

Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council

APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 8th January at 6.30pm in the Village Hall

Councillors present: Clive Last (CL) Chair, John Rushman (JR) Vice Chair, Paul Butler (PB) and Brandon Mahon (BM).

In attendance: Clerk Justin Hook (JH), District Cllr Sarah Broughton (SB), Hannah Cuthbertson from All Saints Resort (HC), and 3 members of the public.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Chairs welcome & apologies for absence.
The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting. Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Leong-Son and County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger.
2. To receive any Declarations of Members' Interests.
None received.
3. Approve and adopt the minutes from council meeting held on Thursday 13th November.
Council resolved to approve the minutes and the Chair signed them.
4. To receive County & District Councillors reports.
Not a great deal to report.
Awaiting a response from government on Local Government Reorganisation and whether Suffolk will have a single unitary authority or three.
Funding has been approved for the bend warning sign, Clerk to receive conformation soon.
5. **PUBLIC FORUM** 10 minutes.
Cllr Last noted that there had been no call for sites following the approval of the Local Plan. SB advised that a judicial review had been raised on the Local Plan, which is holding up proceedings.
6. Planning applications for consideration;
Council noted there were no new applications to consider.
7. Finance.
Council to consider and approve the following;
 - i. **Council resolved to approve outstanding invoices & payments totalling £3,893.47.**
 - ii. Council noted payments received for November/December totalling £6,131.48 (£1,168.65 advertising / £4,932.65 VAT reclaim / £30.18 interest).
 - iii. **Council resolved to approve the bank reconciliation for November/December.**
 - iv. Council reviewed and noted the Q3 review of budget vs spend.
 - v. **Council resolved to approve the revised draft budget for 2026/27, with a proposed Precept of £38,000, equating to a £77.10 contribution for a Band D property, an increase of £2.61 (3.5%) on the previous year.**
8. Highways, footpaths and trees.
Action on overgrown pathways in the village.
ACTION: Clerk to share revised spec with different contractors.

9. Clerks update

- i. Street signs Lark Valley Drive, School Lane & Oak Close.
Lark Valley Drive sign replaced, the others have been reported.
- ii. 30mph sign opp. Lark Valley Drive.
Still awaiting replacement, Clerk has re-raised.
- iii. Pavement issues bottom of Barton Hill.
SCC have responded and doesn't meet criteria for action – **ITEM CLOSED.**
- iv. Bus stop by BMW garage.
Item to be addressed as part of the village works or potentially a volunteer group job.
- v. Lark Valley Drive - hedges along footpath.
Clerk met with Rights of Way Officer and resident. Landowner has been identified and resident to follow up with them – **ITEM CLOSED.**
- vi. Volunteering group.
Clerk has completed training and awaiting qualification certificate/card. Cllrs Rushman and Leong-Son booked to complete the course in March.
Clerk to compile a list of tools required, PC to purchase, SCC to refund. Potential date end January, if qualification comes through.
ACTION: Clerk to investigate where tools could be stored (VH/Waste Hub/Stennetts).
- vii. Fly tipping.
Fridge freezer still there, but tucked out of sight. Land agent has installed gates to restrict access and hopefully stop further dumping – **ITEM CLOSED.**
- viii. Bus timetable frame.
Clerk has chased.
- ix. Caravan on Barton Hill.
Council resolved to take no action – ITEM CLOSED.
- x. No Cold Caller Zone, Fairways estate and Barton Hill estate.
Clerk has applied to Trading Standards for schemes in both locations.
- xi. Moles on the roundabout and The Street.
Clerk instructed mole man to continue as before – **ITEM CLOSED.**

10. Merging of the two parish councils to create one parish council for the three Fornhams.

Clerk has notified WSC of the councils intentions to be grouped with Fornham All Saints, detailing all aspects of the discussions so far.

Next step is to write to all residents to advise them of the plan and the reasons behind the move. Cllr Last drafted a letter, council discussed distribution options and whether they had already done enough to meet the 'subject specific communication' criteria.

Council resolved for the Clerk to contact WSC for advice. If required, an A4 letter to be printed (folded, no envelope) and distributed with each copy of the next Bugle.

11. Parish Matters.

- i. Weekly & monthly play park inspection reports.
Council noted the same problems recurring on monthly report and Cllrs bi-weekly visual inspections, and that monies need to be spent to secure the long-term future of the play equipment.
ACTION: Clerk to begin costing for repair / replacement of worst affected items.

12. Trim trail at the play park

Council to consider quote to replace all trim trail edging for total £2,434 inc. VAT.

Council resolved that Cllr Rushman would produce something for the Bugle, to gauge public perception on whether the trim trail is used and therefore needs repairing, or if not required, its removal.

Council resolved to accept the quote to jet wash the trim trail, play equipment and wooden gates for total £200 inc. VAT.

13. Gate to playing field
Council resolved to accept the quote to reset the leaning post, new gate ironmongery and removal of unsightly support to right hand side for total £320 inc. VAT.
Action: Clerk to obtain quote to have the gates sanded and re-stained/varnished.
Clerk noted that he now has a full set of keys for the gate and high level gate.
14. Playing field condition
Clerk noted that there are lots of moles around the play park and holes all over the football pitch – which don't look like mole hills – maybe rabbits?
ACTION: Clerk to speak to mole man for advice.
ACTION: Cllr Rushman and Cllr Butler to inspect also.
15. Bend in road signage – Fornham St Genevieve.
Street furniture licence has been approved and paid for.
RH & SB have agreed to fund £3,000 towards the equipment cost.
Council resolved to approve the quote for £4,442.00 for the sign purchase.
Council resolved to accept the quotation to fit a pole for £500 inc. VAT (including highways license).
Council resolved to purchase the necessary pole (circa. £75-£80 +Vat).
16. Councillors reports and items for future agenda.
i. Speeding in the village – Cllr Mahon.
BM and Clerk to meet to discuss plans for a new location opposite Lark Valley Drive.
Council remain convinced that the VAS units do have an impact.
PB asked what speed do the units in FAS actually report, if a car is picked up doing for example 38mph, but slows to 30mph by the time they reach the sign – 38 or 30mph?
ACTION: Clerk to investigate.
17. Microsoft Office Subscription
Council resolved for Clerk to purchase Office 356 subscription.
18. Bugle review.
Council noted the Clerks review of the Bugle costings for the Feb26-Jan26 advertising year.
19. Correspondence.
Council to discuss any correspondence received, not already covered on the agenda.
i. Police engagement events.
Clerk advised PC don't hold events as such, other than council meetings, but their attendance is always welcomed and a report for the Annual Parish Meeting appreciated.
ii. Turnberry Drive – state of the road surface.
Resident raised concern over the state of the tarmac at the end of Turnberry Drive.
Clerk reported on SCC portal.
20. Date of next meeting.
Next meeting to be held on February 12th 2026, at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 19.44pm.

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

Signed: *Clive Last*

Date: 12th February, 2026