

FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Meeting
held in
All Saints Church, Forton
on
Wednesday 14 May 2025

PRESENT: Cllrs: S Spencer (Acting Chair), P Hammond, Z Young, A Hawkins,
O Thomas
Borough Councillor: S Spencer
C Little (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr D Carver RFO
County Councillor Mark Winnington not in attendance

2. Minutes of Annual Meeting 8 May 2024:

Minutes were accepted by councillors as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Current Chairman's Report:

The Chairman gave an overview of the key topics from the previous year:

- He stated that we had finally made progress with securing repairs on A519
- He thanked Cllr Young for her time and effort in attempting to secure a defibrillator for the parish.
- He stated that the parish council was grateful for the updates received on the village hall project as we had been able to include them in our minutes.
- He advised that the litter pick had been effective and well supported. He extended special thanks to Borough Councillor Spencer for his support.
- He wished to extend thanks to Ashley Gillam and Forton Cricket Club for stepping in to provide a meeting venue. He also thanked the clerk for her efforts in pursuing a bid for welcome signage and planters.
- He confirmed that the parish council had approved and distributed grants at the end of the financial year.

The Chair thanked David Carver for his invaluable role as RFO and Carol Little for her contribution as Clerk. Cllr Hammond stated that he felt that the clerk had done an excellent job over the years and that all councillors were grateful. The clerk expressed her gratitude for their kind words.

4. Appointment of Chairman and Declaration of Office:

- Cllr Spencer stood down as chairman. None of the councillors wished to take on the role. The parish council were therefore unable to appoint a chairman or vice chairman. Cllr Spencer proposed that councillors would have to cover meetings on an ad hoc basis going forward, this was unanimously agreed. Cllr Spencer agreed to cover the annual meeting and the immediately following scheduled meeting.

5. Appointment of Vice Chair:

- As stated in point 4 no appointment was possible.

6. Appointment of Responsible Financial Officer:

- Cllr Spencer advised that mindful of his absence Cllr Carver had offered to continue as Responsible Financial Officer, this was unanimously agreed. This office had been accepted by Councillor Carver ahead of the meeting.

7. Time for Public Participation:

Parishioner Chris Tait was in attendance ahead of the scheduled meeting to express his interest in the councillor vacancy

8. Date of next Annual Meeting:

Wednesday 13th May 2026 (venue to be confirmed)

9. Meeting dates for the next year:

Wednesday 16th July 2025
Wednesday 19th November 2025
Wednesday 11th March 2026
Wednesday 13th May 2026

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 7:10pm