

Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council

DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 30th July 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), County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger (RH), District Cllr Sarah Broughton (SB) and David Yates from the church.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Chair's welcome & apologies for absence.
The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting.
The Chair announced with great sadness, the passing of fellow Cllr Clive Last.
The Clerk shared the piece prepared to the Bugle and all agreed that Cllr Last would be greatly missed, having made a significant difference in his time on council.
DY expressed gratitude for all of the Cllrs on behalf of the village.
2. To receive any Declarations of Members' Interests.
Cllr Rushman and Cllr Leong-Son both declared an interest in item 6i, being neighbours to the property.
The Clerk noted the interest and advised Cllr Rushman and Cllr Leong-Son would not be able to vote on this item.
3. Approve and adopt the minutes from council meeting held on 18th June 2026.
Council resolved to approve the minutes and the Chair signed them.
4. To receive County & District Councillors reports.
DISTRICT: Significant ongoing problems with new bins and collections. If not reported within 48 hours, it seems WASC don't have to come back. New doorstep calls planned, on homes that are noted not to be recycling properly.
Extension to the waste hub – application now in.
RAF Barnham Camp and proposal to house over 1250 male asylum seekers in a small village of less than 600 people with no infrastructure / services / connections. WSC have objected on various grounds, but fear central gov. will override.
PB asked what the old Hyundai garage was to be, and how many more flats Bury needs?
RH confirmed flats, and that WSC had objected to further flats, but was overturned.
SB added that the lack of infrastructure has been raised and WSC are actively now looking at pinch points and taking this into consideration. Government has imposed increased in housing supply levels across West Suffolk.
BM asked about provision for undocumented migrants.
RH discussed section notices that prevent these homes in certain areas, and potential policy change to require planning for HMO's (currently allowed under permitted development).
COUNTY: LGR Judicial Review still going ahead. Engaged KC is waiting for more information from SCC.
At July full council meeting, the climate emergency was rescinded. No longer using terms 'net zero' or 'climate emergency,' preferring 'environmental stewardship' and looking at more practical solutions.
Replacement lines for the Fornham/Culford bend have been ordered and placed on priority works schedule.

PB asked if a more robust or ridged paint could be applied?
RH to raise the question.

5. **PUBLIC FORUM** 10 minutes.

DY raised that additional road markings not been added to Tollgate gyratory.

RH suggested raising with Town Council.

DY thanked council for the unexpected £1,000 grant towards church maintenance, stating that the churchyard is looking very tidy. Annual maintenance cost of circa. £2,500, split between Martyn Richmond and Green Scene.

DY advised 3 upcoming funerals, reduces the number of vacant plots, with circa. 22 left and therefore the need for future burial plots likely in the next 5 years.

Clerk advised there is no extra provision. In FAS the cemetery is run by a trust, who have secured a continuation plot.

ACTION: Clerk to look into what is required in terms of provision.

DY advised Rector has asked about using the field for funeral parking on 29th August.

Council raised no issues.

Councillors noted the use of the playing field recently for a football match. This wasn't a planned event, council had no knowledge of it and received no comments or complaints.

ACTION: Clerk to look into insurance implications regarding such use, especially in relation to the rabbit scrapes and any liabilities.

6. Planning applications.

Council to consider the following planning applications

i. DC/26/1052/TPO

Location The Agents House Fornham Park Fornham St Genevieve Suffolk IP28 6TT
TPO 157 (1991) tree preservation order - one Sycamore (T1 on plan, within area A1 on order) fell

Council felt that the decision ought to be left to the Tree Officer's expertise.

With Cllr Rushman and Cllr Leong-Son not able to vote on this item, council would not be quorate, so a decision would be unlawful anyway.

7. Finance.

Council to consider and approve the following;

- i. Council reviewed Q1 finance report – finances look healthy
- ii. **Council resolved to approve authorisation for outstanding invoices & payments, totalling £6,851.02**
- iii. Council noted payments received for June – **Total: £25.07** (interest)
- iv. Council noted bank balances to end of June – **Total: £56,543.13** (£232.25 current / £56,310.88 savings)
- v. **Council resolved to approve bank reconciliation for June**
- vi. **Council resolved to remove Cllr Last from bank mandate and add Cllr Mahon**

8. End of year finance & audit

- i. **Council resolved to approve Internal Audit Report and Clerks report of audit findings, noting actions to be taken**
- ii. **Council resolved to approve effectiveness of Internal Audit**
- iii. **Council resolved to appoint Clerks preferred Internal Auditor, Vicky Waples for the 2026/27 period**
- iv. Council noted, some questions raised by external auditor, Clerk submitted successful responses, audit progressing to next stages

9. Clerks update.

- i. Street sign School Lane
Posts since removed – Clerk to chase.
- ii. Volunteering group
Various future dates proposed for August & September and WhatsApp group permissions being collected.
- iii. Playing field gate
Complete – **ITEM CLOSED.**
- iv. Increased traffic on B1106
No response from Culford PC, Clerk to try again.
RH suggested speaking to Graham Mateer at SCC.
- v. Children's play area improvements
Works scheduled soon.
- vi. Bend in road sign
Pole installed, sign on order. Clerk to chase.
- vii. Birds nests, The Drift / Old Thetford Road
Clerk wrote to and spoke to contractor who supplied summary of works completed.
The Clerk shared the summary.
Council noted the summary and concluded that all works completed with due diligence – **ITEM CLOSED.**
- viii. Verge damage, bottom of Barton Hill
Escalated to no avail – **ITEM CLOSED.**
- ix. VAS battery
Council to note Matthew Kemsley replaced the battery at his own cost. Clerk offered to reimburse. Council very grateful – **ITEM CLOSED.**
- x. New VAS unit
Clerk & Cllr Mahon waiting for cooler weather to move 2 units and install the new unit.
- xi. White lines, B1106 bend
Covered under item 5.
- xii. Grass cutting contract
New contractor in place, on quarterly billing. Village looking much neater already.
- xiii. Meeting with sprayer
Clerk met with sprayer who has decided not to continue after years of abuse and being questioned.
Clerk confirmed council remains very grateful for all his works in the village, over many years and that council will support his decision and the other works that he carries out – **ITEM CLOSED.**
JR still wants to meet, to discuss potential planting around the field.
Clerk noted the trees that David had been influential in planting and maintaining were now bearing much fruit.
- xiv. Trim trail cleaning
Last item now cleaned – **ITEM CLOSED.**
- xv. Bus stop improvements – Oak Close
Works to improve, repair and retreat bus shelter complete – lots of positive feedback received – **ITEM CLOSED.**
- xvi. Basal growth on trees
Clerk raised with WSC and SCC, but nobody willing.
PB asked does it do the trees any harm.
RH confirmed it helps keep the main tree healthy.
ACTION: Clerk to investigate who did this before.

- xvii. VAT reclaim, made and received for £1,614.14
- xviii. S137 payments
Payments made to Church and Village Hall.
Clerk speaking with Stitches to find appropriate way to make payment.

10. Councillors reports.

- i. Weekly & monthly play park inspection reports - Cllr Rushman/Cllr Butler
Council to receive updates from monthly report and Cllrs bi-weekly visual inspections.
Nothing much to report.
- ii. Speeding in the village - Cllr Mahon/Clerk
Nothing much to report. Future reports to include stats once new unit in place.

11. Trim trail high risk items

Clerk has removed condemned section of trim trail, below ground level and made good.
Suggestion was made to potentially add a bench, maybe planter and tree, in memory of Cllr Last. Councillors very much in agreement.

ACTION: Clerk to look into options.

Suggestion also made to move dog bin, so not first thing you see as you enter the park.

12. Community Governance Review

Council resolved to approve naming of the new 'grouped' council The Fornhams Parish Council.

Council resolved to approve Proposed Cllr numbers for the new 'grouped' council as 5 FAS / 5 FSM / 2 FSG.

13. Correspondence.

- i. Praise & thanks for the improved bus shelter
- ii. Suggestion to revisit quiet lane status (as previously looked at in 2020) for Mill Road, from the River Lark, across to Hengrave Road, over the junction to the A143
ACTION: Clerk to speak to Matthew Fox (Highways) and RH.
- iii. Path opp. BMW overgrown & Russell Baron Road fencing
ACTION: Clerk to identify landowner, or potential volunteering job.
ACTION: Clerk to speak to WSC re: fencing.
- iv. Resident chasing replacement 30mph sign opp. Lark Valley Drive
Clerk confirmed council had closed due to costs involved.
- v. All Saints Resort open day scheduled for Thursday 15th October

14. Items to be raised on a future agenda.

- i. Planting on the field, and memorial bench/garden idea
- ii. Cemetery / future burial sites
- iii. Playing field insurance

15. Date of next meeting.

Next meeting to be held on September 10th 2026, at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 8.00pm.

To be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting of the Parish Council, Thursday 10th September.

Signed:

Date: