

# Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council

APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 7.30pm  
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), County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger (RH), 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 and advised that the Locum Clerk, Justin Hook had now been employed as the new Clerk moving forwards. The former Clerk has handed over all documents/files/keys, and her final salary payment had been scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> November.  
Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Leong-Son and District Cllr Sarah Broughton.
2. To receive any Declarations of Members' Interests.  
None received.
3. Approve and adopt the minutes from council meeting 9<sup>th</sup> October.  
**Council resolved to approve the two sets of minutes and the Chair signed them.**
4. To receive County & District Councillors reports.  
Government is deciding which of the two proposed business cases for Local Government Reorganisation to put forward for public consultation, with the feeling that it would be both. The approved West Suffolk Local Plan is now under judicial review, and a working party in place to start looking at the next plan, with a call for sites coming soon. The process will start this side of Christmas, with the aim for the next plan to be in place within 2 years.  
PB asked if it was just a West Suffolk plan, RH confirmed yes, Mid Suffolk doesn't have one.
5. **PUBLIC FORUM** 10 minutes.  
BM had received a correspondence from a resident, to be covered under correspondence, item 14.  
HC said nothing to report from All Saints Resort (ASR), but that they would continue to send management representative to meetings, with HC attending if planning issues to discuss. She requested any ASR matters be earlier in the agenda, so representatives don't have to be present for the whole meeting.
6. Planning applications for consideration;  
DC/25/1680/TPO  
**Fornham Grange, School Lane, Fornham St Martin, IP31 1SP**  
TPO 175a (1993) tree preservation order - two Oak (T001 and T002 on plan, within G20 and T13 on order) crown lift southern aspect to six metres above ground level.  
**Council resolved a vote of NO COMMENT, in favour of the Tree Officers decision.**
7. Finance.  
Council to consider and approve the following;
  - i. **Council resolved to approve outstanding invoices & payments totalling £3457.75.**
  - ii. Council noted payments received for October totalling £162.47.
  - iii. **Council resolved to approve the bank reconciliation for October.**

- iv. Council reviewed the proposed 2026/27 budget  
The Chair set the background for the budget by asking the simple question - what do we want to achieve?  
Council agreed with his suggestion of a three point answer - to create a SAFE, ATTRACTIVE and INCLUSIVE community, creating safe road and pavements, maintaining attractive and litter free parks, verges and flora, and providing and supporting clubs and activities for residents.  
The budget was set out in a simplified format, in harmony with Fornham All Saints' budget to allow seamless combining in the future if PCs were to merge.  
**Council resolved to finalise budget and set the 2026/27 precept at the January meeting.**

8. Highways, footpaths and trees.

Action on overgrown pathways in the village.

The Clerk reported that the approved contractor who had been instructed, had since gone quiet, with no contact; phone, text message or email.

The Clerk is meeting with a further contractor on 20<sup>th</sup> November to begin the process again.

9. Clerks update

- i. Street signs Lark Valley Drive & School Lane  
Reported, awaiting WSC to action.
- ii. 30mph sign opp. Lark Valley Drive  
Reported and chased, awaiting SCC to action.
- iii. Gov.uk domain & email update  
All Cllrs set up on email, website now moved to [www.fsmsg-pc.gov.uk](http://www.fsmsg-pc.gov.uk).
- iv. Pavement issues bottom of Barton Hill, and bus stop by BMW garage  
Hump in pavement re-reported. RH confirmed Andy Moore is going out to look. Bus stop and areas around BMW garage to be covered by pavement works.  
BM raised the damaged verge by the bottom of Barton Hill.  
**ACTION: Clerk to report on SCC portal as part of road closure works for reinstatement.**
- v. Bend in road signage – Fornham St Genevieve  
Clerk has completed forms for a street furniture license.  
RH agreed to share £3,000 of the cost between her and Cllr Broughton's locality budgets.  
**ACTION: Clerk to provide quote.**  
It was reported that another car had recently ended up in the bushes.  
The Clerk had identified a position more suitable for Solar, but the location might need to be tweaked and some bush trimming may be required.
- vi. Lark Valley Drive - hedges along footpath  
Clerk to meet with Rights of Way Officer, as per RH's email, to assess.
- vii. Volunteering group  
Clerk waiting on dates for a potential training session.
- viii. Rough sleepers  
The Clerk had spoken to the rough sleepers team regarding the previously mentioned concern, which is shared by the team. Suggestion was to engage if possible, and information to be passed to the Clerk to share with the rough sleepers team.
- ix. Fly tipping  
Clerk has moved the fridge to behind the wall, so less visible, and obtained a quote of £80 to have it removed.  
**ACTION: CL to chase landowner's agent first.**
- x. Bus timetable frame  
Reported to Suffolk on Board, awaiting action.

- xi. Caravan on Barton Hill

No action taken so far.

**ACTION: JR to speak to owner of neighbouring property.**

Clerk suggested offering to have somebody clean it to remove the algae growth in the interim.

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

The Chair reported having attended the FAS meeting with Cllr Rushman, where feedback was still positive on the idea. The merger of the parish councils to create one parish council serving the three villages cannot be fast tracked. The first step is for each council to submit their intention in December, for approval by WSC in the first part of 2026, followed by consultation and a final decision later in the year. Implementation would not be until April 2027 for finances and May 2027 for governance.

The Clerk advised that SALC had spoken to NALC legal team who advised it not possible to operate in a trial run style position. The only option would be to have joint committees, which report back to individual councils, which only creates greater work load.

**Council resolved to proceed with the application in December to merge the two parish councils to create one council for the three villages.**

**ACTION: Chair to begin drafting a response to be shared with all villagers, outlining discussions and intentions.**

- 11. Parish Matters.

- i. Weekly & monthly play park inspection reports.

Council to receive updates from monthly report and Cllrs bi-weekly visual inspections. Item covered fully under item 12.

- 12. Trim trail at the play park

JR confirmed that the trim trail is not rotten, but slippery and dangerous, but that the biggest concern is the boundary edging that keeps the bark in place – these are damaged, rotten and have been repaired, with the repairs now failing.

Council didn't think that the equipment was used much, but that the cost of removal may be similar to the cost of making good.

**ACTION: Clerk to look into quotes to replace boundary edging to the trim trail, and cleaning the equipment.**

It was also noted that there were mushrooms growing in the bark and molehills appearing in the field.

Council also discussed the low-risk items highlighted in the play park inspection report, noting that these were perhaps of greater importance and that budget ought to be applied to begin to tick off some of these items.

**ACTION: Clerk to review report and seek quotes for works.**

- 13. Councillors reports and items for future agenda.

- i. Speeding in the village – Cllr Mahon.

BM reported both being overtaken himself as well as witnessing a car overtaking a bus in the village.

PB felt that law enforcement ought to be carried out by the professionals.

It was felt that the majority do stick to the limits and no amount of action can change the ways of a small minority.

**Council resolved NOT to implement a community speed watch scheme, but to review current VAS signage, location and effectiveness.**

RH advised to contact Keith Sampson regarding re-siting a VAS location.

**ACTION: BM to report back in January.**

RH advised that all her parishes had been requested as ANPR locations.

**ACTION: Clerk to check the list.**

14. Correspondence.

Council to discuss any correspondence received, not already covered on the agenda.

BM brought a correspondence from a resident regarding an increase in cold callers on the fairways estate.

RH advised to speak to Trading Standards to create 'no cold calling zones.'

Resident confirmed the same on the Barton Hill estate.

**ACTION: Clerk to speak to Trading Standards about establishing a scheme for both estates.**

BM also raised concern over reported increase in local burglaries, esp. garages and sheds and suggested an information piece for the Bugle.

**ACTION: BM to create.**

15. Dates for meetings 2026.

**Council resolved to approve meeting dates for 2026.**

January 8<sup>th</sup> / February 12<sup>th</sup> / March 12<sup>th</sup> / April 9<sup>th</sup> / May 14<sup>th</sup> (Annual Parish Meeting & AGM) / June 11<sup>th</sup> / July 9<sup>th</sup> / no meeting August / September 10<sup>th</sup> / October 8<sup>th</sup> / November 12<sup>th</sup> / no meeting December.

**Council resolved to move the time of the meeting forward to 6.30pm following a change of schedule at the village hall.**

16. Date of next meeting.

Next meeting to be held on January 8<sup>th</sup> 2026 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall, providing no planning matters to discuss in December.

**Meeting closed 8.50pm.**

Signed: *Clive Last*

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2026