamshire Council's Draft Local Plan Consultation

Following a discussion, Tony Birkett moved that Clive Robinson should lead on preparing the Parish Council's response, with suitable support from neighbouring parish councils and if appropriate O'Neill Homer. Clive Robinson confirmed that he is happy to lead on this basis.

RESOLVED That Clive Robinson would lead on preparing the Parish Council's response with suitable support.

93.14 To consider a response to Heathrow Expansion Consultation

After a brief discussion, Tony Birkett moved that the Parish Council would not respond to this consultation as it is an outline consultation and thus not a priority at present.

RESOLVED That the Parish Council will not reply to the Heathrow Expansion Consultation.

25/94/PC Items for information only

94.1 The Neighbourhood Plan Referendum decision

The Clerk confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan was approved at the Referendum with 92% of voters voting in favour.

Tony Birkett advised that he attended the count on behalf of the Parish Council and that Dev Dhillon was also in attendance as Ward Councillor for Buckinghamshire Council. He continued that although the turnout was only 15%, the Returning Officer advised him that this was the biggest turnout percentage in South Buckinghamshire.

The Clerk confirmed that Steve Stagg had agreed to write an update for the Farnhams Magazine and Dev Dhillon recommended giving a hard copy of the Plan to each parish councillor.

94.2 Feedback from Meet Your Local Councillor & Orchard Day

The Clerk advised that lots of residents had visited the Parish Council's stand at Orchard Day to share their thoughts. The issues raised included speeding and traffic calming, overgrown vegetation, the creation of a new footway on Farnham Lane, parking on pavements and the specification of the electricity supply at Temple Dell. Many visitors also used the opportunity to vote on whether 30 minutes free parking in The Broadway car park benefits the community with everyone voting "yes".

25/95/PC Finance:

95.1 Account balances

To note bank account balances

Current Account	£154,044.89
Deposit (Instant Access)	£125,861.43
Deposit (95 Day Notice)	£ 35,713.35
Total	<u>£315,619.67</u>

RESOLVED That the account balances are noted.

95.2 Payments

To review and ratify payments for August 2025

The schedule of payments for August 2025 circulated to parish councillors was reviewed.

RESOLVED That these payments are ratified.

To review and approve payments for September 2025

The schedule of payments for September 2025 circulated to parish councillors was reviewed.

RESOLVED That these payments are approved.

95.3 Receipts

To note receipts for August 2025

The schedule of receipts for August 2025 circulated to parish councillors was reviewed.

RESOLVED That these receipts are noted.

To note receipts for September 2025

The schedule of receipts for September 2025 circulated to parish councillors was reviewed.

RESOLVED That these receipts are noted.

95.4 Bank Reconciliation

To note the July 2025 bank reconciliation

The July 2025 bank reconciliation was reviewed.

RESOLVED That the July 2025 bank reconciliation is noted.

To note the August 2025 bank reconciliation

The August 2025 bank reconciliation was reviewed.

RESOLVED That the August 2025 bank reconciliation is noted.

95.5 Management Accounts

To review 30 June 2025 Management Accounts

Katherine Damsell noted the change in format and asked if there were any questions. No questions were received, and she moved that the 30 June 2025 Management Accounts have been reviewed.

RESOLVED That the 30 June 2025 Management Accounts have been reviewed.

95.6 2024/25 Annual Audit

To note the External Auditor's Report

The Clerk advised that the External Auditor's Report had been received and following a discussion, Katherine Damsell moved that the External Auditor's Report had been noted.

RESOLVED That the External Auditor's Report is noted.

To note the publication of Notice of Conclusion of Audit

The Clerk advised that the Notice of Conclusion of Audit would be published on 30 September 2025 and Katherine Damsell moved that the publication of the Notice of Conclusion of Audit had been noted.

RESOLVED That the publication of Notice of Conclusion of Audit is noted.

25/96/PC Planning:

96.1 To note comments on recent applications submitted under delegated powers

The schedule of comments submitted was reviewed.

RESOLVED That these comments are noted.

96.2 To note recent planning decisions

The schedule of decisions made by the Planning Authority was reviewed.

RESOLVED That these decisions are noted.

25/97/PC Items for next agenda

1. Update on 2025/26 projects
2. Initial discussion on draft 2026/27 budget (including potential projects)
3. Follow up on the feedback received from residents at Orchard Day
4. To ratify the Parish Council's response to Buckinghamshire Council's Draft Local Plan
5. To ratify plan for Christmas event

25/98/PC Next Parish Council meeting

24 November 2025 at Farnham Royal Village Hall at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

OPEN FORUM

Dev Dhillon reported:

- one of the lampposts in Spring Lane has stopped working again.
- he had received a request from residents to allow them to plant daffodil bulbs on the triangle of land next to the service road behind Kingsway Green.
- that now the resurfacing work had been completed in Egypt Lane, the lane had become a 'rat run' and he was asking for the road markings to be repainted.

Finally, he thanked the Parish Council for agreeing to donate to the Chiltern Society in respect of the installation of the kissing gates on FAR/6 and FAR/7 stating that without the help of the Chiltern Society the project would not have been completed.

David Moore reported:

- that he was pressing for the fallen leaves and gullies in Egypt Lane to be cleared.
- that the South Bucks Wombles would be litter picking in Farnham Common in October 2025.