

Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council

APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 12th March at 6.30pm in the Village Hall

Councillors present: Clive Last (CL) Chair, John Rushman (JR) Vice Chair, Paul Butler (PB) and Linda Leong-Son (LLS).

In attendance: County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger (RH), Clerk Justin Hook (JH), Carl Vella (CV) from All Saints Resort (ASR), David Yates from the church (DY) and 2 members of the public.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Chairs welcome & apologies for absence.
The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting. Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Brandon Mahon (BM) and District Cllr Sarah Broughton.
2. To receive any Declarations of Members' Interests.
None received.
PB advised he may have an interest in an agenda item for a donation towards the computer club, being a member of the club. Council did not agree this to be a significant interest.
3. Approve and adopt the minutes from council meeting held on Thursday 12th February.
Council resolved to approve the minutes and the Chair signed them.
4. To receive County & District Councillors reports.
New bins to be delivered soon as part of the Better Recycling programme, with collections starting 1st June. Black and green bin for dry matter, paper etc., blue bin for bottles, tetra-pak etc., new small food caddy for indoors and larger caddy for outside. Food collection weekly, others likely to be fortnightly.
There are some residual monies from the localities budget, which RH has agreed to fund some speed surveys for Gt Barton, and the remainder to be split between FAS and FSMMSG towards the pavement clearing works.
ACTION: Clerk to send contractor details to Andy Moore to confirm necessary certification.
Bend sign funds all delivered.
LGR decision now expected 26th March. In terms of devolution, Norfolk pulled out of the devolution priority scheme, leaving greater confusion over what will happen now. More info expected after May elections, on how to proceed. Mayoral elections postponed to 2028.
Call for sites for revised local plan expected 12th April. New homes target for West Suffolk increasing from just over 750, to almost 1200 per year. New local plan to be completed within 20 months.
Waste hub proposals to include new staff car parking, and bin storage area, making space in the existing site for new food waste processing. Landscaping similar to existing site.
5. **PUBLIC FORUM** 10 minutes.
DY heard something about the village hall heating review?
CL advised speaking to village hall committee – nothing to do with council.
Agenda item 15i, was not the churches response, more his personal questions.
Agenda item 14, the church will also be requesting support from the parish council.
Clerk advised that he is working on a grant awarding policy to help streamline the process and allow funds to be more fairly apportioned throughout the year.
DY requested update on the village welcome guides.
Clerk advised a quick search of the previous files hasn't brought anything up as yet.
DY confirmed he had managed to source a few extra copies.

CV introduced himself as the Deputy General Manager of All Saints Resorts and shared some background to the two planning proposals.

- Outdoor garden style spa & wellness facilities to enhance the current offering, integrating with the natural landscape, underneath the existing gym overhang
- Golf club house extension to provide a dedicated area for golfers, since the café has now established itself as a space for locals and business users.

Both proposals ought to be viewed as enhancements rather than expansion.

The EV infrastructure should be going live in May after a new transformer being installed by UKPN – these will also be available to villagers, and provide a range of charging options.

As part of the hotels eco pledge, last year 150,000kW of power was generated from the solar array, 20,000 of which was put back into the grid.

Ian Holder introduced himself as District Cllr for Barrow, having become WSC Cllr in 2003. He is now putting himself forward for the County Council elections to represent the new Barrow & Thingoe ward, which replaces Gt Barton & The Fornhams, creating a much larger area, including villages as far afield as Gazeley.

Resident (who identified as a user of ASR) thought that the plans for the spa area sounded great, but concerned over what extra parking provision will be made?

CL advised that ASR had already spoken of a new parking area in pre-application stage. No planning applications have been received on this yet, and nothing available on the portal.

6. Planning applications.

Council to consider and the following planning applications;

- i. DC/26/0167/FUL
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 approve this application.
- ii. DC/26/0198/FUL
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 approve this application.

CL noted that the waste hub application had yet to be received and Clerk confirmed.

PB shared that he had been against the original application for the new waste hub, but that in reality it had not been as bad as folk originally imagined it to be. His only concern moving forward was that the site grows and begins processing a larger amount of waste from further afield but reminded council of the need to consider each application on its own merit.

CL advised the site needs to be prepared to grow in line with Bury's potential expansion from 40k to 60k residents in 20 years, so the steps are future proofing the operation. The remainder of the site is earmarked for council's own use in the waste collection industry.

7. Finance.

Council to consider and approve the following;

- i. **Council resolved to approve outstanding invoices & payments totalling £2,494.99.**
- ii. Council noted payments received for February – **Total: £2,614.52** (£1,600.41 advertising / £1,000.00 grant / £14.11 interest).
- iii. Council noted bank balances to end of February – **Total: £33,776.59** (£2,634.01 current / £31,142.58 savings).
- iv. **Council resolved to approve bank reconciliation for February.**

8. Internal audit – letter of engagement.
Council resolved to approve SALC’s letter of engagement in preparation for the internal audit, but consider a Clerks preferred independent auditor for next year.
9. Assertion 10 duties for audit.
- i. **Council resolved to approve the following additional policies;**
 - Equality Policy
 - IT Policy
 - ii. **Council resolved to instruct a website accessibility report, for £108 +Vat.**
10. Highways, footpaths and trees.
 Clerk confirmed that works on overgrown pathways in the village were scheduled for week commencing 16th March, throughout all three Fornhams.
ACTION: Clerk to write to Longs Farm to thank them for the recent flailing/cut back and for agreeing to help with spoil removal.
11. Clerks update.
- i. Street signs School Lane & Oak Close.
 SCC would not replace the sign. Cost if RH to action circa £700, if council to action, circa £1,000, subject to survey.
Council resolved not to replace – ITEM CLOSED.
 - ii. 30mph sign opp. Lark Valley Drive.
 Clerk continues to chase.
 - iii. Volunteering group.
 Tools have arrived, village hall has provided storage. Clerk finalising date for 27th March for first session – jobs dependent upon where the village works have gotten to.
 - iv. Playing field gate.
 Actioned – waiting on contractor.
 - v. Rabbit scrapes on playing field.
 Pile of spoils to be dumped at field for continued filling in of scrapes – **ITEM CLOSED.**
 - vi. All Saints Resort, walk around.
 Wednesday 8th proposed.
ACTION: Clerk to confirm date and time.
 - vii. Meeting with Waste Hub.
 Clerk advised that the waste hub were happy to re-host council at a meeting to discuss plans for the site.
ACTION: Clerk to arrange another date in April, early evening.
 - viii. Barton Hill pavement issue.
 SCC reviewed again, no action to be taken.
ACTION: CL to liaise with field owner for solution.
 - ix. Turnberry Drive surface.
 Does not meet criteria for SCC intervention – **ITEM CLOSED.**
 - x. Parklands Green sweeping.
 Raised with WSC – **ITEM CLOSED.**
 - xi. Bend in the road signage.
 Clerk advised monies have been received, thank you to RH and SB for their contributions. Sign has been ordered and will be installed, once pole is in place.
ACTION: Clerk and JR to carry out site visit to confirm exact location and if any tree/preparation works required.

12. Councillors reports.

- i. Weekly & monthly play park inspection reports - Cllr Rushman/Cllr Butler.
Council received updates from monthly report and Cllrs bi-weekly visual inspections.
Council resolved to accept quote for £267.25 inc. Vat from The Safety Sheep Store to replace play park signage and make compliant as per report.
Clerk advised quote has since been received from from Wicksteed for replacement parts/repairs, as per the report.

- Total price for parts to fix swings, and play equipment £7,042.49 +Vat
- Extra £2,843.00 +Vat to rub down, treat and paint worst affected parts
- Extra £7,129.00 +Vat to rub down, treat and paint all equipment

Clerk advised some parts look like they could be removed, and that he is seeking prices to have the items painted by a local contractor to same cost.

Clerk advised that the cash book is looking like there will be in the region of £7.5k left at the end of the budgeted year, with £2k in earmarked reserves for the playpark and £14k in general reserves.

Council resolved a budget of £10,000 to restore the play park to its former glory.

- ii. Speeding in the village – BM/Clerk.
The Clerk met with BM and was able to present drawings of current and proposed VAS locations in the village. New units ideally need to be placed on the left side of the carriageway, so not allowing them to be rotated on one pole. Solar units need to be south facing, which limits the locations. Twin pack Elan City solar units £4495 +Vat, two poles, circa £200, fitting, circa £1,000.

Council resolved to defer the item.

ACTION: BM/Clerk to work on map of all 3 Fornhams locations and make final proposal, including costs.

13. Trim trail at the play park.

Council to consider Cllr Rushman and Cllr Butler's revised proposition and quotation.

JR advised the £750 to remove the surrounds was incorrect, but that some works had been completed to make safe the bad repairs.

Options: 1) leave trim trail, renew surrounds, 2) take it all out, make plan for reinstatement, 3) remove some, make a plan for reinstatement.

Clerk advised the trim trail itself is not in bad repair, and that latest suggestions were incomplete solutions.

CV from ASR suggested they may have a use for the equipment if council decided removing was the best option.

Council resolved to defer this item to a future agenda.

14. Request for grant towards the Computer Club.

Council to consider request from the Computer Club to help towards general costs or specifically the beginner classes.

Council resolved to defer until new financial year, when new budget in place.

15. Correspondence.

- i. Churches response to CGR letter in Bugle.
Clerk provided answers to the questions raised.
- ii. 2 x residents suggest improvements to the recent Oak Close bus shelter, increasing it in size, adding side panels, front panels and a seat.
Council resolved to add to a future agenda.
ACTIONS: Clerk to see if any passenger stats available from bus companies. Cllrs to review and consider options to propose at next meeting.
- iii. Resident suggesting new bus shelter opposite The Woolpack.
Council resolved to add to a future agenda.
ACTION: Cllrs to review and consider options to propose at next meeting
- iv. Resident concerned over increased HGV use of B1106, Fornham St Martin – Elveden.
ACTION: Clerk to liaise with RH/SCC for input.

- v. Resident regarding NCCZ in Barton Hill Estate.
Council noted, Clerk has responded.

16. Items to be raised on a future agenda.
Bus shelters / trim trail / VAS proposal

17. Date of next meeting.
Next meeting to be held on April 9th 2026, at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 20.54pm.

To be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting of the Parish Council, Thursday 9th April.

Signed: *Clive Last*

Date: 16th March, 2026