

# FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 13 APRIL 2026 AT 5.15PM AT FARNHAM COMMON VILLAGE HALL, VICTORIA ROAD, FARNHAM COMMON, SL2 3NL

### **Present**

Tony Birkett (Chair)  
Katherine Damsell  
Stuart Dennis  
Amandeep Dhillon  
Gurdeep Grewal  
J. Njore Kimani  
Paul Rowley  
Mukund Sondagar

### **In Attendance**

Judith Hall (Clerk)

The meeting was declared open at 5.15pm.

### **26/13/PC Apologies for absence**

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

No apologies were received.

### **26/14/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.

No Declarations of Interest were received.

### **26/15/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.

### **26/16/PC Statement from Chair**

To receive an update from the Chair for information only

The Chair's statement circulated to parish councillors prior to the meeting was noted and is reproduced below: The ordinary Farnham Royal Parish Council meeting of 23rd March 2026 was adjourned by the Chair after 25 minutes. This was due to a disruptive, emotive and at time verbally threatening group of attendees. Many were not Parishioners. 120+ people turned up. This was based on the false assumption that the Council was going to discuss the Verdon Court site in detail. The site had an application to the Home Office to house migrants/Asylum seekers. This was all due to a false agenda being posted in the Farnhams Community Facebook Group.

The Chair, attempted to clarify and disclose all the known facts and the actual purpose of the FRPC meeting. This was not allowed and the meeting had to be adjourned. Post the adjournment many of the valid concerns of actual Parishioners were talked through by the Unitary Councillors and FRPC Councillors present.

On behalf of FRPC I wrote objecting on several key areas to our MP once informed of the site prior to the meeting. The MP utilised several of these in her objection to the Home Office. To the best of my knowledge, there had been

no decision reached on Verdon Court by the 23rd March 2026. Shortly after this meeting the landlord wrote confirming he had withdrawn the application to the Home Office. FRPC will continue to monitor any activity related to this site.

After the meeting significant Criminal damage was caused to Verdon Court which FRPC is appalled over. As this is part of a Thames Valley Police investigation, no further comment will be issued.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all FRPC Councillors in attendance. All are volunteers and not affiliated to any political party who surrender their time for the good of all in the Parish.

### **26/17/PC Clerk's Report**

To receive a report from the Parish Clerk for information only

The Clerk's Reports dated 18 March 2026 and 7 April 2026 circulated to parish councillors prior to the meeting were reviewed. Parish Councillors discussed the MVAS results and a resident's email regarding the cinder track in Farnham Royal.

**RESOLVED** That the Clerk's Reports are received.

### **26/18/PC Items for consideration and resolution**

18.1 To ratify the response to the Draft Local Plan for Buckinghamshire sent on 3 March 2026  
Following a brief discussion, Tony Birkett moved that the Parish Council ratify the response sent on 3 March 2026, which had previously been circulated to parish councillors.

**RESOLVED** The response to the Draft Local Plan for Buckinghamshire sent on 3 March 2026 is ratified and approved.

18.2 To ratify the increased cost of the Farnhams and Stoke Poges Ward Settlement Spatial Plan - £470  
Following a brief discussion, Tony Birkett moved that the Parish Council ratify the £470 increase in the cost resulting in a total cost of £5,470.

**RESOLVED** The £470 increase in the cost of the Farnhams and Stoke Poges Ward Settlement Spatial Plan is ratified and approved.

18.3 To ratify the cost of a Strategic Vision and the Listening Council session for councillors and the Clerk - £1,012.50  
Following a brief discussion, Tony Birkett moved that the Parish Council ratify the cost of £1,012.50 for the session.

**RESOLVED** The cost of the Strategic Vision and the Listening Council session for councillors and the Clerk being £1,012.50 is ratified and approved.

18.4 To ratify the cost of full council training on roles, powers, duties and legal obligations - £420  
Following a brief discussion, Tony Birkett moved that the Parish Council ratify the cost of £420 for the session.

**RESOLVED** The cost of the full council training on roles, powers, duties and legal obligations being £420 is ratified and approved

18.5 To consider the quotes received for the work identified in the January 2026 Arboriculture Report  
Following a brief discussion, Tony Birkett moved that the quotes received from R. Watts & Sons Ltd totalling £6,500 are agreed.

**RESOLVED** The quotes totalling £6,500 from R. Watts & Sons Ltd are approved.

18.6 To consider continuing the Devolved Services Agreement with Buckinghamshire Council for 2026/27  
Following a brief discussion, Tony Birkett moved that the Parish Council continues with Devolved Services for 2026/27 and that the Clerk is authorised to sign the new Highways Devolved Services Agreement.

**RESOLVED** The Parish Council agreed to continue with Devolved Services for 2026/27 and authorised the Clerk to sign the new Highways Devolved Services Agreement.

18.7 To consider appointing Amersham Town Council to complete the Devolved Services work for 2026/27  
Following a brief discussion in which the Clerk confirmed that for 2026/27 Amersham Town Council would apply a 3% uplift to the hourly rate agreed for 2025/26, Tony Birkett moved that the Parish Council appoints Amersham Town Council to complete the work required under the Devolved Services Agreement.

**RESOLVED** The Parish Council appointed Amersham Town Council to complete the work required under the Devolved Services Agreement with a 3% uplift to the hourly rate agreed for 2025/26.

18.8 To consider increasing the litter picker's hourly rate to £12.71 from 1 April 2026  
Following a brief discussion, Tony Birkett moved that the hourly rate is increased to £12.71.

**RESOLVED** The Parish Council agreed an increase in the hourly rate to £12.71.

18.9 To consider the cost of repairs required to Christmas lights - £2,243  
Following a brief discussion where councillors expressed concern about the costs of repairs, Tony Birkett moved that the Clerk should arrange a meeting with the Christmas light contractor to discuss the repairs and the display more generally.

**RESOLVED** The Parish Council did not agree the repairs and asked the Clerk to arrange a meeting with the contractor to discuss the repairs and the display more generally.

18.10 To consider the recommended disposal of old Christmas lights  
Following a brief discussion, Tony Birkett moved that the old Christmas lights recommended for disposal should be disposed of.

**RESOLVED** The Parish Council agreed to dispose of the old Christmas lights recommended for disposal.

18.11 To consider quote for removing and replacing old shrubs in the bed at Rectory Close, Farnham Royal - £325  
Following a brief discussion, Tony Birkett moved that the quote of £325 for removing and replacing old shrubs in the bed at Rectory Close, Farnham Royal is agreed.

**RESOLVED** The quote of £325 for removing and replacing old shrubs in the bed at Rectory Close, Farnham Royal is approved.

18.12 To consider the budget for the Parish Picnic 2026  
Following a discussion in which the Clerk was asked to request a £50 pitch fee from all food and drink vendors, Tony Birkett moved that the increase of £706 in the budget for the Parish Picnic was agreed and that the Parish Council would request a £50 pitch fee from all food and drink vendors.

**RESOLVED** The Parish Council agreed the increase of £706 in the budget for the Parish Picnic and that a pitch fee of £50 would be requested from all food and drink vendors.

18.13 To consider the new licence for the site of the playground at Farnham Park Playing Fields  
Following a discussion in which it was noted that Wycombe Wanderers Football Club took over responsibility for operating and managing the site on 1 April 2026 and that any future discussions with Wycombe Wanderers Football Club would be limited to the site of the playground and licence only. Tony Birkett moved that the Parish Council enter into the Licence to Occupy prepared by Buckinghamshire Council and that he and Katherine Damsell are authorised to sign the Licence.

**RESOLVED** The Parish Council agreed to enter into the Licence to Occupy and authorised Tony Birkett and Katherine Damsell to sign the Licence.

18.14 To consider Strategic Vision and Listening Council proposal received from Council Culture (Becky Walsh)  
Following a discussion, Katherine Damsell moved that the Parish Council agrees to phase 1 of the proposal received and circulated to parish councillors prior to the meeting at a cost of £750 and then pauses to review and reflect before deciding on whether to progress to phase 2 or 3 of the proposal.

**RESOLVED** The Parish Council agreed to commence phase 1 at a cost of £750 and then pause to review and reflect before deciding on whether to progress to phase 2 or 3 of the proposal.

### **26/19/PC Items for information only**

19.1 Report on Clerk's Appraisal

Katherine Damsell reported that the Clerk's appraisal for 2025 had been completed and new objectives for 2026 had been agreed.

19.2 Update on proposal for the future of the Farnhams Magazine

Gurdeep Grewal advised that he met with the team looking to take over management of the Farnhams Magazine earlier that day. He stated that they discussed the position of the Parochial Church Council who currently oversee the Magazine and were awaiting a further update on this. He continued that the plan would be to stop delivering the Magazine to homes via the Royal Mail, instead making a smaller number of copies available in shops and

businesses in the parish. Readers would be encouraged to subscribe to an online version. He finished by advising that the team are now looking into setting up a Community Interest Company to run the magazine and are seeking the right volunteers to take the Magazine forward.

## **26/20/PC Finance:**

### **20.1 Account balances**

To note bank account balances

Current Account	£12,610.34
Deposit (Instant Access)	£81,811.41
Deposit (95 Day Notice)	£ 36,467.35
Total	<u>£130,889.10</u>

**RESOLVED** That the account balances are noted.

### **20.2 Payments**

#### **To review and ratify payments for January 2026**

The schedule of payments for January 2026 circulated to parish councillors was reviewed.

**RESOLVED** That the January 2026 payments are ratified.

#### **To review and ratify payments for February 2026**

Katherine Damsell noted that the payment to Buckinghamshire Council in respect of the traffic calming scheme was paid via telephone banking, as recommended by the Bank, rather than via online banking as normal because it was larger than the daily limit for online payments. The schedule of payments for February 2026 circulated to parish councillors was reviewed.

**RESOLVED** That the February 2026 payments are ratified.

#### **To review and ratify payments for March 2026**

The schedule of payments for March 2026 circulated to parish councillors was reviewed.

**RESOLVED** That the March 2026 payments are ratified.

### **20.3 Receipts**

#### **To note receipts for January 2026**

The schedule of receipts for January 2026 circulated to parish councillors was reviewed.

**RESOLVED** That the January 2026 receipts are noted.

#### **To note receipts for February 2026**

The schedule of receipts for February 2026 circulated to parish councillors was reviewed.

**RESOLVED** That the February 2026 receipts are noted.

#### **To note receipts for March 2026**

The schedule of receipts for March 2026 circulated to parish councillors was reviewed.

**RESOLVED** That the March 2026 receipts are noted.

### **20.4 Bank Reconciliation**

#### **To note the January 2026 bank reconciliation**

The January 2026 bank reconciliation was reviewed.

**RESOLVED** That the January 2026 bank reconciliation is noted.

#### **To note the February 2026 bank reconciliation**

The February 2026 bank reconciliation was reviewed.

**RESOLVED** That the February 2026 bank reconciliation is noted.

## **26/21/PC Planning:**

### **21.1 To note comments on recent applications submitted under delegated powers**

The schedule of comments submitted from 8 January 2026 to 18 March 2026 was reviewed.

**RESOLVED** That the comments from 8 January 2026 to 18 March 2026 are noted.

21.2 To note recent planning decisions

The schedule of decisions made by the Planning Authority from 8 January 2026 to 18 March 2026 was reviewed.

**RESOLVED** That the decisions from 8 January 2026 to 18 March 2026 are noted.

**26/22/PC Items for next agenda**

1. Update on the final arrangements for the Parish Picnic (K Damsell / G Grewal / Clerk)
2. Update on the future of the Farnhams Magazine (G Grewal)

**26/23/PC Next Parish Council meeting**

11 May 2026 at Farnham Common Village Hall at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 6.27pm