Minutes of Full Parish Council Meeting held on 8 September 2026 at 7.00pm at The Village Centre New Hill Farnsfield Newark Nottinghamshire NG22 8JN

Present:	**Chair**	Cllr Rachel Parkin
	Vice-Chair	Cllr Corinne Moore
		Cllr Joyce Shakeshaft
		Cllr Joss Dixon,
		Cllr Mickey Gavin
		Cllr Michele Wilson
		Cllr Maurice Shakeshaft
		Cllr Lesley Healy
Also Present:	**Clerk/RFO**	Mrs Binal Sawjani
	Members of Public	39
	District/County	Cllr Maurice Shakeshaft
	Apologises:	Cllr Sally Savage
		Cllr Nick Greene

Item 2527.FC083 Welcome to the meeting: Chair opened meeting at 19.00 and welcomed councillors, public and district councillor. Chair announced that meeting has been recorded by a member of the public
Meeting opened to the public:

- Parishioner asked if we could investigate poison hemlock in the area – clerk explained that we were covering in the meeting

19.02 Cllr Mickey Gavin arrived
Parishioner left

Public Session ended 19.04

Chair invited Cllr Maurice Shakeshaft to speak

- Local Government Reorganisation Councils across the country have been advised by central government that it will be undertaking a review of the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) programme nationally and 14 areas will be 'paused' while a review is carried out. The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire programme is among those that have been paused while the review is undertaken. We await further information from the government with no confirmed timeline.
- Cllr reported that Newark and Sherwood District Council have reported the "tilted balance" is a planning policy test from paragraph 11(d) of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which shifts decision making in favour of granting permission when key housing policies are out of date—typically because a council cannot demonstrate a five year housing land supply. And its "tilts" the normal planning balance toward approval.

19.07 Parishioner arrived
Meeting continued after County and District Councillors 19.08

Item 2526.FC084 Apologies for absence: Cllr Sally Savage and Cllr Nick Greene both accepted

Item 2526.FC085 To receive declarations of interest in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and to consider any requests for dispensations: Cllr Maurice Shakeshaft that he would not comment on and any planning application item g under Parish matters Southwell Road Housing Development as he is on the local planning committee. Cllr Joyce Shakeshaft declared as his partner

Item 2526.FC86 To approve the draft notes as minutes of the last meeting held on the 21 July 2026: RESOLVED to adopt and sign the notes as accurate minutes. They were dated and signed by the Chair. Cllr Healy asked for her name to be spelt correctly noted.

Item 2526.FC87 Training: Clerk explained that training available to all Staff and elected Members. Training is strongly advised by the clerk and however council could not agree a date in August. Next plan was Saturday in September but as it would encroach on Cllr own time Clerk has arranged for the monitoring officer to take council through some training. Invited to next meeting 22 September 2026. No other training taken

Item 2526.FC88 Chair's Report:

- Chair was meant to have met with the football team earlier today to discuss the upcoming work to the football pitch. But had to rearrange at the last minute
- Chair attended a BBQ and charity day at Farnsfield Villa FC ground for the presentation of a memorial bench. Chair thanked resident who had funded the bench and event. All proceeds raised form the event were donated to the Football club
- Chair visited the Tea@2 group and thanked the organisers for their hospitality and warm welcome.

Item 2526.FC89 Clerk's Report

- Thank you to the parishioners for the warm welcome to Farnsfield
- Broadband/Telephone needs to be renewed – the clerk is struggling with the current arrangement and proposed to look in this matter but needed a budget as when you call providers them you need to make the deal rather than wait. Proposed that budget for clerk to investigate that the allowance should be set at £100 for Broadband, landline and mobile phone seconded and RESOLVED
- Invoices that have not been resolved – Mercury £573.62 for fire alarm and fire alarm monitoring. Council are covered until January 2027, Music Licence £1,084.91, Handicentre £3.00 all RESOLVED SLCC £4,015.20 March 2026 and £1,234.08 April 2026 outstanding, but these had not been chased email and ask about them
- Key Audit – there were many keys that had been with unauthorised people and old councillors. Keyholders are now Clerk, Cllr Parkin and Cllr Gavin. Hall booking not in normal working hours have been covered by clerk, booking clerk and caretaker Proposed, seconded and RESOLVED
- Starbucks opening on 17 September all councillors invited – if you would like to attend, please let clerk know
- Lengthsman Event – Clerk to attend 9 September with the caretaker
- Farnie – Monthly pieces and clerk will share council news but not council resolutions

Item 2526.FC90 Parish Matters To receive updates from in respect of:

a) AGAR Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2025/26 – Clerk has been through the AGAR, and bank reconciliation does not match to the balance on the audit. The shortfall is £6,883.96
Clerk has spent time to find invoices and they are missing. PKF are in full agreement that this is the way forward. Clerk reiterated that the starting balance on the paper version did not match Rialtas and therefore the AGAR has been a manual calculation. Clerk has checked with PKF and confirmed that the starting number and then proceeded to complete the audit. This is exactly the same position as we were at the 9 June meeting. There is one task remaining with the internal auditor. If this motion is carried it will allow the clerk to complete the 2025/26 AGAR by end of the month.

b) AGAR Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2024/25 – Clerk has chased this with PKF and they would like to undertake an engagement review – which is to go over the governance part of the audit so that they can include omissions in public interest repot and council receive a closure notice.
After much discussion it was proposed that Cllr Wilson review the figures with the clerk, seconded and RESOLVED

c) Library Leak – Ongoing issue with the library ingress issue – needed to gain three quotes Supplier One £10,166 ex VAT, Supplier Two £8,340 inc VAT (recommended) and Supplier Three £4,834.42 inc VAT – details supplied in briefing documents. Proposed, seconded and RESOLVED

d) Remembrance Day – 8 November 2026 road closure £835.00 plus £50.00 donation for a wreath proposed, seconded and RESOLVED
e) Governance review – review has been ongoing with briefing scoping and preparing for 19 meetings, over a three-day period and one day of review meeting in three sessions and we should have a report next week and clerk reported back that 6.5 days had been used so far.
f) Football Pitch – The next phase of the work needed on the Pitch is the reseeding. Under the current plan the grant funding should have covered this initial work, but as Facilities and Environment committee haven't yet been able to apply for the grant it was proposed that the Council cover this next step of work, giving plenty of time for the grants to be applied for, ready for the next stage of work needed next year. Proposed that we pay £2500 so the work can go ahead. Seconded and RESOLVED
g) Southwell Road Housing Development - A residents' meeting had taken place on 24 August. As a council we have received 127 emails which have been collated and sent to Wain Estates. A meeting that been scheduled with Wain Estates to start a dialogue. In attendance will be clerk, two councillors, two residents, and county and district councillors. This is planned for 16 September 2026. The residents' group have organised themselves into Farnsfield Preservation Group and clerk had asked a representative to provide a summary of their main points. Presentation from the residents group. Questions and comments followed and then a motion was proposed without a planning application for councils' consideration. Motion was not carried.

Most of the Parishioners left 10 members of public left

h) Facilities and Environment Actions:
    i. Bulb order – Ongoing Greener Gateways initiative wildflower and bulb order for £400 proposed, seconded and RESOLVED

21.11 another two parishioners left

Clerk asked for meeting to be extended for a further 20 minutes to 9.30pm proposed, seconded and RESOLVED

    ii. Bunds and Management of the Poison Hemlock - A meeting took place where the bunds were discussed and advised was that not all bunds required cutting at that time. Following resident contact and understanding of a police concern, the bunds had been cut. This action remained in line with the Council's agreed bund maintenance plan. After the work, the Council received 13 emails complimenting the decision and 3 complaints. As with many matters of this nature, we cannot please everyone, but we continue to listen to residents. Clerk recommends that further work need to be done in this matter. Clerk will now act as the only Council's point of contact for all matters relating to bund maintenance.
    Poison Hemlock is toxic to humans and animals if ingested, and all parts of the plant should be handled with caution due to possible skin reactions. During the bund work, the team identified and cut back hemlock. It was not strimmed; it was cut with shears, moved by hand, and disposed of at the plant using correct PPE. The soil in these areas is poor, and a range of plants can grow among it. The hemlock is dangerous to animals only if a stalk is bitten and ingested, not simply from being present on the ground. If any resident has bagged hemlock they wish to dispose of, clerk is happy to arrange collection and safe removal.

21.16 Cllr Joyce Shakeshaft left room and returned

    iii. Proposal to adopt the Bund Management Policy from Newark and Sherwood District Council - Clerk recommendation that we review the to resolve the policy once we understand the full plan, attach the images and maps relating to the bund plan and then adopt. Meeting planned 16 September. Council did not agree – Bund Policy was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED

Four parishioners remain

iv. Scarecrow Day – Proposed that access was needed to the lockup, seconded and RESOLVED.

i) Highways: Flooding/ Wildfire - Clerk had received four emails and two phone calls about flooding in the village and two emails regarding potential wildfires recommends that Facilities and Environment scope out plan for full council.

Item 2526.FC91 Planning Applications: Clerk recommends with a council this size we should set up a Planning committee. Follow up action by clerk.

Item 2526.FC92 Correspondence: To receive and dispose of correspondence received since the last meeting:

- 127 emails received regarding the Southwell Road potential development – six hours of phone calls
- Parishioner received request to have a plaque on the bench in front of the co-op in memory of their mum
- Received correspondence that the Farnsfield lock-up has been awarded a blue plaque
- Emails received on potential fire and flooding issue in the village
- Road bulletins are now on website and noticeboard
- Email received regarding car park signage that has been vandalised

21.19 Cllr Maurice Shakeshaft and Cllr Joyce Shakeshaft left

Item 2526.FC93 Dates of next meeting: To note the date of the next meeting: 22 September 2026

Item 2526.FC94 Financial matters:

a) To note bank balances on bank statements as of September 2026 £68,264.05
b) To note income – Village Centre £1,722.45
c) To authorise the signing of orders for payment for previous months

Date	Payee	Amount
31-Aug-26	Service Charge	£ 11.50
28-Aug-26	NEST	£ 201.68
28-Aug-26	HugoFOX	£ 23.99
24-Aug-26	Water Plus	£ 162.34
20-Aug-26	NEWARK & SHERWOOD	£ 30.42
19-Aug-26	HMRC SDDS	£ 68.23
19-Aug-26	BT GROUP PLC	£ 85.32
18-Aug-26	EDF ENERGY	£ 114.14
17-Aug-26	LLOYDS BANK PLC	£ 165.11
17-Aug-26	BRITISH GAS	£ 11.72
14-Aug-26	Employee Salaries	£ 3,172.15
10-Aug-26	EE LIMITED	£ 24.65
06-Aug-26	Zest Group	£ 185.04
Total		**£ 4,256.29**

Closed Session

Item 2526.FC95 – Clerk asked council to RESOLVE decision to approve hours from 25 per week to 37.5 hours as per contract. Seconded and RESOLVED

Item 2526.FC96 – 3.3% pay rise has been approved for council workers. Proposed for clerk, booking clerk and caretaker and backdated to April 2026. Clerk will supply figures next meeting.

Meeting ended 21.33

Council Finance

Unity

Month	Income	Spend	Net Position
April	£ 48,504.16	£ 5,483.16	'+£43,021.00
May	£ 3,014.92	£ 26,094.96	–£23,080.04
June	£ 2,880.39	£ 20,921.33	–£18,040.94
July	£ 3,208.71	£ 7,264.81	–£4,056.10
August	£ 1,772.45	£ 4,256.29	–£2,483.84

Bank	Totals
Nationwide	£ 81,250.61
Cambridge	£ 37,799.04
Mansfield	£ 85,854.37

Month	Closing Balance
April	£119,372.75
May	£96,292.71
June	£78,251.77
July	£74,195.67
August	£71,711.83