

# Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council

APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 7.30pm in Village Hall

**Councillors present:** Clive Last (CL) Chair, Paul Butler (PB) and Brandon Mahon (BM)

**In attendance:** Locum Clerk Justin Hook (JH), Hannah Cuthbertson, All Saints Resort (HC), David Yates from the church (DY), and 3 members of the public

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

David Yates (DY) from the church shared the following updates:

Increase in dog fouling in and around the church yard, with a grave sadly being defecated on. PCC to discuss at next meeting – potentially banning dogs. DY questioned what could be done?

CL advised not a PC matter and suggested increased signage or to report to WSC.

Resident suggested to report for £1000 fine, you would need photographic evidence of the dog doing its business and the owner, but that enforcement would be unlikely.

DY also advised a resident had spoken to an offending owner on the field, offered them a bag and the owner refused to pick up. Resident told DY that he would email the Clerk.

Clerk reported, as yet no email received.

DY reminded council of the Remembrance service on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November.

A resident expressed an interest in being part of the volunteering group:

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Chairs welcome & apologies for absence.

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and advised that the Clerk had tendered her resignation, and that Council would be discussing the recruitment of a new Clerk later, under Closed Session. Council were appreciative of her many year's service and wished her well.

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Rushman and Cllr Leong-Son

No apologies received from County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger or District Cllr Sarah Broughton.

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

3. Approve and adopt two sets of minutes from Council meeting 4<sup>th</sup> September.  
**Council resolved to approve the minutes and the Chair signed them.**

4. To receive County & District Councillors reports.  
None received.

5. Planning applications for consideration;  
No new planning applications to consider.

6. Finance.

Council to consider and approve the following;

- i. **Council resolved to approve outstanding invoices & payments totalling £7,018.65.**
- ii. Council noted payments received for September totalling £248.07.
- iii. **Council resolved to approve the bank reconciliation for September.**
- iv. Council reviewed the Q2 review of budget vs spend, noting a healthy financial position.

7. External audit.  
**Council reviewed the External Auditors report and conclusion of audit for 2024/25, and resolved no further action required.**
8. Asset register.  
Council reviewed the updated asset register, to now include estimated insurance values. Total assets to insure, £127,675.00 including recently purchased VAS batteries.  
**Council resolved this was an accurate representation of the assets, and approved and signed the asset register.**  
**Action: Clerk to review if old batteries need to be removed.**
9. Insurance.  
**Council resolved that the insurance renewal provided adequate levels of cover as per the updated asset register and approved the renewal quotation from Gallagher for £1,644.45.**
10. Highways, footpaths and trees.
  - i. Action on overgrown pathways in the village.  
Clerk advised that after the last meeting he had met with Top Garden to do a walk around of all works to ensure the initial quote of £1,280.00 was compatible with expectation. Top Garden subsequently revised some prices, with a new total for all works of £2,040.00.  
**Council resolved to appoint Top Garden to carry out works around the village.**  
CL advised that Council remain committed to keeping the village tidy, taking on what SCC no longer has time or resource for. This is important work, and must be correctly budgeted for moving forwards in next years Precept.  
PL suggested Council should report fully in The Bugle to help residents understand what they are paying for.
11. Bend in road signage – Fornham St Genevieve.  
Clerk chased Cllr Hopfensperger after her contact with the Speed and Safety Team, who have since responded saying this type of device ought to go through the licensing team.  
**Action: Clerk to identify best position for a solar unit and process necessary license application.**
12. Lark Valley Drive - hedges along the Lark Valley Path.  
Clerk corrected this item to reflect that it is NOT the Lark Valley Path in question here, just the footpath that crosses the bottom of Lark Valley Drive.  
Clerk identified conflicting information in old email threads, but has asked both Cllr Hopfensperger and Cllr Broughton to advise, what if anything can be done to escalate.  
Council agree that it really is an issue for the resident to take up with the relevant authority if he is not prepared to have the work carried out himself.
13. Clerks update
  - i. Street signs Lark Valley Drive & School Lane.  
Both have been reported for repair/replacement.
  - ii. 30mph sign opp. Lark Valley Drive.  
Logged on SCC Highways portal, Cllr Mahon has cleared the site.
  - iii. FAS Parish Council meeting, 21<sup>st</sup> October.  
18:00 at the Village Hall, CL and JR to attend (BM if JR unavailable).
  - iv. Meeting with Ben Smith, WSC Governance Team.  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 10am. Ben Smith advised no 'get out clause' as per previous question raised.

- v. Gov.uk domain & email update.  
Ongoing.
- vi. Pavement issues bottom of Barton Hill, and bus stop by BMW garage.  
Ongoing.  
**Action: Clerk to report again.**

14. Trim trail at the play park

Council to consider removing the trim trail as much of it is rotten, or slippery and dangerous, and it is barely used.

General opinion is that few people are using the equipment. Clerk spoke to a resident who advised he sees a small handful of people using it.

Council heard suggestions for replacement with outdoor gym equipment, wildflower meadow or orchard planting.

Suggestion is to canvas for opinion, either in The Bugle or potentially a sign on the gate.

**Council resolved to defer this item to the November meeting.**

15. Volunteering group

Clerk already has a few names together and is looking to book in the initial training session with SCC community Self Help Scheme. Awaiting responses from those already signed up, regarding interest in the training session.

16. Parish Matters.

- i. Weekly & monthly play park inspection reports.

Council to receive updates from monthly report and Cllrs bi-weekly visual inspections.

**Council resolved to defer this item to the November meeting.**

17. Councillors reports and items for future agenda.

- i. Speeding in the village – Cllr Mahon.

BM reported he had spoken to the officer in charge of community speed watch and that to set a scheme up, you need a minimum of 6 active volunteers, all have to be vetted, and complete 1 hour of online training and 1 hour of on site training. The Police carry out site assessments with the scheme coordinator. First offence = letter from the Police, second offence = stronger worded letter, third offence = police visit. Challenges identified are time, and keeping a constant 6 volunteers in the scheme.

Clerk suggested the other villages along the A1101 are considering a group community speed watch, to pool resources, and this could be an option if little interest. PB unsure of the vigilante feel and questioned if it was something the council really wanted to get behind?

Resident highlighted potential road rage / abuse issue.

BM confirmed handling of this is covered in the training.

DY added that a similar scheme in Red Lodge had, after 12 months made a significant difference as behaviours changed.

Resident confirmed Horringer scheme also made a big difference.

**Council resolved to defer this decision to the November meeting.**

18. Correspondence.

- i. Resident email re: meeting dates.

Concern over date changes, publication and notice.

Clerk responded giving times, locations, notice periods etc. All dates on website, agendas in noticeboards 3 days before each meeting.

- ii. Other correspondence.

**Sign failures:** covered under Clerks report.

**Fridge freezer opposite Oaks Close (two separate reports received):** CL identified owner and their agent, who has agreed to deal with the item and potentially look into barriers. Clerk now has contact details in case of future fly tipping.

**Item 12 on the agenda reported correctly:** covered under item 12.

**Caravan on Barton Hill:** CL received concerns regarding an old caravan on Barton Hill becoming an eyesore. Complainant prepared to have it removed at his cost. Council discussed options. CL suggested writing a sensitive letter to the owner. Council concerned a softer approach may be more appropriate. CL to speak to neighbours/family in the first instance to better understand the situation before any further intervention.

19. Date of next meeting.

Next meeting to be held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

**Meeting closed to the public 8.47pm.**

To be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting of the Parish Council, Thursday 13th November.

Signed: *Clive Last*

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2025