Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council

DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 8th October 2026 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall

Councillors present: John Rushman (JR) Chair, Brandon Mahon (BM) Vice Chair, Paul Butler (PB), Linda Leong-Son (LLS)

In attendance: Clerk Justin Hook (JH), District Cllr Sarah Broughton (SB), David Yates (DY) from the church, Carl Vella (CV) representative from All Saints Resort (ASR), and 6 members of the public.

DRAFT

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Chair's welcome & apologies for absence.
   The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting.
   Council resolved to accept apologies received from County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger.

2. To receive any Declarations of Members' Interests.
   None received.

3. Approve and adopt the minutes from council meeting 10th September 2026.
   Council resolved to approve the minutes and the Chair signed them.

4. To receive County & District Councillors reports.
   COUNTY
   None received.
   DISTRICT
   LGR currently on hold. WSC District elections to take place in May 27.
   Call for sites complete for next West Suffolk Local Plan – some 328 sites identified – mostly speculative. Officers now to go through all sites by October and put forward recommendations for next plan. Spring will see consultation for any sites. Pro's and con's assessed for all sites.
   Clerk noted high proportion of sites identified in the FSM area.
   SB confirmed many of the same sites as before, added again. Working party looking at sites, and must be balanced across BSE / Haverhill / Mildenhall.

5. **PUBLIC FORUM** 15 minutes.
   Council to receive questions and issues on matters arising from the agenda and from the village.
   Residents raised concerns regarding the ASR amphitheatre;
   recent two page doc of extra info doesn't fully answer questions / concerns raised | *inadequate data re: days / hours* | *60 events seems a lot* | *extra parking requirements* | *no noise assessment* | *lighting vague* | *non amplification not enforceable* | *golf ball safety* | *question if change of use applicable?*
   CV advised ASR had listened to all responses and were proposing strict enforceable planning conditions regarding hours (10am – 8.30pm), non-amplification, non-illumination, cap on attendees, low impact short duration events.
   ASR view is this is an alternative provision rather than extra, so many of the guests would have already been at the hotel, rather than extra guests needing more parking. Car park capacity ok.
   With landscaping, golf safety would be no different to people walking on public footpaths.
   Residents questioned flimsy, inadequate planning application, with little to no detail, and still after two Parish Council meetings. Why not full detail at the start?
   Residents questioned the need for an extra venue space, and concerned other plans at the

site are already proposing to remove car parking spaces (spa extension).
Residents request Council uphold their holding objection for further review.
SB confirmed that the process will now require re-consultation anyway.
Cllrs noted the lack of trust from previous applications still remains (despite building bridges).
Council is fed a little, but not the bigger plan – more detail at the start required.
PB questioned catering/hospitality provision.
Resident re-iterated trust issues, esp. in relation to the lodges and their use, as well as lack of faith in WSC to enforce.

6. Planning applications.
   Council to consider the following planning applications
   i. DC/26/1395/HH
      17 Ord Road Fornham St Martin Suffolk IP31 1TB
      Householder planning application - single storey rear extension
      Council resolved to SUPPORT this application.

   Council to receive the following update
   i. DC/26/1241/FUL **(holding objection vote recorded at September meeting)**
      Further information has been added to the planning portal. Clerk has shared with Cllrs
      Council resolved to uphold the HOLDING OBJECTION on the basis that further clarity is required.

7. Finance.
   Council to consider and approve the following;
   i. Council reviewed the Q2 review.
      Council resolved the virement of £4,200 from the playpark reserves to help cover the costs incurred from recent improvements.
   ii. **Council resolved to approve authorisation for outstanding invoices & payments, totalling £6,549.11.**
   iii. Council noted payments received for September – **Total: £96.94** (£75.90 advertising, £21.04 interest).
   iv. Council noted bank balances to end of September – **Total: £42,845.02** (£265.65 current / £42,579.37 savings).
   v. Council resolved to approve the bank reconciliation for September.

8. Clerks update.
   i. Volunteering group update
      Group is working extremely well - some great achievements, and lots of thanks from residents. Next session planned Oct 16th and Nov 6th (weather dependant).
   ii. Children's play area improvements
      Works complete – thank you to Susan, for another fantastic job **– ITEM COMPLETE.**
   iii. White lines, B1106 bend
      Due to be completed by end of October.
   iv. Bus stop improvements – Oak Close
      Ongoing – Clerk to propose further works to improve pavement, drop kerbs, access.
   v. Basal growth on trees
      Covered later under item 13.
   vi. Fencing Russel Baron Road
      Due to be replaced by WCS.
   vii. Manhole opposite Fornham House
      Safety measures in place whilst awaiting fix. Signs have fallen over.
   viii. Quiet lane Mill Road and across
      Ongoing.

DRAFT

ix. Cemetery requirements
Clerk has liaised with Rector, who will speak to Diocese and report back in due course **– ITEM CLOSED.**

x. Bank mandate update
ACTION: Clerk to check and confirm amendments.

xi. Bugle distributor team member required – St Genevieve (circa 70 units)
Clerk has completed walk round with distributer.
ACTION: Clerk to advertise for new distributor team member in next Bugle. Clerk will distribute until new distributor found for this route.

xii. Overflowing dog bin in playing field
Emptied **– ITEM CLOSED.**

xiii. Welcome one page leaflet
Clerk has updated after feedback.
ACTION: Clerk to make final tweak and circulate for final approval.

xiv. Dog fouling signs
Ongoing.

xv. Bend sign update
Clerk tallying up works with sign manufacturer / tree surgeon / traffic management company – expect mid November.

xvi. Playing field planting
David Randall (DR) obtained price £180 for 1000 bulbs.
Council resolved for DR to order and speak to Clerk to organise volunteers to help plant once arrived.

xvii. Memorial garden
DR provided quote of £135 for suitable mature tree.
ACTION: Clerk to work with contractor to reduce barked area and prepare for new memorial garden area, and obtain quotes for bench.

9. Councillors reports.
   i. Weekly & monthly play park inspection reports - Cllr Rushman/Cllr Butler
   Council to receive updates from monthly report and Cllrs bi-weekly visual inspections.
   JR confirmed site looking good after works, but did note rabbit scrapes in play area.
   ii. Speeding in the village - Cllr Mahon/Clerk
   Data from the new VAS unit, since last meeting:
   IN: avg: 26mph, max: 66mph, compliance to 30mph limit: 95% (50+mph 0.02%)
   OUT: avg: 26mph, max: 52mph, compliance to 30mph limit: 93% (50+mph 0.01%)
   Clerk noted average speeds and compliance was good. Minority causing an issue.
   Clerk raised a correspondence from a Barton Hill resident regarding speeding on Barton Hill, esp. the mid section between 17-24. Resident estimated some at 60mph.
   ACTION: Clerk to raise with police / enforcement team.

10. Local Plan 2045 – Call for sites update.
Council to review sites list and sites map, noting circa. 13 sites identified in the parish
Council noted that there was a lot of development put forward for St Martin, plus the golf course site in All Saints. Nothing concrete yet to review.

11. Local Plan 2045 – Parish Consultation: Audit of Settlement Services and Facilities.
Council to review matrix of sustainability indicators for services & provisions, is parks / allotments / employment.
Clerk has responded to consultation. It suggests FSM is 600m “to a higher order settlement (BSE) using established walking/cycling routes,” which is factually incorrect and needs to be recalculated.

DRAFT

12. Volunteer Group spoils, currently piled by village sign.
    Council to review quote to have all matter chipped and removed.
    At the time of the meeting the quote was not received.
    Council resolved a budget of £200 for the works.

13. Basal growth on trees on The Street.
    Council to review quote to have all basal growth removed and crowns lifted.
    At the time of the meeting the quite was not received.
    Council resolved to defer to a future agenda.

14. Merging with Fornham All Saints Parish Council – update and next steps.
    Clerk advised this was going before full WSC on the 13th October, in line with Council's preferred name and Cllr provision. Once decided, Council can begin planning.

15. Potentially merging The Bugle and The Village Voice in Feb 27 when both start their next advertising cycle, to include a review of advertising fees.
    Clerk has begun a piece of work looking at income vs costs and the implication of merging the publications.
    Council resolved to defer this to a future agenda.
    ACTION: Clerk to share spreadsheet and thoughts.

16. Village works, as identified in Cllr Mahon's review of assets, a quote has been received from Susan Pocklington for various works.
    Council resolved to defer this to a future agenda, so proper thought can be given to an order of priority vs budget.
    ACTION: Clerk to share quote and thoughts.

17. Purchase of a poppy wreath for Remembrance Day and who should lay it.
    Council resolved to purchase and for Cllr Mahon to attend and lay (10.15am service).

18. Correspondence.
    i. Thanks from the stitchers group for their donation towards hall hire
    ii. Maureen Hockett – village hall fascias
    Request for further funds. Clerk advised unavailable this year.
    iii. Thanks for volunteer group x 3
    iv. Speeding on Barton Hill
    Item covered under item 9i.
    v. Resident letter re: ASR amphitheatre:
    Covered under item 5.

19. Items to be raised on a future agenda.
    i. Flag pole and flying of a flag at the village hall
    ii. Updated planning application from ASR re: amphitheatre

20. Date of next meeting.
    Next meeting to be the held on 12th November 2026, at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 7.36pm.

To be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting of the Parish Council, Thursday 12th November.

Signed: Date:

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