

Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council

APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council meeting & AGM held on Thursday 21st May 2026 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall

Councillors present: John Rushman (JR) Vice Chair, Paul Butler (PB), Brandon Mahon (BM) and Linda Leong-Son (LLS).

In attendance: Clerk Justin Hook (JH), Stuart Turner (ST) from All Saints Resort (ASR), David Yates from the church (DY) and 7 members of the public.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Council to elect Chair.
Cllr Last was nominated as Chair. No other nominations were received.
Council resolved to elect Cllr Last as Chair and for the Clerk to confirm the appointment with him, reviewing at the June meeting.
2. Council to elect Vice Chair.
Cllr Rushman was nominated as Vice Chair. No other nominations were received.
Council resolved to elect Cllr Rushman as Vice Chair.
3. Signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms.
Cllr Rushman completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Clerk signed it.
4. Council to appoint a Responsible Financial Officer.
Council resolved to appoint the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer.
5. Chair's welcome & apologies for absence.
The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting. Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Clive Last, County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger and District Cllr Sarah Broughton.
6. To receive any Declarations of Members' Interests.
None received.
7. Approve and adopt the two sets of minutes from council meeting held on 9th April 2026.
Council resolved to approve the minutes and the Chair signed them.
8. To receive County & District Councillors reports.
Full report included in the APM.

Elections

You will have already read/seen that Suffolk County Council is now run by a Reform administration the makeup of the council is as follows:-

Reform UK - 41 seats
Green Party - 13 seats
Conservative - 9 seats
Labour & Co-operative - 3 seats
Liberal Democrats - 2 seats
Independents - 2 seats

We will have our AGM on 21st May where the leader, deputy leader and the cabinet of the council will be announced.

LGR

One of the large jobs that the new administration will have to get to grips with is the formation of the three unitary councils that will make up Suffolk in 2028, this will mean transition arrangements of services from one council to three including the disaggregation of county wide services such as adult and children's social care and highways. They will also need to look at the parish/town council role in the unitary set up including what powers maybe devolved to parishes in the new structure and also what to do with Ipswich with regards to its structure as at the moment there is no town council in place. There were plans for cross party work parties to deal with this but as yet I am unsure as to what the plans of the administration are. Elections for the new unitaries who will act in a shadow form for a year will take place in May 2027 providing the timetable is kept to.

An update to LGR is that the new leader of Reform UK has announced that they plan to legally challenge the decision on LGR, you can only legally challenge the process of LGR and this is a very high bar to reach and not the decision on one or three, so we will see how the detail plays out.

Highways

We now have a new highways engineer covering the area its Matthew Fox his email is matthew.fox@suffolkhighways.org.

9. PUBLIC FORUM 10 minutes.

Resident raised that the verges were overgrown.

The Clerk advised that he was in the process of arranging a new grass cutting contractor.

10. Planning applications.

Council to consider the following planning applications;

- i. DC/26/0167/FUL ****RE-CONSULTATION** to include Amended location and block plan (drawing no. 001 A) / BNG metric / BNG statement**
Planning application - single storey rear extension to create new golf clubhouse facility with external paved terrace at ground floor level and a paved terrace at roof level.
All Saints Hotel The Street Fornham St Genevieve Suffolk IP28 6JQ
Council resolved to support this variation.
- ii. DC/26/0198/FUL ****RE-CONSULTATION** to include - Amended location and block plan (drawing no. 001 A) / Amended proposed floor plan and elevations (drawing no. 003 C) / Parking Overview Statement**
Planning application - a. infill extension below existing first floor gymnasium b. single storey curved link extension to health club spa.
All Saints Hotel The Street Fornham St Genevieve Suffolk IP28 6JQ
Council resolved to support this variation.

11. Finance.

Council to consider and approve the following;

- i. **Council resolved to approve authorisation for outstanding invoices & payments totalling £4,834.72**
- ii. Council noted payments received for March – **Total: £40,410.84** (£13.08 interest / £38,000.00 precept / £2,397.76 grants for tools / pavement & hedges)
- iii. Council noted bank balances to end of March – **Total: £67,352.16** (£2,184.51 current / £65,167.65 savings)
- iv. **Council resolved to approve bank reconciliation for April**

12. End of year finance & audit.

- i. **Council resolved to consider, approve & sign Section 1 of the AGAR form**

- ii. **Council resolved to consider, approve & sign Section 2 of the AGAR form**
- iii. **Council resolved to review & approve the supporting statement and explanation of variances for audit**

13. Clerks update.

- i. Street signs School Lane & Oak Close
Oak Close completed, there was an issue with the name on the sign for School Lane causing a delay, but still in progress.
- ii. Volunteering group
Clerk to arrange further dates and a WhatsApp group.
- iii. Playing field gate
To be discussed under item 16.
- iv. All Saints Resort, walk around
Positive meeting with ASR, looking at changes made, as well as future plans/ideas.
Cllr Butler confirmed a great example of cooperation and working well together.
Suggestion that if the village doesn't share the vision, then an open day may do well to counter that.
- v. Meeting with Waste Hub
Second informative meeting, still waiting for application to be submitted – by summer.
- vi. Increased traffic on B1106
Clerk to liaise with Culford parish council.
- vii. Children's play area improvements
Clerk has already removed some broken panels and had a tidy up.
Swings, chains and rope bridge replaced earlier in the week.
Repainting scheduled for July.
- viii. Bend in road sign
Pole being installed 30th May, Clerk can then complete form for sign to be fitted.
- ix. Bus stop damage, Barton Hill
Clerk received a quote for £315 +Vat from Abbey Glass to replace the broken pane.
Damage was caused by WSC mowing team. Clerk has raised claim with WSC's insurance team.
Council resolved to appoint Abbey Glass to carry out the repairs.
- x. Lawn mower
Clerk advised that he cleared an abandoned petrol mower from the footpath between The Drift and the old Thetford Road. Police had no reports of a stolen mower.
Resident remembers it being outside somebodies house with a free/for sale sign.
Clerk will hold on to and dispose of if no news.
- xi. Hedges in Park Avenue
Clerk contacted Havebury about hedges blocking pavements in Park Avenue.
Havebury subsequently came and removed – **ITEM CLOSED.**
- xii. Internal audit
Scheduled w/c 15th June.
- xiii. Damaged grass verge at bottom of Barton Hill
Clerk has reported grass verge damaged during roadworks.

14. Councillors reports.

- xiv. Weekly & monthly play park inspection reports - Cllr Rushman/Cllr Butler
Cllr Rushman handed the Clerk his visual inspection reports and conformed new swings and rope bridge looking good.
- xv. Speeding in the village - Cllr Mahon/Clerk
Cllr Mahon and the Clerk shared the full "Fornhams" VAS locations, with a proposal to

purchase one new solar VAS unit to replace the one by the village sign, which is to be repurposed on Barton Hill. Quotation received for £2,389.99 +Vat.

Council resolved to purchase the new solar VAS unit.

- xvi. Asset risk register – Cllr Mahon

Cllr Mahon provided his report of findings on the asset risk register. No major issues to report

ACTION: Clerk to go through and create list of works and get quotes.

15. Grass cutting contract

Clerk presented three different quotes for grass cutting and maintenance in the village.

SCC and WSC have recently trimmed some of the verges and areas in the village that council were quoting to have tidied.

Council resolved to approve the £2,915.53 quote from AW-FM for 19 visits for the year, to cut the playing field, select verges through the village, the roundabout and roundabout entrances, plus maintain shrubs on roundabout.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with contractor to either requote or re-purpose costs if WSC continue to mow the verges.

16. Playing field gate

Council to discuss quote for £337.50 to sand and treat the memorial gates.

Council resolved to carry out these works, as planned preventative maintenance.

17. Playing field / football pitch hire

Council to discuss request to use/hire the pitch for Monday night football training sessions.

Council agreed with the idea in principle.

Action: Clerk to speak to the contact to understand specific needs, no. of cars, timings etc.

18. Playing field parking for the Garden Club

Council to discuss request for Garden Club to park on the field. Confirm dates.

Council resolved to approve use of the field on 2nd June for the Gaden Club.

19. Bus stop improvements opposite Oak Close.

Clerk presented a quote for £825 from the previous contractor, to extend the roof, and add one solid side, plus one part windowed side and a bench.

Council resolved to approve this quote.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain price to have old bus stop repaired and treated at the same time.

20. Community Governance Review

Council resolved to continue to support the combining to one authority for the three villages.

Council resolved that it should be called Fornham Parish Council as it rolls off the tongue easier and provides a shorter URL for website and email.

Council questioned what the quorate number would be for WSC's suggested 11 Cllrs, or Clerk's suggested 14 Cllrs.

ACTION: Clerk to investigate and advise.

21. Correspondence.

- i. Sold sign in the village

Clerk spoke to agent and sign removed.

- ii. Footpath up Old Thetford Road and along the back to The Drift. Residents concerned about tree & hedge clearing in the area. Planning application lodged but works begun Covered in APM, council to write to owner and contractor.

- iii. Concern over mowing in the village and vandalism of wild areas Clerk responded, simply mowing season has begun.

- iv. Concern over bus stop vandalism Covered under 13ix.

- v. More thanks and appreciation for pavement clearing (Barton Hill to Bury) Noted.

- vi. VAS battery – replacement required
Clerk has made contact with resident responsible – waiting to hear back.
- vii. Headstone in church
Clerk redirected enquiry to benefice office.
- viii. DY letter to SCC re: Tollgate junction
Noted.
- ix. Residents concern over spraying weedkiller in the playing field
Council noted that the same issue came up last year and to check minutes to see that person involved is licensed and approved.
Resident concerned 'allowed' doesn't mean safe.

22. Items to be raised on a future agenda.

- i. Trees & bushes along path around The Drift to the old Thetford Road
- ii. Spraying around the village and on the playing field
- iii. Churchyard – is there a plan for when the churchyard is full?

23. Date of next meeting.

Council resolved to move the June meeting to the 18th of June and the July meeting to the 16th of July.

Next meeting to be held on June 18th 2026, at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed to the public 7.47pm.

To be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting of the Parish Council, Thursday 18th June.

Signed: *John Rushman*

Date: 18th June, 2026