

Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council

Approved Minutes of the Meeting of Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council
held on Monday 14th April 2025 at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall

Councillors present: Cllr. J. Borrett - Chair (JBo), Cllr. M Collier - Vice Chair (MC), Cllr. P. Butler (PBU), Cllr. J. Rushman (JR) & Cllr. C. Last (CL).

Also present: Vicky Bright, Clerk. David Yates – PCC. Cllr. Rebecca Hopfensperger – WSC/SCC.

ITEM

PUBLIC FORUM:

12 Members of the public were in attendance.

- Residents of School Lane raised concerns over the condition of School Lane and the issue of flooding due to sunken kerb stones and the downpipes from the Village Hall. The deeds of the Village Hall state that the charity is responsible for the maintenance of the Lane, but the Charity is not financially able to pay for the works. Residents in School Lane are prepared to make contributions and it was asked of the Parish Council could also contribute. Cllr. Hopfensperger offered to make a contribution from her Locality Budget. This item is to be discussed later in the meeting under Item 7 (ii).
- Residents living near the B1106 junction are concerned that despite the signage there are still frequent accidents. It was suggested that further road markings are needed around the corner, with some better Hi-Vis signage. It was agreed that visibility is better when the verges are well maintained too. This item is discussed further under Item 6 (ii).
- Residents raised concerns over the new amended hotel application for Pickleball courts and Tennis courts, they gave thanks to the applicant for removing the Pickleball courts, which is hoped should improve noise. However, residents expressed that they would still like the courts moved closer to the hotel, possibly another 20m. The hotel representatives present responded by explaining that due to the location of the pond this would not be possible, residents asked if it would be possible to move it as much as they could, despite the pond, even 10m would be better than nothing. The hotel representatives said they would take this back to the table for discussion and consideration. This item is to be discussed later in the meeting under Item 5 (i).
- The Hotel advised that they are running a free drop-in CPR session at the Hotel, with trained professionals, on 10th May 2025. Contact the Hub for information.

25/04/1 **Chairman's Welcome & Acceptance of Apologies for Absence (LGA 1972, Section 85(1) & (2)):**

Apologies: Cllr. P. Borrett. Cllr. B. Mahon.

25/04/2 **Declaration of Members' Interest (for agenda items) – LGA 2000 Part III:**
Cllr. Clive Last declared a personal interest in Item 5 (ii), as the applicant is his close neighbour.

25/04/3 **Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings – LGA 1972, Schedule 12, para 41(2):**

Resolved 25/04/3.01

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10th March 2025 were adopted as a true statement and signed by the Chairman (Jbo).

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25/04/4

County, District and Community reports:

Cllr. Sarah Broughton sent apologies.

Cllr. Hopfensperger gave the following report:

- Devolution – WSC have submitted their interim business case for a 3 unitary for Suffolk. All District and Borough Councils are in agreement with this proposal. SCC are proposing a 1 unitary, the formal case is to be submitted in September, with the Government's decision expected approximately Christmas time. Cllr. Hopfensperger is to send the Clerk copies of the WSC & SCC Business cases and the figures for the different options.

Cllr. Hopfensperger gave updates on the following items on the agenda; 6 (i), (ii), (iii), (v), (vii).

25/04/5

i

Planning Applications for consideration:

DC/24/0538/FUL RE-CONSULTATION – Three tennis courts. Location: All Saints Hotel, The Street, Fornham St Genevieve

Resolved 25/04/5.01

It was agreed by my unanimous vote to request a Holding Objection on application DC/24/0538/FUL, for the following reasons;

- The drawings on the application still state Racquet ball courts, and need to be amended to state Tennis Courts.
- Residents would like the applicant to look further at moving the courts closer to the hotel.

ii

DC/25/0473/FUL – one self build/custom dwelling (following demolition of existing dwelling). Location: Rathkeltair Lodge, Barton Hill, Fornham St Martin

Resolved 25/04/5.02

It was agreed by a vote of 4 in favour and 1 abstaining, to offer No Objections to application DC/25/0473/FUL.

**This was later deferred and a Holding Objection was requested, following further information received from the agent after the meeting via email, advising that the red boundary line had been added, thus reducing the actual plot size from 1 hectare to ½ hectare in order to meet the regulations of ½ hectare plot size for self-build. The Parish Council have requested further clarification around the self-build plot size rules.*

(For information only):

iii

DC/25/0129/HH – a. porch extension b. infill extensions to front and rear elevation c. first floor side elevation d. double doors to replace windows to rear elevation e. single storey rear extension f. new windows to side and rear elevations g. new rooflight to front elevation. Location: 4 Lark Valley Drive, Fornham St Martin – Approved 31st March 2025!

iv

DC/24/1660/FUL – change of use of land to equestrian and construction of domestic stables. Location: North Lodge, Fornham Park, Fornham St Genevieve - *Pending Decision!

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- v **DC/24/1671/TPO – TPO 030 (1960) tree preservation order one Ash (T1 on plan within A5 on order) fell. Location: The Laurels, Parklands Green, Fornham St Genevieve -**
*Pending Decision!
- vi **DC/24/1123/FUL – reinstatement of 10-metre-high golf ball safety nets to the rear of 23-29 Pigeon Lane on the golf course side of existing tree belt. Location: All Saints Hotel, The Street, Fornham St Genevieve – Pending decision!**
- vii **DC/24/1091/FUL – parking area for 15no. cars. Location: All Saints Hotel, The Street, Fornham St Genevieve – Pending decision!**
- viii **DC/20/0496/FUL – 68 lodges with parking, landscaping, waste and recycling areas and construction compound/maintenance area. Location: St Genevieve Lakes, Road from Bury Road to B1106, Timworth – Pending Decision!**
- 25/04/6 **Highways/Footpaths & Trees**
- i **Update on works date for White lining/hatching outside the Woolpack pub (RH-SCC)**
Cllr. Hopfensperger advised she would chase this up, as the works were scheduled to be completed by end of January.
- ii **Update on Signage/lining Scheme on B1106 towards Culford/West Stow Road (RH-SCC)**
Cllr. Hopfensperger confirmed she was in the process of finalising quotes for illuminated BEND/SLOW signs, to be placed on the approach to the bend, to give prior warning. It was suggested that two signs be placed either end of the bend, but it was agreed to see how much each sign was first. It has been confirmed that the verge cutting has now been added to the cyclic program and Cllr. Hopfensperger is going to check the schedule for that area.
- iii **Overgrown trees next to the Lark Valley footpath Update (RH-WSC)**
Cllr. Hopfensperger advised she has now found emails from 2019, when SCC admitted responsibility for the trees and carried out the last maintenance, she has forwarded this to Andy Moore for his action, as the criteria hasn't changed since 2019. Cllr, Hopfensperger has also raised this issue of SCC Highways passing responsibility to the District for Highways issues, to the Cabinet Member.
- iv **Update on Mud/Flooding on Barton Hill footpath (Ref: 00498752) (RH-SCC)**
The Chairman raised with Cllr. Hopfensperger that since the area was path repaired with tarmac, it has caused a raised bump on the footpath, which now allows the water to pool and form a pond. Cllr. Hopfensperger advised she would raise this with Andy Moore.
- v **Update on overgrown vegetation on the footpath – Barton Hill to the first bridge (Ref:00500496)**
Cllr. Hopfensperger confirmed that this is SCC responsibility and like Item 6 (iii), she had forwarded it to Andy Moore for his attention and had raised it with the Cabinet Member.
- vi **Discuss erosion of the highway which immediately abuts the private road of Lark Valley Court (Pbu)**
Cllr. Butler confirmed the works to repair the highway has now been completed.

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- vii **Update on CityFibre works in FSM – David Yates complaint & Complaint RE: Daffodils**
Cllr. Hopfensperger advised she is liaising with the Area Manager and he has confirmed that it is City Fibre responsibility to 'make good' and damage caused by works they undertake and in response to the lack of consultation, he advised it is also their responsibility to consult with residents, not SCC and he has requested works to be carried out to repair the damage made. David Yates advised that the workers did come out, but only repaired the damage in front of one property. Cllr. Hopfensperger is to take this up with the Area Manager. The Clerk advised that they had also destroyed all the daffodil bulbs, and Cllr. Hopfensperger was asked to raise this with him too.
- viii **Discuss Parking on the footpath opposite The Pines**
The Clerk advised she had received a complaint from a resident regarding parked vehicles frequently blocking the footway opposite The Pines. The Council agreed that they have no powers to enforce parking regulations and advised it was a Police matter. The Clerk is to advise the resident to report it to the Police.
- ix **Discuss Highways Signage Audit & Review & cleaning**
Cllr. Rushman suggested an audit of all road signage in the village to record and that need repair, replace or cleaning, Cllr Rushman volunteered to lead this.
- 25/04/7 **Parish Matters:**
- i **Weekly Inspection Reports Trim Trail & Play Area & Agree Weekly Rota**
Cllr. John Rushman to continue weekly inspections and has forwarded photographs to the Clerk that were taken at the most recent visit. The Clerk is to source quotes for the repairs needed at the play are and Trim Trail.
- ii **Discuss the condition of School Lane – VHC**
The Clerk read out a statement from the VHC outlining the problems with the lane and asking for a donation. The Clerk reported that so far this financial year the Council has given a total of £2,250.00 in donations to the hall. It was suggested that the VHC be encouraged to take up Cllr. Hopfensperger's offer of a donation from her Locality and get the downpipes/soakaways done as a priority. It was also suggested that the option of applying 'plainings' to the surfacing, as previously done, be investigated and a clearer idea of costs be looked into.
- iii **Discuss the works and quote for Basal Growth on trees in village**
The Clerk presented two quotes for the works from Tilbrook's and Heartwood Tree Services.
Resolved 25/04/7.01
It was agreed to accept the quote for £450 for works to remove the basal growth from the trees.
- iv **Discuss Leaflet distribution with the Bugle**
The Clerk advised that Justin Hook had been approached to include a leaflet on the SCC 'Warm Homes Initiative'. It was agreed that this was not feasible, as it would incur costs to the PC for staff and hours. It was suggested that Justin offer SCC a centre double page to advertise at a reduced cost for as many editions as they want.
- v **Discuss ongoing issue of alarm at the pumping station**

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The Clerk advised that she had been contacted to say that the alarm was going off again and that WSC had advised them that the previous contractor had obviously not dealt with it, but that the new contractor would not take on outstanding works that should have been completed by the previous contractor. Cllr. Hopfensperger asked the Clerk to forward the email correspondence to her and she will look into it.

25/04/8

Correspondence:

- WSC – West Suffolk Housing Pathway;

I'm writing to let you know about a new service being launched by West Suffolk Council today. The aim of this new service will be to help house and support vulnerable people and to further West Suffolk Council's work in preventing and reducing homelessness. The new West Suffolk Housing Pathway will be tailored to individual needs to help people who need support either in sustaining accommodation or to maintain independent living. This will include support for people with learning difficulties or mental health needs, people battling drug or alcohol addiction, homeless people and ex-offenders. It will also help people who are working but who need additional support. The new service will offer three levels of support from accommodation only through to high level care for people with complex needs who may pose a risk to themselves and others. Our continued emphasis will be on homelessness prevention while also breaking the pattern of repeat homelessness that sadly happens for some of the people we help. This is in line with the aims and actions of our [Housing, Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy](#), which was itself shaped through public engagement including with our town and parish councils. The new housing pathway service is backed with £200,000 a year of funding from the council's housing reserves. It follows on from changes by Suffolk County Council to only fund Housing Related Support to people it has a statutory responsibility for. While the changes to HRS were initially due to take effect on 1 April 2024, Suffolk Public Sector Leaders provided interim funding for a year to allow time for the district and borough councils to look at alternative provision. Through this new service we are helping the most vulnerable people in our communities while also working to deliver on some of the key aims set out in our strategy to tackle and reduce homelessness and rough sleeping.

25/04/9

Finance & Policies:

Bank Reconciliation from list of payments/receipts

Resolved 25/04/9.01

The bank balances and reconciliation of payments and receipts were received and adopted and initialled & signed as such by the Chairman (JBo). The bank account balance as of the 31st March 2025 is £18,307.83.

ii

Payment Schedule/list to authorise payment of outstanding invoices

Resolved 25/04/9.02

The payment schedule for outstanding invoices was checked and signed by two signatories.

Payee	Details	Invoice number	Total	Power to pay*
Mrs V Bright	Expenses	-	£15.58	3
David Randall	Village planting	-	£41.40	14
J Hook	Bugle Compiler		£209.63	8
First Impressions	Bugle printing	SI-DRAFT	£557.87	8
SALC	Membership 25-26	29773	£485.23	3

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SALC	Payroll	29552	£54.00	3
Mrs D Pott	Litter Pickers	003/25	£145.09	9
	Bugle Distribution	002	£40.00	8

iii **Discuss Annual Price change notification - Commercial Waste & Recycling Collections Service**

Resolved 25/04/9.03

The Parish Council agreed the price increase for the Commercial Waste collection service from WSC for the playing field and dog bins at a rate of a 4.5% rise from our current rates for general waste and a 4.24% rise for dry mixed recycling collections.

iv **Appoint & Adopt the letter of engagement for the Internal Auditor 24/25**

The Council adopted the letter of engagement from SALC and agreed to appoint SALC as the internal auditor for the 2024/25 financial year.

25/04/10

Councillors Reports & Items for Future Agendas:

Cllr. Butler advised of the FAS Computer Club that is looking for new members and asked if a poster could be displayed in the PC notice boards; Cllr. Collier agreed to do this.

Meeting closed at 8:59pm

Date of Next Meeting: Annual Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 8th May 2025, following the Annual Parish Meeting at 7:30pm.

Signed: *Clive Last*

Date: 8th May, 2025