

Farningham Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Farningham held at Shand Hall, High Street, Farningham on Wednesday 11th February 2026 at 7pm.

1. Attendees and apologies for absence.

Attendees: Cllrs Burns, Bourne, McGarvey and McGeough, Sevenoaks District Councillors (SDC) Ball, Maskell and White (in part) and Kent County Councillor (KCC) Logen (in part).

In Attendance: two members of the public (in part), PCs Eleanor Collins and Joseph Weatherall (in part) and the Clerk, Helen Penney.

Apologies: Cllr Salmon.

Members agreed to complete the agenda in the following order:

3. Declarations of personal, prejudicial and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda and updates to members' register of interests.

None.

4. To consider, and approve if appropriate, agenda items sufficiently confidential as to warrant exclusion of members of the press and public under the Admission to Meetings Act 1960.

None.

5. Nomination of a Member to complete the Trident Report for submission by 11 March 2026.

As the usual nominee was away, Members requested that the Clerk complete the report this month. **Action: Clerk.**

6. To receive a report from the County Councillor. (No decisions may take place as a result of this item).

Cllr Logen reported that:

- KCC's 2026/27 budget will be considered on 12 February 2026 and is expected to include a 3.99% increase. KCC has delivered £159m of savings in the current financial year. £8m has been allocated for Category 1 road repairs and a new highways maintenance contractor has been appointed.

Members asked where savings had been achieved and who the new highways contractor is. Cllr Logen advised that savings include interest saved on debt repayments and SEND transport and that he agreed to provide further details after the meeting.

- Bollards to address inconsiderate parking in Till Avenue are scheduled to be installed week commencing 23 February 2026 at an approximate cost of £6,000, shared equally between KCC and SDC. SDC is also exploring additional parking provision in areas around the Crescent.

Members noted that one property in Till Avenue has recently created off-road parking.

- Regarding KCCs response to SDCs Regulation 18 consultation, Cllr Logen advised the submission had been prepared by officers. He acknowledged concerns that the wording could be interpreted as supportive of development at Pedham Place and Petham Farm but stated KCC also has concerns including mineral safeguarding and an underground gas pipeline.

Cllr Logen indicated support for a joint letter from Crockenhill, Eynsford and Farningham Parish Councils to KCC and requested a copy of FPC's response.

8. Public Open Session. Members of the public will be welcome to address the Parish Council with any local concerns they have. Please note that each speaker will be allocated a maximum of three minutes and at the discretion of the Chair. (No decisions may take place as a result of this item). Local Beat Officers PC Joseph Weatherall and PC Eleanor Collins attended and, with the agreement of Members, provided an update.

PC Weatherall reported:

- That he is the new Beat Officer replacing PC Guest and that crime figures for December 2025 (including Horton Kirby and South Darenth) were the lowest monthly average recorded last year and approximately 50% lower than December 2024.
- There has been a reduction in antisocial behaviour involving motorcycles, although it was noted this may be seasonal, with potential displacement into wooded and rural areas over the winter months. Motorcycle meetings will be monitored closely as the weather improves as 2025 was particularly bad.
- Rural theft is increasing, including the theft of quad bikes and plant machinery from private properties.
- The importance of residents reporting all incidents, as data informs resource allocation and police presence.

Members queried the availability of road traffic collision data to support the Parish Council's Highways Improvement Plan. Officers advised that not all incidents are reported to the Police so they also do not have a full data set of incidents within the parish and also that some data cannot be shared. However, the Disclosure Office may be able to assist and that contact details will be provided to the Clerk.

An abandoned vehicle on Dartford Road has been reported to Sevenoaks District Council.

7. To receive a report from the District Councillors and Cllr Maskell, Leader of SDC. (No decisions may take place as a result of this item).

Members welcomed Cllr Maskell, who invited questions from Members.

- Members asked about the new waste and recycling arrangements due to be introduced in 2026, including storage implications for properties without frontage or side access, potential

visual impact within the conservation area and how recycling education and participation would be improved. Cllr Maskell advised the change is being driven by national legislation and that SDCs Interim Waste Transition Project Manager is overseeing the implementation and transition arrangements. He added that recycling rates have improved since the introduction of large green sacks.

- Members raised concerns regarding the emerging Local Plan and recent Regulation 18 consultation include Pedham Place that is within the National Landscape. Cllr Maskell advised that officers are reviewing sites alongside consultation feedback, the national planning policy framework and local policies, and that some sites may be removed prior to Regulation 19. He added that infrastructure considerations form part of the assessments and are just as important as policy considerations.
- Members raised concerns regarding planning enforcement and response times within the parish. Cllr Maskell acknowledged the concerns and advised the enforcement service manages a high caseload. He confirmed support for addressing matters raised by the Parish Council.
- The Clerk asked how Community Asset Transfers are valued. Cllr Maskell advised assets must be transferred at proper value and confirmed that officers and District Councillors could provide further guidance and support if required.

Following Cllr Maskell's report, Cllr Ball reported that he had attended a recent Scrutiny Committee meeting where it was advised that Police retain data primarily for serious road traffic collisions. Residents may obtain local incident notifications via the My Community App.

Cllr Ball also reported that a solar panel application in New Ash Green had been provisionally refused due to insufficient supporting evidence.

Cllr Ball advised that he has left his previous political group and is now a member of Reform UK.

8. A Public Open Session. Members of the public will be welcome to address the Parish Council with any local concerns they have. Please note that each speaker will be allocated a maximum of three minutes and at the discretion of the Chair. (No decisions may take place as a result of this item).

Two members of the public attended regarding co-option.

2. Two casual vacancies to be filled by co-option. Members to agree actions to progress recruitment.

Members considered two applications for the casual vacancies currently advertised.

Following a vote, Melanie Baker was co-opted as a Parish Councillor.

Following a vote, Michael Cook was co-opted as a Parish Councillor.

Both individuals signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the meeting continued with six Parish Councillors in attendance.

9. Approve as a correct record, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on the 14th January 2026.

The minutes from the full Parish Council meeting on 14th January 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

10. Clerks report. (No decision making may take place as a result of this item).

The Clerk report that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has organised an engagement event on Saturday 14 February 2026 in the Shand Hall and that Members were very welcome to attend.

11. Planning.

11.1 To note and raise any questions to the planning log circulated by the Clerk on 6th February 2026.

Noted.

11.2 Planning Applications.

To consider any planning applications and to include any received by the Clerk after the agenda has been served to Councillors.

11.2.1 and 11.2.2 References: 26/00136/HOUSE and 26/00137/LBCALT

Site: 50 - 51 High Street Farningham Kent DA4 0DB

Proposal: Alterations and extension to an existing dwelling, including internal reconfiguration, replacement of existing rear extensions with a new rear extension incorporating rooflights, and the addition of a rear dormer, together with associated works.

Comments by: 23rd February 2026

No objection subject to approval by the Conservation Officer.

11.3 To note applications received and responded to by the Clerk under delegated powers.

Reference: 25/03521/LBCALT Site: The White House High Street Farningham Kent DA4 0DH

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for roof repairs and replacement of tiles and leadwork, including insulation and associated works. *The full description is available on SDCS planning portal.*

Comments due 9th February 2026.

Farningham Parish Council supports the repair and maintenance of listed buildings, subject to the approval of the Conservation Officer.

To note planning applications received but not for comment:

11.4.1 Site: Charton Manor Farm Gorse Hill Farningham Kent DA4 0JT

Reference: 26/00146/NMA Proposal: Non-Material Amendment to 22/03410/FUL

Reference: 26/00147/DETAIL Proposal: Details pursuant to condition 6 (Construction Management Plan) of 22/03410/FUL

Noted.

11.4.2 Reference: 26/00133/DCC

Site: Norman Road North Belvedere London DA17 6JY

Description: DCC Development control consultation - the Secretary of State has received a request dated 16 December 2025 from Cory Environmental Holdings Limited to correct errors in the Cory

Decarbonisation Project Development Consent Order, dated 5 November 2025.
Noted.

11.5 Planning Appeals. To discuss and agree to submit additional comments:

SDC Ref: 25/02407/FUL, Inspectorate Ref: 6002663

SDC Ref corrected to 25/00052/RFPLN

Site: Land West Of 64 London Road Farningham Kent DA4 0JP

Nature: Erection of 1no. dwelling with associated works, landscaping and bike store.

If you wish to make comments, or withdraw your previous representation, you can do so online.

Comments by: 27th February 2026.

Resubmit comments from the planning application.

11.6 Updates on enforcement cases and to highlight new activities or sites causing concern.

None.

12. Finance Items for noting and decision.

12.1 To approve items payable, and note items paid and receipts.

The items payable was approved and items paid and receipts noted.

Cllr Burns queried the Clerks payroll which is linked to the overtime processed last month. The Clerk will investigate. **Action: Clerk.**

12.2 To note and raise any questions for the flexed budget January 2026.

Noted.

12.3 To note a two-month extension to the current policy and discuss the 2026/27 renewal.

Members noted a two-month extension to the policy

12.4 To note a change to the Standing Order for the Clerks Salary and pension.

Noted.

12.5 To approve the Clerk requesting a survey of Parish Council owned trees.

Members approved the Clerk to organise a survey for Parish Council owned trees early in the 2026/27 financial year. **Action: Clerk.**

13. To note the Full Parish Council meeting dates for 2026/27.

Noted.

Wednesday 11th March 2026

Wednesday 8th April 2026

Monday 11th May 2026 – 6:30pm Village Hall, Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 13th May 2026

Wednesday 10th June 2026

Saturday 13th June 2026 – Village Fayre

Wednesday 8th July 2026

August – no meeting

Wednesday 9th September 2026

Wednesday 14th October 2026

Wednesday 11th November 2026

Saturday 5th December 2026 – Carols, Farningham Village Hall

Wednesday 9th December 2026

Wednesday 13th January 2027

Wednesday 10th February 2027

Wednesday 10th March 2027

14. Assertion 10 (Practitioners Guide Governance). Review and adoption of policies:

14.1 Email management. Paragraph 1.47 of the Practitioners' Guide

Members noted that FPC is compliant with the requirements of paragraph 1.47 through the use of a council-owned generic Clerk email address, and supports the future implementation of councillor email accounts as best practice.

14.2 Website accessibility. Paragraphs 1.48 - 1.49 of the Practitioners' Guide

Members noted compliance with website accessibility requirements and that accessibility has been reviewed and considered as part of Assertion 10.

14.3 Freedom of Information and Transparency. Paragraph 1.50 of the Practitioners' Guide

Members:

- Noted and confirmed that FPC has previously adopted the ICO Model Publication Scheme as published on the website.
- Adopted the "Information Available" document prepared by the Clerk.
- Noted the Transparency Code and transparency statement included within the "Information Available" document.
- Agreed that a Freedom of Information Statement will be drafted by the Clerk and brought to a future Full Parish Council meeting for consideration and adoption, to support the Council should a Freedom of Information request be received.

14.4 Data Protection and GDPR. Paragraphs 1.51 - 1.53 of the Practitioners' Guide

Members resolved to adopt the GDPR Privacy Notice policy that had been prepared by the Clerk with immediate effect in order to comply with paragraphs 1.51, 1.52 and 1.53 of the Practitioners' Guide and, to support compliance, as recommended by NALC, adopts the Data Protection Road Map and Retention Schedule.

14.5 IT Policy. Paragraph 1.54 of the Practitioners' Guide

Members resolved to adopt the IT Policy as prepared by the Clerk with immediate effect.

15. Friends of Farningham. To note the 2026 Risk Assessment and poster, and to note the organiser's responsibilities for volunteers.

16. Family Fun Day. To note the date Wednesday 29th July 10:30 to 13:30, Market Meadow.
Members noted that date and confirmed the Clerks attendance.

17. Annual Parish Meeting. Monday 11th May 2026, 7pm to 9pm.

Members noted the confirm hall booking and resolved for the different organisations to confirm reports or stands at the event noting that the Clerk will send invitations this month and up to £50 to provide light refreshments. **Action: Clerk.**

18. Highways. To note the removal of the 40mph countdown markers.

Members noted their disappointment at the signs being removed and requested that the Clerk relay this information to the Highways team copying in Cllr Logen. **Action: Clerk.**

19. Correspondance.

19.1 KCC's comments on the Local Plan—to discuss & agree a joint response with Crockenhill & Eynsford.

Members resolved to send a joint letter however requested that the tone change to ask them to explain rather than defend their position and ask what rationale has been used to support a change from the previous submission. **Action: Clerk.**

19.2 Local Government Reorganisation – to discuss and agree a response to Government's Consultation

Members noted the consultation.

Urgent business that occurs and requires, attention before the next meeting that may be reported at the Chairman's discretion. (No decisions may take place as a result of this item).
None.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 11th March 2026, 7pm.

Requests from Councillors for the next agenda due by 27th February 2026.

Items Paid

Farningham Parish Council PAYMENTS LIST

Voucher	Code	Date	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
155	Telephone /Broadband	09/01/2026	Talk Mobile	S	4.12	0.83	4.95
150	Bank charges	09/01/2026	Handelsbanken	X	16.25		16.25
149	Computer	14/01/2026	Adobe Acrobat	S	16.64	3.33	19.97
154	Electricity Charges	14/01/2026	npower	L	475.03	23.75	498.78
169	Pension (PC & Clerk's contributions)	16/01/2026	Nest Pensions	X	119.97		119.97
158	Projects	22/01/2026	Tibbalds Planning & Urban Design Ltd	S	451.72	90.34	542.06
117	Hall Hire	22/01/2026	Farningham Village Hall	X	42.50		42.50
144	Hall Hire	22/01/2026	Farningham Village Hall	X	65.00		65.00
148	Road improvement/traffic calming	22/01/2026	Kent County Council	X	486.00		486.00
152	Salary On Costs (Tax, NI etc)	22/01/2026	HM Revenue and Customs	X	1,362.75		1,362.75
118	Hall Hire	22/01/2026	Farningham Village Hall	X	77.50		77.50
119	Hall Hire	22/01/2026	Farningham Village Hall	X	83.75		83.75
151	Clerk's salary (net)	23/01/2026	Miss H Penney	X	1,129.28		1,129.28
156	Postage/Stationery/Print	29/01/2026	Miss H Penney	X	6.00		6.00
157	Clerk's salary (net)	29/01/2026	Miss H Penney	X	1,909.28		1,909.28
156	Printing/Stationary	29/01/2026	Miss H Penney	X	6.00		6.00
			Total		6,807.76	118.25	6,926.01

Receipts

Farningham Parish Council RECEIPTS LIST

Vouche	Code	Date	Bank	Description	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
22	Electricity Credits	09/01/2026	FPC Current Account (HB)	Electricity Sub-Station Village Hall	X	50.00		50.00
23	Electricity Credits	20/01/2026	FPC Current Account (HB)	Wayleave	X	500.00		500.00
25	Bank Interest	30/01/2026	FPC Deposit (HB)	Bank Interest	X	39.06		39.06
24	Neighbourhood Plan	30/01/2026	FPC Current Account (HB)	Neighbourhood Plan	X	87.00		87.00
				Total		676.06		676.06

Items Payable

Farningham Parish Council PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

Voucher	Method	Code	Date	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
164	BACs	Postage/Stationery/Print - PC	09/02/2026	Miss H Penney	S	3.99	0.80	4.79
166	BACs	Postage/Stationery/Print - PC	09/02/2026	Miss H Penney	S	0.62	0.12	0.74
167	BACs	Postage/Stationery/Print - PC	09/02/2026	Miss H Penney	S	7.50	1.50	9.00
178	BACs	Postage/Stationery/Print - PC	11/02/2026	Miss H Penney	X	6.00		6.00
167	BACs	Printing/Stationery - NP	09/02/2026	Miss H Penney	S	7.49	1.50	8.99
168	BACs	Printing/Stationery - NP	09/02/2026	Miss H Penney	S	10.79	2.16	12.95
166	BACs	Printing/Stationery - NP	09/02/2026	Miss H Penney	S	6.27	1.25	7.52
164	BACs	Printing/Stationery - NP	09/02/2026	Miss H Penney	S	3.53	0.71	4.24
165	BACs	Printing/Stationery - NP	09/02/2026	Miss H Penney	S	7.49	1.50	8.99
178	BACs	Printing/Stationery - NP	11/02/2026	Miss H Penney	X	6.00		6.00
								69.22
170	BACs	Insurance	09/02/2026	Clear Councils	X	385.65		385.65
161	BACs	Christmas Decorations	09/02/2026	Lothlorien Landscapes	S	875.00	175.00	1,050.00
171	BACs	Projects	09/02/2026	Eagle Heights	X	326.00		326.00
160	BACs	Consultant	09/02/2026	Tibbalds Planning & Urban Design Ltd	S	1,955.00	391.00	2,346.00
163	BACs	Audit fees	11/02/2026	Mazars	S	315.00	63.00	378.00
162	BACs	Hall Hire	11/02/2026	Farningham Village Hall	X	37.50		37.50
159	BACs	Administration Fees	11/02/2026	DM Payroll Services	S	102.00	20.40	122.40
174	BACs	Salary On Costs (Tax, NI etc)	11/02/2026	HM Revenue and Customs	X	183.34		183.34
153	BACs	Pension (PC & Clerk's contributions)	11/02/2026	Nest Pensions	X	436.00		436.00
177	DD	Telephone /Broadband	11/02/2026	Talk Mobile	S	4.12	0.83	4.95
172	DD	Bank charges	11/02/2026	Handelsbanken	X			
176	DD	Electricity Charges	11/02/2026	npower	L	460.98	23.05	484.03
173	SO	Clerk's salary (net)	11/02/2026	Miss H Penney	X	1,173.62		1,173.62
175	DD	Pension (PC & Clerk's contributions)	11/02/2026	Nest Pensions	X	171.99		171.99
				Total		6,485.88	682.82	7,168.70