

FORNHAM ST MARTIN CUM ST GENEVIEVE PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 14th May 2015 in the Village Hall, Fornham St Martin.

MINUTES

PRESENT

Councillor M Collier (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs J Hubbard
Councillor N Owen
Councillor P Butler
Councillor G Hubbard
Councillor P Forster

IN ATTENDANCE

Borough/County Councillor Mrs R Hopfensperger
The clerk
Two members of the public

1. APOLOGIES - PCSO Teakle

2. MINUTES OF THE 2014 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

These were signed as being a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING - None.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - see pages 28/29

5. POLICE REPORT

Crimes in last 12 months were:

9 Thefts
5 Burglaries
2 Criminal Damage
2 Assaults
9 Other

6. BOROUGH /COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Hopfensperger to the meeting.

She advised Councillors that SCC had made savings of £38.2 million: being part of the 4 year savings plan of £156 million.

On education, Councillor Hopfensperger said that in Suffolk this last year there had been an improvement in the league table - from 137th down to 125th out of a total of 150, although in our immediate area, we were above average.

SCC has agreed a deal with Norfolk County Council to take 40,000 tons of waste to Great Blakenham. This will be a positive monetary benefit.

On VAS signs, Councillor Hopfensperger explained the reason for the delays but now things appear to be back on track and she is liaising with Hen Abbott.

The footpath drawings in respect of the path widening scheme are underway and work should commence as soon as everyone is happy with the plans. Colin Noble is the new leader of SCC.

On the proposed waste HUB, Councillor Hopfensperger said she had held meetings with the leader elect and others and assured the meeting that SCC is serious about looking for an alternative site. She felt that the meeting was positive and there was light at the end of the tunnel. She mentioned the 700 signature petition which had been handed in to the SCC.

The Chairman wondered why, if SCC was serious about an alternative site, were they carrying out sound test. Councillor Hopfensperger said that this may be because the order for this had been made before the issue of looking for another site had been mooted. Councillor Hopfensperger said she would keep councillors fully apprised with any developments. She confirmed that the new MP, Jo Churchill is very supportive of the Village's opposition to the proposed HUB.

On Borough matters, Councillor Hopfensperger said that the Vision 2031 document had been ratified.

The Borough had achieved £2 million savings, mainly due to shared services with Forest Heath and merging services.

The Apex is achieving more revenue and the subsidy is now £500,000.00 per annum.

Regarding the Fornham Park proposed development, Councillor Hopfensperger said she has had talks with residents in that area and is keeping an eye on this. She said her fear was that this could easily be a Trojan Horse, opening the flood gates for overdevelopment. She asked Councillors what they would like her to do. Councillor Hopfensperger was told that the Parish Council would as that this application should go before the full Planning Committee. She said she would speak to the case officer to have it 'called in'. Councillors felt very strongly that since the approval in 2006 the laws have significantly changed and there are clearly new guidelines so this application should be withdrawn and be resubmitted.

On the Tollgate interchange, Councillor Hopfensperger said she was still

pressing for additional funding to enable the preferred and much better option to be agreed.

Councillor Hopfensperger said due to the woeful lack of traffic planning, she is pressing to have a traffic plan for Bury. She was urged to make sure that any plan/survey included villages surrounding Bury as there will be huge impact placed upon them by the enormous increase in traffic generated by the additional houses.

Councillor Owen said that in the Vision 2031 document, there is no mention of the Fornham Park site, Hollow Road Farm and West Stow, indeed as to the latter; this had been kept a closely guarded secret.

On the Park Farm issue, Councillor Hopfensperger said that the owner was to meet with Ingham Parish Council to apprise them of their proposals.

The Chairman said that the Park Farm planning consultant was coming to the June Parish Council Meeting.

Asked when the Tutt Hill development was to commence, Councillor Hopfensperger thought that it would be in August. There are still archaeology issues to be resolved.

Councillor Butler congratulated Councillor Hopfensperger on her election, with an increased majority.

7. PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

The annual accounts to the end of March 2015 had been internally audited and the Annual Return signed by the Chairman and sent to BDO. The accounts which are shown in full appear on the Village website and show a balance in hand of £10,378 being carried over to 2015/16.

8 VILLAGE HALL ACCOUNTS

The treasurer's report had been circulated to Councillors and this showed a balance as at 31st March 2015 of £5443. The Clerk would ask the Chairman of the Hall Committee if they would like the accounts and their Chairman's report put on the PC website.

9. COMMITTEE COMMENTS ON :- PLANNING

The Chairman explained that a new planning committee had been formed; comprising Councillors N Owen, Mrs Hubbard and P Butler who were undergoing a baptism of fire, due to the one or two very complicated proposed developments. Councillor Butler said Councillor Owen had done a fantastic job.

RIGHTS OF WAY

The Chairman asked the Clerk to contact Councillor Hopfensperger to ask her, as a matter of high importance; to see why the path opposite Flint Cottage had not been repaired as this item was on the same report last year.

Councillor Butler said, with the impending inevitable increase in traffic, it was imperative that cycle ways are constructed. Councillor Hubbard pointed out with the proposed development at Fornham Park, Park Farm and West Stow this will increase the number of cyclists greatly.

SALC - nothing to report.

VILLAGE HALL

Councillor Butler said the thorny issue of car parking has to be addressed and brought to a satisfactory conclusion. This will be a special item on the June agenda.

Councillor Butler said Tarmac and another contractor had been approached to see if they would donate some materials for the repair of School Lane. They had done something similar for another organisation.

PLAYING FIELD

Councillor Forster had been given the Borough's report on the playing field. There were a few minor issues which he would attend to. He would also check on the mole infestation and let the Clerk know if the pest controller was required again.

TREE WARDEN

From the floor Mr Zarattini wondered what the remit was for this. Mr Hilder, a past Councillor and tree warden, explained the role could be for a Councillor or anyone nominated by the Parish Council and the remit would range over a wide area, including identifying the need to hedging, trees, plants etc. The Chairman would continue keeping a watching brief.

11 CORRESPONDENCE- None

DATE OF 2016 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 19th MAY 2016 AT 7:00 pm