

Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council

APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 18th June 2026 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall

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

In attendance: Clerk Justin Hook (JH), County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger (RH), Josh Harris (JHa) from All Saints Resort (ASR), and 4 members of the public.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Council to elect Chair.
Cllr Last upheld his resignation as Chair, but his wish is to remain a Cllr.
Cllr Rushman was nominated as Chair. No other nominations were received.
Council resolved to elect Cllr Rushman as Chair.
Cllr Rushman happy to meet with Cllr Last at any point to liaise on any matters.
Cllr Butler applauded Cllr Last for his dedication to council.
2. Council to elect Vice Chair.
Cllr Mahon was nominated as Vice Chair. No other nominations were received.
Council resolved to elect Cllr Mahon as Vice Chair.
3. Signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms.
Cllr Rushman and Cllr Mahon completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms and the Clerk signed them.
4. Chair's welcome & apologies for absence.
The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting. Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Clive Last, Cllr Linda Leong-Son and District Cllr Sarah Broughton.
5. To receive any Declarations of Members' Interests.
None received.
6. Approve and adopt the minutes from council meeting & AGM held on 21st May 2026.
Council resolved to approve the minutes and the Chair signed them.
7. To receive County & District Councillors reports.
New Local Plan is currently out for first stage of consultation. Some odd questions, like what shops would people like, but nonetheless, important for residents to have their say.

LGR - new administration has challenged LGR decision and letter of intent has been sent. SCC not publishing what or why, but Essex did, so can only assume along the same lines. Essex also challenging the decision well as the process. First letter expected to cost £15k. £200k has already been put aside for the judicial review - expect delays to already tight LGR rollout timeframe. Work is still continuing on the LGR process and planning, maybe not at same pace though. Norfolk has put a stop to any LGR work.

Bins - some households missing bins, others missed collections. WSC had a big lead on this, but still teething problems. Missing bins to be reported to Cllr Hopfensperger.

Clerk asked Cllr Hopfensperger for her input on item 16 iv.

Cllr Hopfensperger confirmed that because a formal complaint has been lodged, it removes her and Cllr Broughton from the process.

Suggest Clerk to ask exactly what answer the resident is looking for, as letter slightly unclear.

Cllr Rushman asked Cllr Hopfensperger for an update on the line painting on the bend in St Genevieve.

ACTION: Clerk to escalate report to Cllr Hopfensperger, to raise at meeting with Highways engineer.

8. **PUBLIC FORUM** 10 minutes.

Josh Harris from ASR shared two potential ideas they are considering;

Amphitheatre - based on the style of the Thorington one, which was built in an old bomb crater. Small change to landscape, with a modest two tiers of stone filled gabion walls, with wooden seating on top, set in a grassy mound on disused part of the course.

Cllr Butler suggested increased cultural interest is good, but potential for noise complaints – were there planning conditions around noise & amplification / times / no. people etc. – ASR: planning would likely place constraints in terms of hours of operation.

BM advised more detail would be required in order to make a full decision – ASR: this would come with full planning application.

Resident raised concern over parking and the valley feel of the setting re: noise carrying – ASR: enough parking at the hotel, many spaces are cross utilised.

Land Train - to connect the hotel to the lodge site via the new path. Extension to this would potentially be to go into town, linking ASR with Bury St Edmunds and vice-versa. Already spoken to Highways as would need a license. Raises profile of the town and the resort. Not running all year round. Already presented to Bury & Beyond and BID.

Council agreed not really a council matter, more Highways, but appreciated the involvement. ASR currently looking at resolving the lighting conditions re: the new path.

Resident raised concern regarding parking at the lodge site.

Clerk confirmed cars parking outside individual lodges is not allowed under the appeal decision, and that ASR ought to be controlling this better to avoid further enforcement action.

Resident raised ongoing enforcement concern that the lodges continue to be used for commercial lets, not as holiday lets that the appeal decision was based upon.

Resident raised the suggestion for ASR to create a 5 year plan for the site, so that residents know better what is planned.

Cllr Butler encouraged ASR to consider the open day as previously discussed – perhaps best in September?

9. Planning applications.

Council to consider the following planning applications

i. DC/26/0802/HH

Householder planning application - single storey extension to side of dwelling (following demolition of existing garage).

3 St Andrews Drive Fornham St Martin Suffolk IP28 6TR

Council resolved to support this application.

ii. All Saints Resort to propose two new ideas to Council

- Land Train from ASR to BSE
 - Amphitheatre for plays / performances
- Covered under Public Forum.

10. Finance.

Council to consider and approve the following;

- i. **Council resolved to approve authorisation for outstanding invoices & payments totalling £6,017.74**
- ii. Council noted payments received for May – **Total: £18.16** (interest)
- iii. Council noted bank balances to end of May – **Total: £62,536.00** (£350.19 current / £62,185.81 savings)
- iv. **Council resolved to approve bank reconciliation for May**
Clerk preparing VAT return for £1,624.14 to end of June 26.

11. Clerks update.

- i. Street sign School Lane
Awaiting replacement following name mix up.
- ii. Volunteering group
Clerk to arrange next date and WhatsApp group.
- iii. Playing field gate
Scheduled with play park repainting works.
- iv. Increased traffic on B1106
Clerk to liaise with Culford parish council.
- v. Children's play area improvements
Was scheduled w/c 23rd June, now pushed back. Clerk to meet with contractor to make a plan, might swap dates with FAS, as FSM could be done in school holidays.
- vi. Bend in road sign
Pole is installed, form completed for sign installation, awaiting install date. Pole set further back than expected.
ACTION: Clerk & JR to arrange to remove tree branches.
- vii. Bus stop damage, Barton Hill
Second pane smashed. Clerk arranged for both to be replaced together – **ITEM CLOSED.**
- viii. Lawn mower
Resident confirmed where the lawnmower had come from. Clerk to find new home – **ITEM CLOSED.**
- ix. Birds nests, The Drift / Old Thetford Road
Resident concerned even if no planning required, that birds and nests were disturbed. Concern that deer were tapped within new fence, but deer can easily clear a 4ft fence.
Council resolved for Clerk to write to the contractor and landowner to raise concern over seeming lack of care for nesting laws.
- x. Verge damage, bottom of Barton Hill
Clerk raised but SCC closed as doesn't meet criteria for work.
ACTION: Clerk to escalate report to Cllr Hopfensperger.
- xi. Football pitch hire
Clerk heard nothing further – **ITEM CLOSED**
- xii. VAS battery
Clerk reached out, heard nothing back - ongoing.
- xiii. New VAS unit
New unite has arrived, Clerk and Cllr Mahon to find date to install.
- xiv. Internal audit
All prepared and submitted – scheduled for this week.

12. Councillors reports.

- i. Weekly & monthly play park inspection reports - Cllr Rushman/Cllr Butler
Grass has been cut and looks good. Rabbit scrapes still a concern. Long bench has been tightened. Last trim trail item still needs cleaning.

- ii. Speeding in the village - Cllr Mahon/Clerk
New sign will provide traffic and speed data. David Yates still reporting cars direct to Police.
13. Bus stop improvements opposite Oak Close.
Council to discuss extra quote to make some simple repairs and re-treat existing shelter for an extra £350.
Council resolved the extra spend was higher than expected and to proceed without re-treating.
Council resolved a budget of £200 extra for the works, or for the volunteer group to tackle.
14. Community Governance Review
Reminder for all to have their say in the public consultation which ends 30th June.
Council resolved to proceed with Clerks suggested Cllr numbers of 6 for All Saints, 6 for St Martin and 2 for St Genevieve.
15. Grant applications
Council to discuss the following grant applications
- i. Thursday Stitchers – towards running costs
Council resolved to approve a grant of £200.
 - ii. Church – £900 (as per 2025) towards general churchyard maintenance
Council resolved a grant of £1000.
 - iii. Village Hall – towards extra wall repairs by rear door (est. £2k)
Council resolved a grant of £1000.
16. Correspondence.
- i. Lawnmower
Covered under item 11 viii.
 - ii. Mowing & weed growth
Mowing contract now in place and verges cut.
 - iii. Birkdale Court street sign
Offending sign since been trimmed around.
 - iv. Street naming – unauthorised parish address alteration
Covered under item 7.
 - v. Spraying on the playing field
WSC do approve the use of glyphosate around specific items and edges, not blanket spraying.
Mowing contractor confirmed similar, although perhaps spraying could be tighter.
Resident confirmed Bury Town Council don't spray play areas and advised to check with WSC.
ACTION: Cllr Rushman to meet with the individual to discuss. Clerk to arrange.
 - vi. David Yates raised pavement issue in Lark Valley Drive with SCC
Noted.
17. Items to be raised on a future agenda.
- i. West Suffolk Local Plan – new details received and shared with Cllrs
 - ii. Waste Hub expansion – now submitted under DC/26/0891/HYB (council not notified yet)
18. Date of next meeting.
Council resolved to change the date of the July meeting to 30th.
Next meeting to be held on July 30th 2026, at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 8.07pm.

To be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting of the Parish Council, Thursday 30th July.

Signed: *John Rushman*

Date: 30th Julu, 2026