

FARNHAM WITH STRATFORD ST ANDREW PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held Monday 14 May 2017 at the Riverside Centre

Present: Councillors Ian Norman, Ian Tayler, Rosemary Conibeer, Richard Ayres, Jill Pass, Gordon Gilbert, Tim Plant

Apologies: Councillor Andrew Reid (SCC), Councillor Carol Poulter (SCDC), Colin Lee, Maureen Greaves

In attendance: Parish clerk Debbi Tayler, three members of the public

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Reid (SCC) and Poulter (SCDC), Colin Lee and Maureen Greaves.

2 Minutes of meetings held 8 May 2017

The minutes of the last meeting were and signed at the parish council meeting in June 2017.

3 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Parish Council Annual Report

The clerk advised the council had commissioned Suffolk Coastal Norse Ltd to maintain the grass verges in the two villages and to also clean the two bus shelters on a regular basis.

Traffic issues on the A12 remain of concern and we continue to work closely with Suffolk County Council and EDF to secure improvements.

Air quality in Stratford St Andrew is a concern with higher than acceptable levels at Long Row. The council is represented on the Steering Group to find solutions to the problem. As part of the plan the 50mph signs has been moved further out of the villages. Monitoring of levels will continue.

The council is developing a Community Emergency Plan which will advise residents what to do in case of an emergency.

The council made a grant to the Riverside Centre of £1500 towards the cost of renewing and repairing playground equipment.

A casual vacancy on the parish council for a councillor to represent Farnham was advertised. Colin Lee of 2 Farnham Hall expressed an interest and has been co-opted to the council at this evening's annual meeting of the council.

The parish council has a live Twitter account, Facebook page and website.

During 2017/18 the council's income was £6824, expenditure was £8301. The precept was £3500. As outgoings exceed income, and have done for some time, it was decided to increase the precept for 2018/19 to £4500, this is the first increase for several years.

5/6 Reports from County and District councillors

Councillor Reid, SCC, had provided a written report. Headlines include service savings, increase in council tax, adult social care precept, education attainment, Children's Services, SEGWay proposal which is awaiting Government response and school travel consultation.

Councillor Poulter, SCDC, had also provided a report. Headlines include the new super district council for East Suffolk, garden waste scheme, new SCDC premises, and improvements to leisure facilities.

7 Alde Valley Luncheon Club Annual Report

The report was presented by the chair, Deborah Brame. The club continues to be popular with 55 members and an average attendance of 43. There are 13 volunteers, five of whom are on the committee. The meal charge remains at £5 and the club remains solvent thanks to fundraising and donations.

8 Riverside Executive Committee Annual Report

The clerk presented the report. The Riverside continues to thrive thanks to consistency in bookings and fundraising carried out by the Executive and Social Club Committees. However, this has been a difficult year with the death of Angela Plant, a founding member, and a serious break in which caused considerable damage. All internal doors were damaged beyond repair, bar shutters were broken and the stock of spirits was stolen. The insurers finally agreed to fund the repairs and a new alarm and CCTV system has been installed. The play area has been upgraded this year with the help of grants from the district and county councils and the parish council. A reserve is held which, if necessary, would cover the outstanding Public Works Loan currently standing at less than £20,000.

9 Parochial Church Council Annual Report

Reverend Rachel Cornish presented the report. Rachel was licensed as interim Priest in Charge in July 2017. St Mary's Farnham holds two services a month which are attended by six to eight regular members of the congregation. The church also holds a benefice service on a rota with the six other churches, these attract 30 to 40 people. Fundraising remains a focus with many events being put on throughout the year. The amount Farnham must raise towards the Benefice Centenary Share is £6971. In addition there are ongoing costs for insurance, utility bills and maintenance as well as the priest's costs. The church remains grateful to all those who support it. At present the Diocese is consulting with the Benefice and Patrons with a view to licensing Reverend Cornish as Rector.

10 Public Forum

No issues were raised.

11 Any other business

There was no other business.

The meeting was closed at 20.33.

Signed.....Date: _____