

# Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council

APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 7.30pm in Village Hall

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

**In attendance:** Locum Clerk Justin Hook (JH), County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger (RH), Hannah Cuthbertson, All Saints Resort (HC) and 3 members of the public

**Apologies received:** Vicky Bright (Clerk)

## PUBLIC FORUM

Resident David Randall notified the Council that the planter by the village hall had been emptied by thieves. Previously a couple of plants had gone missing, but this time all of them were stolen. There was upset, not just at the loss, but because of the time invested also.

**Council resolved to appoint a budget of £30 for the purchase of replacement plants.**

David also raised the issue of collie moth larvae and woolly aphids on the playing field and suggested spraying to eliminate. Council questioned the safety of spraying and timings, with satisfactory answers - David has the necessary license and will spray at appropriate times.

**Council resolved for resident to purchase the necessary chemicals and spray the affected areas, cost circa £17 for materials to be billed to Council.**

## AGENDA ITEMS

1. Chairs welcome & apologies for absence.  
The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced Justin Hook as the new Locum Clerk following a decision at the earlier Extraordinary Meeting to appoint somebody to help assist Council in the absence of the Clerk who, is on sick leave.
2. To receive any Declarations of Members' Interest.  
None received.
3. Approve and adopt draft minutes from May Meeting & AGM held Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May.  
**Council resolved to approve the minutes and the Chair signed them.**
4. To receive County & District Councillors Reports.
  - RH advised that there is a new residents survey from SCC regarding Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), open until the end of August. It's important for Parish Councils to be heard, as they form the grass roots of local government. LGR would mean more powers for parish councils and a new menu of services to pick and choose from.
  - JH to share survey link with Cllrs and place in village newsletter.
  - SCC prefer the idea on one unitary council, WSC are split between 2 or 3 councils (East/West/Greater Ipswich). RH backing unitary, with a big emphasis being on the dangers of disaggregating social services causing the potential for a postcode lottery of care.

- RH continuing to investigate a flashing sign for the bends on the B1106 toward Culford/West Stow. SCC considering how to power a unit and the implications of ongoing maintenance. Clerk to investigate options with Elan City and Wescotec.
  - JR questioned a statistic he'd heard regarding the 3,000 homeless in Suffolk waiting to be housed? RH believed more in the region of 1,500 awaiting housing.
5. To discuss updating bank mandate following Cllr resignations.  
The Clerk had begun the process of adding CL, JR and BM to the mandate. All Cllr's received notification and were actioning individually. Statements in the interim have been set up to go to CL.  
**Council resolved to add JH to bank mandate in the interim.**
  6. To receive update on Cllr vacancies.  
Election notices had been posted after the resignation of 3 former Cllrs. The closing date to call an election is 13<sup>th</sup> June, after which Council may elect to fill the empty positions via co-option.  
Council do not have access to the Clerks email at present, so unaware if anybody has responded. One resident of St Genevieve has indicated her intention to join. Full training is available.  
JH to send details of Cllr training to BM.
  7. To discuss annual returns & audit in Clerk's absence.  
SALC were booked to complete the Internal Audit on 9<sup>th</sup> June. Council discussed the best way forward and agreed upon CL asking the Clerk if she would be willing to support the Internal Audit, as she has all of the files and information. JH to cover all other business until such point as the Clerk is able to return. Access to Clerk email account, files and banking required for Locum Clerk.
  8. Appointment of Cllr responsibilities deferred from previous meeting.  
Council deferred this item.
  9. Planning applications for consideration:
    - i. DC/25/0791/TPO. Tree at Fornham Grange, School Lane, FSM IP31 1SP.  
**Council resolved a vote of NO COMMENT, supporting the decision of the Tree Officer.**
    - ii. DC/25/0473/TPO. Trees at Oak House, Barton Hill, FSM IP31 1SN.  
**Council resolved a vote of NO COMMENT, supporting the decision of the Tree Officer.**
    - (For information)**
    - iii. DC/24/0538/FUL re-consultation. Tennis court at All Saints Hotel.  
**Approved.**
    - iv. DC/25/0473/FUL. Self build house at Rathkeltair Lodge, Barton Hill, FSM.  
**Approved.**
    - v. DC/24/1660/FUL change of use to equestrian, Fornham Park. FSG.  
**Ongoing.**
    - vi. DC/24/1123/FUL reinstall 10m fencing on All Saints Golf course adjoining Pigeon Lane FAS. **Approved.**
    - vii. DC/24/1091/FUL parking for 15 Cars at All Saint Hotel. **Approved.**

- viii. DC24/1671/TPO. 1 ash tree removal at The Laurels, Parklands Green, FSG. **Rejected by WSC on advice from Arboricultural Officer.**
- ix. DC/20/0496/FUL. 68 lodges with parking at St Genevieve Lakes, Bury Road/Timworth. **Ongoing.**

## 10. Highways , footpaths and trees

- i. Action on overgrown pathways in the village.
  - Contractor appointed to remove basal growth from trees in FSM.
  - JH to confirm if work completed.
  - RH confirmed clearing/cleaning of obscured road signs can be requested via Highways Reporting Tool and ref. numbers given to her to chase.
  - Council discussed various problem areas throughout the village; pathways from playing field down to The Tollgate, from village hall up to Lark Valley Drive and entrance to Oak Close, hedges along edge of playing field, major signs at entrances to the villages, detritus in roundabout kerbs, weeds in gutters.
  - JR asked if Council can appoint a local person to clean the road signs? Question remains if he has relevant qualifications to work on highways, else not covered.
  - JH advised Fornham All Saints has appointed Wayne Jarvis & Son to tidy up their verges, hedges and pavements. They have since sought the necessary approval from SCC who now happy for them to be used as a regular contractor.
  - JH to request quotes form Wayne Jarvis for the works in FSM and FSG.
  - RH to confirm spraying schedule for weeds.
- ii. Highways signage audit and cleaning plan.
  - Covered partially above.

## 11. Parish Matters

- i. Weekly & monthly H&S inspection report.

JR completed weekly checks of the play park and trim trail. Only things to note is main gate had been stiff, but potentially now oiled. Reports suggest that the benches are loose, but JR did not deem this to be a major issue.

BM completed risk assessment of the assets – to be discussed at a future meeting.

## 12. Finance & Policies

- i. Bank reconciliation, payments & receipts May 2025.

None to report as no access to the bank available.
- ii. Authorisation for outstanding invoices & payments.

Council approved invoice for The Bugle Editor – no other invoices seen or available, as no access to Clerks emails.

- iii. Approval of annual contributions.
- Council discussed requests for donations from the church and the Ladies Club
  - **Council resolved to award a grant of £900 to the church for churchyard maintenance and £200 to the Ladies Club.**
  - **Council resolved to award a one-off grant of £1500 to the village hall towards ongoing maintenance and electricity charges. No further monies will be given to the village hall this financial year.**

13. Councillors reports and items for future.

- Council raised the idea of potentially combining the parishes of Fornham St Martin and St Genevieve with Fornham All Saints. JH confirmed that this was not a new suggestion and may well be received openly. RH advised speak to Ben Smith at WSC for more information and that a referendum may be required for villagers to have their say.
- JH to add as an agenda item for July meeting. Cllr's to consider pro's and con's.
- Council raised the idea of updating the VAS equipment and potentially moving one of the units closer to the roundabout. JH/BH advised this would require permission for a new 'location.' Budget available in RH's locality budget for new equipment. Solar units are a good option.
- JH to add as an agenda item for July meeting.

**Council resolved to change the date of the next meeting, to be held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

**Meeting Closed 9.15pm.**

Signed by the Chairman at the next meeting of the Parish Council, Thursday 24th July.

Signed: *Clive Last*

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2025