

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

SOUTHERN RURAL COMMUNITY FORUM

MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES, GERONON ROAD, LETCHWORTH, SG6 3JF
ON THURSDAY, 21ST MAY, 2026 AT 7.30 PM

MINUTES

Present: *Councillors: Dominic Griffiths, Vijaiya Poopalasingham, David Barnard, Claire Strong, Caroline McDonnell, Ralph Muncer, Lisa Nash, Steven Patmore, Louise Peace, Paul Ward and Laura Williams.*

In Attendance: *Robert Filby (Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer) and James Lovegrove (Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager).*

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Audio recording – 47 minutes 9 seconds

N.B. There is no separate audio recording of this meeting. Time stamps refer to the recording of Annual Council on the 21 May 2026.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Joe Graziano.

2 ELECTION OF A CHAIR FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2026/27

Councillor Paul Ward proposed Councillor Dominic Griffiths for Chair of the Southern Rural Community Forum, and this was seconded by Councillor Caroline McDonnell.

Councillor Ralph Muncer proposed Councillor Joe Graziano for Chair of the Southern Rural Community Forum, and this was seconded by Councillor David Barnard.

Following a vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Dominic Griffiths be elected as Chair of the Southern Rural Community Forum for the 2026/27 Civic Year.

3 ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIR FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2026/27

Councillor Dominic Griffiths proposed Councillor Paul Ward for Vice-Chair of the Southern Rural Community Forum, and this was seconded by Councillor Caroline McDonnell.

Councillor Ralph Muncer proposed Councillor Steven Patmore for Vice-Chair of the Southern Rural Community Forum, and this was seconded by Councillor David Barnard.

Following a vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Paul Ward be elected as Vice-Chair of the Southern Rural Community Forum for the Civic Year 2026-27.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Chair