

Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council

DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 9th April 2026 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall

Councillors present: Clive Last (CL) Chair, John Rushman (JR) Vice Chair, Brandon Mahon (BM) and Linda Leong-Son (LLS).

In attendance: County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger (RH), Clerk Justin Hook (JH), Stuart Turner (ST) from All Saints Resort (ASR), David Yates from the church (DY) and 3 members of the public.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Chair's welcome & apologies for absence.
The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting. Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Paul Butler and District Cllr Sarah Broughton.
2. To receive any Declarations of Members' Interests.
None received.
CL advised his interest in future waste hub applications, having been involved in the land deal.
3. Approve and adopt the minutes from council meeting held on Thursday 12th March 2026.
Council resolved to approve the minutes and the Chair signed them.
4. To receive County & District Councillors reports.
Local Government Reorganisation result has been decided, with government backing the 3 unitary solution for Suffolk. Boundaries in West Suffolk being finalised. Fornhams and Gt Barton likely to be represented by 1 Councillor. From May onwards, planning for the new administration starts.
2027 will see the election of shadow council, 2028 the existing will be abolished and the new unitaries will take over. SCC have not appealed, but Reform might be appealing the decision, not the Conservatives. SCC always agreed to work with whatever decision was made.
CL noted unprofessional/bitter comments on the SCC website.
In RH's opinion, West Suffolk seems to be getting the best deal / least change – most sensible outcome.
RH on working party looking at new boundaries and approx. 60 new Cllrs for West Suffolk.
5. **PUBLIC FORUM** 10 minutes.
David Randall confirmed purchase of another gallon of weedkiller for the field.
DY confirmed if the Grant Awarding Policy applies to the church?
Clerk confirmed and advised he will circulate once adopted, and make available in website.
DY chasing for more welcome packs - to be covered later in the meeting under item 13i.
DY gave update on ongoing speeding issues, esp. concerning for elderly church goers and residents of Fornham House.
Dy advised book sale confirmed for 18th April. PCSO's Amanda and Rachel coming.
ACTION: DY to email advance dates to Clerk to post on website.
JR suggested PCSO's ought to attend or send report for AGM & Parish Meeting.
ACTION: Clerk to request.
6. Planning applications.
Council to consider the following planning applications;
DC/26/0487/VAR
West Suffolk Operational Hub Bury Road Fornham St Martin IP31 1FE
Planning application - variation of condition 1 of DC/24/1072/VAR to allow use of amended

plans for waste transfer area of site for municipal operational hub comprising waste transfer station, household waste recycling centre (including reuse building), fleet depot (including offices), public realm maintenance depot and associated infrastructure including accesses, paths, internal roads and paths, parking, weighbridges, and landscaping.

Council resolved to support this variation.

7. Finance.

Council to consider and approve the following;

- i. **Council resolved to approve outstanding invoices & payments totalling £3,903.01.**
Clerk noted that the latest payslip was actually £0.20 less than the SO, so will adjust the next salary payment to rectify the overpayment.
- ii. Council noted payments received for March – **Total: £395.59** (£383.60 advertising / £11.99 interest).
- iii. Council noted bank balances to end of March – **Total: £30,900.78** (£746.21 current / £30,154.57 savings).
- iv. **Council resolved to approve end of year bank reconciliation for 2025/26.**
- v. **Council resolved to approve end of year finance report for 2025/26.**
- vi. **Council resolved to moving unspent funds to the following earmarked reserves;**
 - a. £3.5k to NEW bend sign reserve
 - b. £1k to NEW asset reserve
 - c. £4.9k to play area refurbishment reserve
 - d. £3,650 to NEW village works reserve
- vii. **Council resolved to reallocate £1k noticeboard reserves to play area refurbishment reserve.**

8. Council reviewed and approved Direct Debits and Standing Orders.

Direct Debits – Nest Pensions, ICO, WSC bin collections (consider paying bin collection as annual sum)

Standing Orders – Clerks salary

Council resolved to pay WSC annually for bin collections.

9. **Council resolved to approve the new Grant awarding Policy to bring better control of the application and awarding process.**

10. **Council resolved to approve the website accessibility report and statement.**

11. **Councillors resolved to agree to receiving agenda summons via email.**

12. Highways, footpaths and trees.

Everybody in agreement that the village works were a great success, making the pavements much tidier and safer. Thanks to the contractor and thanks to Longs Farms for providing space for the spoils.

Clerk to walk around with contractor, to update on progress and outstanding works.

13. Clerks update.

- i. Street signs School Lane & Oak Close.
Ongoing.
- ii. Volunteering group.
Great first session, with 8 strong team, clearing pavement edges and bushes from Park Avenue to just past Oak Close.
ACTION: Clerk to organise WhatsApp group for volunteers and set future monthly dates.
- iii. Playing field gate.
Works being carried out, and Clerk getting quotes to have sanded and treated.

- iv. All Saints Resort, walk around.
Very successful meeting with Cllrs from FAS and FSMSG having a tour of the facilities and sit down with David, Hannah, Louise, Stuart and Josh from ASR. Ideas shared for further parking, a sunken grass amphitheatre, padel courts in or near the maintenance stores and a view of the proposed spa garden and golf lounge locations. Potential open day to showcase improvements and offering to residents. More communications, with potential pieces for the parish magazines.
- v. Meeting with Waste Hub.
Successful first meeting but no attendees from FSMSG.
ACTION: Clerk to arrange another date.
- vi. Barton Hill pavement issue.
It appears works have been completed to alleviate the issue - **ITEM CLOSED.**
 - i. Village welcome packs.
Clerk advised that he could not locate the original docs. The printer had only an old, incomplete copy. Clerk suggested all information is or could be available online and questioned the necessity of a welcome pack?
DY confirmed it has been a long-standing project, he visits new residents with a copy of The Bugle and The Lark Valley magazine, introduced himself and provides a welcome pack.
Council resolved to no longer produce welcome packs, instead Clerk to produce a simple one-page 'welcome,' encouraging new residents to visit their website for more information on the village, the PC, news, and any clubs / organisations, for DY to use when making visits.
 - ii. Increased traffic on B1106.
RH confirmed that this route has actually always been a strategic lorry route.
 - iii. CGR update.
WSC voted in support of the idea, and have moved to a period of public consultation, ending 30th June. Details on the website and in the parish noticeboards. Some questions for council to discuss - the actual naming i.e. The Fornhams or Three Fornhams, and the suggested Cllr numbers representing each village – current suggestion 5/1/5.
ACTION: Clerk to add to future agenda to discuss.
 - iv. Grass cutting.
Clerk working to get quotes for the grass cutting in the village.

14. Councillors reports.

- v. Weekly & monthly play park inspection reports - Cllr Rushman/Cllr Butler.
Council to receive updates from monthly report and Cllrs bi-weekly visual inspections.
JR confirmed he has copies of the bi-weekly visual inspections to share with Clerk.
- vi. Speeding in the village - Cllr Mahon/Clerk.
Council to receive proposal for full "Fornhams" VAS locations & request for funds.
This item is to be deferred for a future agenda.

15. Children's play area improvements.

Clerk and Cllr Rushman visited the play park and have a blended proposal to replace some items and have a local contractor repair/repaint the other items for a reduced total of £7,815.05 inc. Vat.

Cllrs discussed the notion of safety vs attractiveness, in the light of the high costs involved. Clerk advised that seemingly little has been spent, so the bill is bigger, rather than spread over smaller jobs.

Council resolved to approve the £7,815.05 spend, plus additional works to treat/repaint goal posts and three benches.

16. Trim trail at the play park.

Clerk and Cllr Rushman visited the trim trail. Some minor works have been done to remove nails and sharp edges and the reports identify this. The trail itself is not in bad condition, other

that splitting wood, which is natural.

ASR offered to take the equipment, remove all of the bark at a shared cost of £1,250 to council, but that still leaves the areas to reseed or treat.

Clerk and Cllr Rushman suggested replacing the broken handle on the monkey bars, getting the last item jet washed, and reviewing again in 2027/2028.

Council resolved to agree to this proposal.

17. Bend in the road sign.

Clerk and Cllr Rushman visited the site for the bend sign to finalise exact location.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with contractor.

JR also highlighted recently painted lines at the junction have faded already due to the lorries travelling on and over the lines in the middle of the road. There is also lots of gravel/debris in the road at the junction.

ACTION: Clerk to report separately on the SCC portal and send report numbers to RH to escalate.

18. Bus stops at Oak Close and opposite the Church/Woolpack.

Clerk and Cllr Rushman visited the both bus stop locations.

Oak Close looks like it could be easily extended. Clerk has sketched a proposal to get quoted to increase depth, add sides and a seat. Works required to repair tarmac, create a raised kerb, a dropped kerb and a path for safe passage to the opposite side of the road.

ACTION: Clerk to pull together proposal and work with RH to put forward for funding.

Opp the church does not look possible – no pavement width for a shelter, and no suitable alternative location.

19. Correspondence.

i. Sold signs in the village.

Clerk emailed agent, and they were quickly removed.

ii. Thanks and appreciation for pavement clearing.

Clerk, Cllrs and contractor received lots of appreciative comments.

iii. Potential volunteer, and volunteer group job, tree issues and thank and appreciation for The Bugle.

Clerk will follow up.

iv. NCCZ stickers.

Resident given details and will go direct to Trading Standards.

v. Noticeboards.

Clerk had to remove book sale posters for council related information.

DY now returned key and noticeboards for council business only.

Clerk happy to share events via website and magazine, DY to provide dates in advance.

vi. SCC Elections.

7th May – candidate details on the noticeboards

vii. Internal audit.

Booked for week 15th-21st June.

20. Items to be raised on a future agenda.

Question of merging the parish magazines prior to CGR merger.

Full VAS location plan.

21. Date of next meeting.

Next meeting to be the Parish Council AGM held on (corrected date) May 14th 2026, at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held prior to this at 6:00pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed to the public 7.43pm.

To be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting of the Parish Council, Thursday 14th May.

Signed:

Date:

DRAFT