

# Farnborough Parish Council

## Meeting Minutes

**Location:** Farnborough Memorial Hall

**Date:** 11/03/2026

### Councillors Present:

Chair: Sam Ross

Martin Carter

Nick Barnett

Mark Goodchild

Phil Gray

Rob Breckon

Dan Pidcock

David Howard

Clerk: Debbie Tutchell

### 1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Agnes Nowak

### 2 Declarations of Interest

None

### Public Participation (3 minutes per person)

None

**Action/Vote**

### 3 Minutes

#### a To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026

No amendments required, proposed by MG seconded by MC

Minutes signed off by SR

5 Approved

#### b To receive reports on any further matters arising from the decisions of the last meeting

None

### 4 Planning

#### a To agree/ report responses to the following applications:

##### i. **26/00464/PIP** Royal Oak Cottage, Cross Ways, Farnborough

Permission in Principle for the erection of between 1 and 4 dwellings.

**OBJECT IN PRINCIPLE** with the following comments:

- The site location is on the edge of the village and located in an area distant from local facilities exist.
- Development would have a significant impact on the openness of the green belt.
- The site is not well serviced by a long-term public transport solution (current bus service due to be withdrawn)
- The site is not well connected via safe links by foot or otherwise to employment opportunities or leisure and shopping facilities.
- Farnborough has a need for smaller and affordable housing developments and currently benefits from an extensive supply of medium to larger dwellings. The density of housing in the plan would indicate a tendency for 'executive' homes, larger than the adjacent cottages. Therefore the amount of development is unacceptable.
- The site is populated by numerous mature trees that will be lost if this development were to go ahead, along with the diversity of a long-established garden that has been naturalised by wild flowers associated with mature woodland. It is a small pocket of biodiversity surrounded by monoculture arable farmland.

Should this Permission in Principle be permitted, then the Parish Council would like considered at the Technical Details Consent the following aspects

particularly in relation to sustainability and the mitigation of climate change ambitions from the NPPF paragraph 8c) and others:

- This site will deliver new housing stock and requires the release of Green Belt land to do so. As a quid pro quo the new housing should significantly minimise its impact on the environment and contribution to climate change.
- The dwellings should not utilise a direct connection for the use of fossil fuels (gas) or the storage capacity (oil, LPG etc) for heating and/or hot water and should seek other low carbon solutions.
- The dwellings should seek to maximise its use of renewable energy through solar, heat pumps, battery storage and other available low carbon technologies.
- The dwellings should seek to maximise the collection of rainwater for use within the building (e.g. as grey water for toilets etc) to reduce requirements from the mains supply. The often-proposed water butt in the garden solution is not an adequate contribution to reducing the draw on mains water.
- Each dwelling should provide facility for Electric Vehicle charging and bicycle storage.
- The material selection should be in keeping with the character of Farmborough (in general) and the Royal Oak cottages (specifically), and make use of white lias stone (typical of the area) as far as practicable. As per the details in NPPF paragraph 135.
- The existing hedgerows and trees need to be protected within the development conditions.
- The size of the dwellings should be similar to the adjacent cottages, providing smaller more affordable solutions.

Proposed by DP Seconded by DH

8 in favour

- ii. **26/00431/FUL** 6 Bellifants, Farmborough

Installation of flat dormer window to front of property.

**SUPPORT** with no comment.

Proposed by MC Seconded by RB

8 in favour

- iii. **26/00566/FUL** Farmborough Recreation Ground, Tilley Lane, Farmborough

All weather single lane cricket nets.

**SUPPORT** with no comment.

Proposed by SR Seconded by RB

8 in favour

**b To report B&NES decisions for the following applications:**

- i. **24/02031/FUL** Land Between Old Lane and Conygre Brook, Old Lane, Farmborough

Reprofiling of the land, amendment to and delivery of the existing pedestrian pathway and associated landscaping

**PERMIT**

**c To report on other planning matters (referrals, enforcement, appeals etc...)**

None

**5 Finance, HR, Legal and Admin**

**a To approve the monthly finance report for February 2026**

Additional payment approved to Solopress for printing of the precept leaflets and posters cost £70.11 plus VAT

8 Approved

**b Balance of accounts on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

i. Current account: £17,560.65

ii. Savings account: £20,978.67

**c To note the progress of financial recovery from Handy Compliance**

The debt recovery company has contacted the debtor; the case remains open.

**d To consider an IT strategy for the parish council**

The Clerk has completed training for Assertion 10 (Parts 1 and 2). Relevant policies will need to be updated to achieve compliance; this is an ongoing work programme.  
ACTION: Clerk to update the policies

Clerk

**e To note pay increase to the Village Road Sweeper comes into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April**

Noted

**f To consider candidates for co-option onto the Parish Council**

None

**g To consider the topic for an ad to be included in the next issue of the Flyer**

Place advert for Annual Village Meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026.  
Request delivery of precept leaflets with the April Flyer.

**6 To receive a report from the Clerk**

A CIL payment of £84.89 was received. Training for Assertion 10 has been completed. Accrued holiday entitlement for the Clerk and Village Sweeper has been calculated and implemented. Work is ongoing to divide the village into a four-weekly rota for the Village Sweeper. Follow-up emails have been sent regarding tree works.

**7 Parks, Open Spaces and Environment**

**a Play & Fitness Equipment**

- i. To note any report and actions from the Working Group  
Nothing to report

**b Allotments**

- i. To note any report and actions from the Working Group  
Rent payments are being received for 2026/27
- ii. Bristol Water standpipe inspection  
ACTION: Clerk to arrange time and date and meet with the inspector

Clerk

**c Farmborough Climate and Nature Emergency**

- i. To note any report and actions from the Working Group  
Nothing to report

**8 Highways, Rights of Way and Infrastructure**

**a To receive an update on Community Speed Watch**

Nothing to report

**b To agree on any additional tasks for the Village Road Sweeper**

The ditch at the corner of The Mead / The Batch requires clearing of accumulated mud.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the Village Sweeper

Clerk

**c To discuss road safety measures through the village**

Speeding along the A39 and Timsbury Road has been reported to the Parish Council by residents.

ACTION: Clerk to report the issue to Highways.

Clerk

**9 Community Engagement**

**a Emergency Planning Working Group**

- i. To note any report and actions from the Working Group  
Received draft report back from B&NES Officers. Feedback was positive, with a small number of amendments requested.

ACTION: An advertisement to be placed in the May Flyer asking residents to volunteer to be a part of the Emergency Plan Volunteers Group.

SR

**b To discuss the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> April**

- i. The meeting date was confirmed for **30 April 2026 at 7.30pm**. All successful Section 137 grant applicants for 2025–2026 will be invited to attend or submit a written report. Youth Connect Southwest and Temple Cloud Cricket Club will be

invited to provide updates.

ACTION: Clerk to notify grant applicants and Youth Connect Southwest;

Clerk

ACTION: MG to liaise with Temple Cloud Cricket Club.

MG

**c Correspondence**

i. The Cam Valley bus proposal - update

The clerk of Camerton and Tunley is producing a joint letter on behalf of the local parishes that will include a proposal to be sent to WECA, First Bus and B&NES Council.

ii. To consider nominations for the Chelwood Bridge Rotary Club Community Award 2026

ACTION: Clerk to add this item on the agenda for further consideration until the deadline in August.

Clerk

**10 Reports**

**a Farmborough Recreation Ground Committee (was Sports & Social)**

Plans for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the pavilion are ongoing. A planning application for TCCC all-weather single-lane cricket nets has been submitted. The shipping container at The Rec needs to be cleared to accommodate storage of the new cricket roller. The sweeper's equipment will be relocated to a new smaller container at the allotments.

ACTION: SR, MG and DH to visit the allotments to confirm the location and works needed for a new small shipping container for the Village Sweeper's equipment.

SR, MG, DH

**b Memorial Hall Committee**

New heating parts have arrived and are awaiting installation. The Parish picnic tables require assembly and placement outside ready for use.

ACTION: DH and DP volunteered to assemble the picnic tables.

DH, DP

**c To receive a report from the Ward Councillor**

B&NES budget allocated for feasibility studies into reducing the speed limit of roads and lanes have been confirmed as those put forward by the Ward Cllr at the end of last year, including Timsbury Road, Tilley Lane, Hunstrete Road and Loves Lane. Apparently, they have never been assessed for suitability previously. Ward Cllr to follow up and report back on progress/outcomes during the year.

Highways concerns continue, specifically around access onto and across Timsbury Road from the junctions with The Mead up to the junction with the A39 Bath Road.

As we approach 6 April, bus service cuts are looming. The Ward Cllr has written an open letter to WECA, First Bus and B&NES Council about the loss of important morning and evening services on the 522 route. There are also concerns about safety and access to/from bus stops and buses failing to stop in remote areas.

Meetings attended last month: Somer Valley Forum and Full Council (Budget)

Meetings attending this month: Corporate Policy and Scrutiny and Parish Liaison.

**d To receive any reports from Councillors**

MC suggested that adrenaline auto-injector pens (EpiPens) could be added to first aid kits at the hall and pavilion, at an estimated cost of £70-£100 per pen.

ACTION: Clerk to consult with other parish clerks and carry out further research for consideration by the council at a future meeting.

Clerk

Note: A road closure is scheduled at the end of The Mead from 20-21 March.

**e To receive items put forward for discussion at the next meeting to be held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> 2026**

None

Meeting ended: 9.30pm

Signed by

Chair to the Parish Council, as an accurate representation of the meeting, agreed on