

Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council

Victoria Bright, Clerk, 3 Scott Avenue, Mildenhall, Suffolk, IP28 7LT

Tel: 07712 232920 Email: fsmsgpc@gmail.com

Annual Parish Meeting of Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Held in the Village Hall, at 7pm on THURSDAY 10th MAY 2018

Minutes

Present Parish Council: Cllr. M. Collier, Cllr. P. Forster, Cllr. P. Borrett, Cllr. J. Hubbard, Cllr. G. Hubbard & Cllr. L. Flaherty. Clerk, Vicky Bright.

Also Present: Rebecca Hopfensperger – SEBC/SCC, David Yates – St Martin's Church, Maureen Hockett – VHC, Beryl Dykes – Ladies Club, Pc Andre De Jongh (SNT).

4 Members of Public were in attendance.

1. Cllr. Mike Collier presides as Chair of the meeting.
2. **Approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th May 2017**
Resolved APM18/05/1

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th May 2017 were adopted as a true statement and signed by the Chairman (MC).

ANNUAL REPORTS

3. Report from the Parish Council Chairman (Cllr. Mike Collier)

The first few months of the Parish Councils year were again taken up with the West Suffolk Operational Hub (WOSH) Planning Application. We are all now aware of course that the Application was agreed by the Development Committee on the second submission after some procedural shenanigans. Your Parish Council together with the support of the Parish Councils of Great Barton and Fornham All Saints together with a number of residents who provided expert advice and fought long and hard however we failed to win the day. Going forward the Parish Councils each will have a representative on the Community Liaison Group (CLG). This group was formed in the early stages of the Planning Application and will continue to function until the WSOH is completed and operational. This will give the Parish Councils the opportunity to monitor the development and to raise any residents concerns in a timely manner.

The village playing field trusteeship which was not correctly assigned has now been changed and clarified to reflect that the Parish Council now has responsibility for its upkeep and future use. This will remain in perpetuity and will ensure that this facility continues to be a village asset, and that no unwanted developments can ever take place. I would like to thank our clerk Vicky Bright for all her advice and hard work on achieving this outcome, as I know it has been very time consuming and legally complicated.

After the unfortunate willful damage to the VAS machine some time ago it is now back in use. It is now being deployed in three separate areas of the village where it remains for three week periods. Without doubt when in use in The Street it definitely has a positive effect on speeding. Your Parish Council is considering getting a second machine, providing funds can be made available.

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We have spent some of our precious resources on updating and repairing the Trim Trail signage and the children's play area, I am sure you will all agree this was money well spent.

We are now very privileged to have our own village defibrillator. It is located in the old phone box which has been suitably converted for this purpose. We are indebted to the Lottery Fund and The Community Heartbeat Trust for funding the entire project. Again I would like to thank Vicky whose idea it was and who worked hard in managing the process through to completion. A training course on how to effectively use the defibrillator was held in the village hall and was well attended by interested residents. We are grateful to Alan Reid a village resident who as volunteered to check the equipment on a weekly basis.

Last May David retired as our village litter picker and his replacements Donna and Laurie have continued his good work in keeping our village free from litter. We thank them both.

This year again has been a busy one, I would like to thank my Parish Council colleagues for their valuable contributions to Parish Council business. Furthermore, I would also like to thank Rebecca Hopsfenpurger for her professional advice and support, particularly around the WSOH Planning Application. Rebecca was unrelenting in her efforts to help us challenge the concept and this was greatly appreciated. Sue and Pat Brooklyn continue to edit The Bugle and our gratitude goes to them for all their hard work. It is appropriate of course to also thank the team who give up their free time to deliver a Bugle to all households in the village. Also a big thank you to Councillor Peter Forster who collects and sorts the Bugles ready for distribution. We are also lucky to have David Randall who keeps the weeds on the Trim Trail in order together with managing our Planters in the village....Thank you David. We continue as a village to have successful clubs and societies and we owe a debt of gratitude to all the volunteers who contribute their time to making them a success.

Our village hall would not be ready for all these popular clubs and societies if it was not for our new Caretaker Roger and our previous Caretaker Coleen who fills in when Roger is not available. Our thanks to them both.

4. Report from County and District Councillor, (Cllr. Rebecca Hopfensperger)

Suffolk County Council

Suffolk passes 90% fibre broadband milestone as commitment to connect entire county is reiterated

On 21 July 2017, new figures were published that show that nine out of every 10 homes and businesses in Suffolk now have superfast broadband available. Suffolk County Council and Openreach have signed a new contract to extend coverage to 98% during 2020. Plans are being developed for the remaining 2% to complete the Better Broadband for Suffolk programme.

Suffolk County Council's Children's Services continue to improve following Ofsted inspection

On 6 November 2017, it was announced that the council's Children's Services are now rated 'Good' in all areas.

Suffolk County Council's Children's Services were previously judged 'Good' overall at the end of 2015, a grade that only a third of Local Authorities have achieved. Whilst this was positive, the council recognised that there were still areas for improvement and Ofsted's latest report reflects the action taken to improve in all areas. All areas are now judged to be 'Good'. This puts Suffolk County Council in the top 25% of all Local Authorities.

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Suffolk County Council's 2018/19 budget proposals published

On 14 November 2017, proposals to balance Suffolk County Council's budget in 2018/19 were published. These included an option to increase the basic rate of council tax for the first time in seven years and a range of savings plans. The council has carefully considered financial forecasts and projected demand to ensure the most vulnerable people in society continue to receive the highest level of support possible in the future. The council also continues to develop new and innovative ways to deliver services and make further savings. This includes using digital technology to improve efficiency and ensuring health and social care services working better together to improve access for the people that need help. These programmes will support the authority as it seeks to make savings of £56 million by 2021.

Additional £21 million to resurface and repair Suffolk's roads

On 15 January 2018, Suffolk County Council announced new plans to invest an additional £21 million in resurfacing and repairing the county's roads in the next three years. The plans will see 1,000 miles of roads in Suffolk resurfaced by March 2021, a quarter of all the roads that Suffolk County Council is responsible for. This is a commitment made in the council's Our Priorities report published in 2017.

A reminder: You can access up-to-date information about roadworks, road and street closures and how they affect you, as well as information about road improvements projects in Suffolk. The interactive map can be found at www.suffolk.roadworks.org

Over 6,500 potholes repaired in Suffolk since January

Suffolk has seen over 6,500 potholes repaired since 1 January 2018; with a further 950 scheduled over coming weeks as the county council continues its war on potholes.

Police and Crime Commissioner Public Meetings and On-Tour Events

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has now confirmed dates for his 2018 series of Public Meetings and on-tour events, to be held in each of the seven district/borough areas across the County.

Dates, times and venues are listed below, starting with Ipswich on 10 May, and can also be viewed on the PCC's website: <http://www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk/>

Thursday 12 July, St Edmundsbury 7pm – 8:30pm

Venue: The Newbury Community Centre, St Olaves Road, Howard Estate, Bury St Edmunds IP32 6RW

In March 2018, Nicola Beach was appointed as Suffolk County Council's new Chief Executive.

St Edmundsbury Borough Council

Budget

St Edmundsbury Council have set a freeze on Council tax for 2018/2019 at £182.16 for band D properties. Suffolk County Council has set its precept at £43,341,465.01 resulting in a band D council tax of £1,242.54 a 4.99% increase including 3% for adult social care

One Council - West Suffolk Council

The orders to create West Suffolk Council through the merger of St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council have been passed by the house of commons and the house of lords. The papers are expected to be signed by the Secretary of State by the end of May. The new council would better drive jobs, deliver services and continue

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investment to support local communities than the current arrangement. In addition, it would generate around £800,000 in savings and efficiencies and help protect the additional £4 million of annual savings already produced by sharing services.

At the same time a new council would also better support, invest in and meet the challenges facing communities, such as increased population, demand on health care and housing as well as reduced funding nationally. Both councils have also been making a strong case to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to make sure strong representation of local communities is maintained.

Part of the merger process is a review of the ward boundaries, it is proposed that the ward of Fornhams is merged with Gt Barton and will be represented by two councillors. These proposals were put to the Boundary Commission last month who will consult further on the proposals in the Summer. I put forward comments I received including ensuring that the Fornham have equal representation with Gt Barton including ensuring that the ward name reflects this by being called the Fornhams and Gt Barton ward.

Brown bins

Garden Waste Collection Service customers should have received a reminder to renew their subscription which is £40.00 per annum. This will be the third year of the service and we currently have around 30,000 customers who have paid using a variety of methods.

Here is the link for signing up on line: www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/gardenwaste

Bury St Edmunds Masterplan

After 20 events held across two periods of public engagement resulting in more than 8000 public comments, and many subsequent amendments, the final version of the Bury St Edmunds Town Centre Masterplan was adopted by St Edmundsbury Borough Council. The masterplan looks to shape how and where growth will happen in the town centre, to improve where improvements are needed and protect the things that people love best about the town centre.

Post Office

St Edmundsbury Borough Council has agreed to invest £6.72m in the former Post Office site. This prestigious redevelopment will bring huge social, economic, environmental and community benefits to the town.

Winter night shelter

This new shelter opened until the end of March. The centre provided support from people being referred by the housing team on 01284 757178. Just as with the temporary centre, the Council also continued to assist rough sleepers through referrals via the Bury Drop-In Centre and through speaking to people sleeping rough on the streets.

West Suffolk Operational Hub

The planning process of the WSOH has occupied a lot of my time, as well as the parish council's and the other supporters of the cause. I continued to object to placing the WSOH at Hollow Road Farm Farnham, unfortunately planning permission was granted and I would like to thank all those of you who took time to write, email respond to consultations and turn up meetings to express your concerns. I believe we put up an extremely good fight and I was proud to be a representative of such a passionate community. There is now a community liaison group set up to keep everyone informed of progress on the site and to ensure residents have input into the design and operation of the site.

St Edmundsbury Locality Budget

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I have supported the purchase of chairs for the village hall and new noticeboards for parish. As well as the setting up of the River Lark Community Group who carry out work on the River Lark.

5. Police Service Report/Q&A Session (PC Andre De Jongh, Suffolk Constabulary)

Crime Stats June 2017 – May 2018:

June = 1 Criminal Damage & 6 Burglaries of outbuildings/businesses

July = 4 Arson & 1 Criminal Damage

August = 1 Criminal damage

Sept = 0

Oct = 1 Violence

Nov = 1 Violence & 1 Drug related crime

Dec = 3 Residential Burglaries & 3 Burglaries to sheds

Jan = 1 Criminal Damage, 1 Theft & 1 Violence

Feb = 1 Criminal Damage, 2 Residential Burglaries & 2 Burglaries to outbuildings/businesses

March = 1 Vehicle Damage, 1 Theft of a Vehicle & 2 Criminal Damage.

There has only been one incident of anti-social behaviour in the village. 2 out of 4 arrests were made on burglaries. There has been an increase in drugs related crimes in Bury St Edmunds, there is a dedicated team for these crimes and closure orders have been made on houses and dens. There has been a big arrest success, mainly due to the intelligence gathering from the PCSO's.

Crime stats may be influenced by the new crime recording system.

6. Report from St Martin's Church (David Yates)

The church had another very busy year in 2017, both in terms of attendances at weekly services, special services at church festivals like Easter and Christmas, weddings, funerals and baptisms as well as community events. Thanks go to our Priest in Charge, Revd Canon Mark Haworth and Hon. Assistant Priest Revd Sylvia Bareham for carrying out the majority of services during the year, supported by other team ministers when necessary.

1129 people attended the weekly services, including 61 children, that's 94 a month for the 2 services on Sundays and 2 on Tuesdays, but always room for a few more.!

Additionally, we officiated at 7 funeral services in church, 6 at the crematorium, 4 weddings and 4 baptisms for 1455 people altogether, including 48 children. 563 residents at Fornham House attended the weekly Communion Service over the year. In total 2584 benefitted from the 108 services held throughout 2017, an increase of 484 (23%) over the previous year, mainly from the 4 weddings, so the church is still very active in the life of the village.

We were pleased to see the Parish Council at the Remembrance Service, and hope this will encourage others to come to this important service in the nations heritage, and remember the 15 fallen in the Great War from the village.

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The church continues to be well cared for thanks to a small team of cleaners and flower arrangers, with favourable comments often heard by visitors from near and far. We also have a small fabric group who maintain the condition of the building and make improvements where feasible, practical and viable, under the strict guidance of the Diocese Authority, whose appointed Architect carries out detailed inspections every 5 years, the next in 2019, and makes recommendations for regular maintenance and repairs.

Our regular Book Sales Coffee and Cakes were held 3 times during the year and continue to be very popular, with people coming from the surrounding area as well as the village. As well as raising money for the church maintenance, they are a valuable social event, for folk to drop in and have a chat over a wide variety of refreshments.

Our regular concert by The Tudor Rose Singers was again well attended, and a very enjoyable social evening of mixed music with some organ pieces on our recently restored wind pipe organ, with a wine buffet. The annual fete was held at Fornham House in July, as it will be every year in future. Always a good day out with lots of stalls, games, tombola and prize draw etc. and teas, on a nice warm sunny day.!

We have recently held our Annual Meeting to elect a Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the coming year, meeting not less than 4 times a year. Sylvia Hilton has stood down after 11 years dedicated service, and David Yates and Beryl Dykes were elected as Churchwardens for the next year, together with Anita Rooney (Secretary) continuing as Deputy Warden and we are grateful to Heather Long, Sarah Cooledge, Joan Webb, Maureen Groves and Sylvia Hilton forming the rest of the PCC.

We have now received permission from the Diocese to remove a Yew near the War Memorial to give more space for the Remembrance Service, and replace the lead water supply pipe with current specification plastic. The South Aisle Lady Chapel has been refurbished with a new blue carpet and matching chair cushions, including some essential floor repairs to joists and boards, discovered when the old worn carpet was removed. A detailed inspection has been carried out of the supporting framework to the 6 bells in the tower and major works are required if the bells are to be brought back into full use again. The option of adding 2 bells is favoured, as this is an opportunity to complete to a full complement, at advantageous cost, so we are now looking for 2 benefactors. We would also like to improve the kitchen facilities on the ground floor, by creating an upper gallery ringing floor. Obviously considerable fund raising will be needed over the next few years, but this Tower Project will also be heavily dependent on obtaining sufficient grants. This was launched in January this year with an Organ Recital by renowned retired professional organist Christopher Moore, followed of course by a wine buffet.

Finally, grateful thanks to the Parish Council for the annual grant of £670 last year towards the £2,000 cost of the churchyard maintenance of grass cutting, hedge & yews trimming.

7. Reports from Local Clubs & Societies:

- **the Gardening Club (Clerk read out on behalf of Catriona Smart);**

Fornham Garden Club, from its inception in 1995, has continued to thrive, with a current membership in excess of 70 and a healthy balance sheet. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in Fornham St Martin Village Hall with a guest speaker covering a variety of topics. For example, this year, invited speakers will give talks on Fuschias, British Gardens open to the public, Kew Gardens, Salvias, Hyacinths and

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hardy shrubs. We have a visit to a local garden of interest one evening in the summer and a dinner in January, which brings us round to our AGM in April very quickly.

We currently enjoy a least four outings during the months of May to September and this year promises to be no exception with visits to RHS Hyde Hall, BBC Gardeners' World Live at the NEC Birmingham, Hoveton Hall Gardens and Hindringham Hall Gardens in Norfolk, and Althorp House and Gardens in Northamptonshire.

Over the years we have donated funds to a variety of national and local charities. Details of our existence and activities appear in the local bimonthly Fornham Bugle and the monthly Lark Valley Benefice Magazine.

- **the Ladies Club (Beryl Dykes);**

It has been a successful year;

In May we had a talk from Peter Crighton, Antiques Roadshow, June and evening a Buxhall Crafts Museum, July was our summer social, with our AGM in September, this was accompanied by a slide show of Australia, by Bob & Liz Hope. In October our members attended a CPR session, we were given a talk by Linda Scales in November and had a very nice Christmas dinner at the Bunbury Arms in December. In January we had a visit from the Police giving a talk on 20th Century Policing, with a history talk in February. Ron Davies gave a very interesting presentation on wood turning and Brian Purlow gave a talk on Victorian Gardens in March & April. Our chosen charity to support this year is Diabetes UK.

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the Month in Fornham St Martin Village Hall and annual membership is £12.

- **the Toddler Group (Clerk read out on behalf of Jean Cook);**

Fornham St. Martin Mother & Toddler Group meets every Tuesday, during term time, in the village hall from 10-11.30 a.m. We now have 10 mums/child-minders/grandmothers registered this term and happily 3 new mums have joined this term. Our numbers fluctuate as children reach school age, so it's a matter of you lose some then new younger ones take their place. We are a happy group and each week take turns to provide a cake/small cakes which we sell at 20p each and this usually covers the cost of the biscuits and drinks (squash, tea and coffee) which are available for the children and mums. Our major expenses are the rent and the insurance which is compulsory, as we are affiliated to the Pre-School Learning Alliance. We charge a joining fee of £2.50 per term + £2.00 per session regardless of how many children each mum brings! The group was formed in November 1989 and we hope to be able to provide this facility for the foreseeable future.

- **Elderberry Friendship & Social Club (Clerk read out on behalf of Tom Rowe);**

We are now into our 10th year and are looking forward to many interesting and enjoyable meetings and day trips together. There is no reason though why you should not be enjoying them with us!

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 2.00pm at The Fornham All Saints Community Centre where we enjoy being entertained by a variety of talented performers and speakers. This year we are going on a cruise. Yes, a Cruise albeit only for 2 hours on the Norfolk Broads combined with a visit to the popular Wroxham Barns and all that for only £25. We pick up in all 3 villages. At the time of writing this we still have 11 seats available, you don't have to be a member of our club, but we hope you will consider joining us. We are also going to Sunny Clacton in August to sample a mouth-watering carvery meal

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followed by The Summer Entertainment Show all for £35. Currently, we have 12 seats available.

We are called a Friendship & Social Club and we adhere to this title totally. If you are unable to attend because of transport or physical problems, we will endeavour to provide your transport. Likewise, if you need help with travelling to a medical appointment we will do our best to make sure you can attend. Not for money, but for friendship.

We are an informal, friendly group of senior citizens (O.A.P's – Over 50's) who if they see somebody without a smile, they give them theirs. I invite you and our Parish Councillors to attend one of our meetings, to experience and feel the atmosphere at our meetings. Our annual membership fee is £5 and we charge £2 when you attend a meeting, which includes a free raffle and refreshments.

It is because of the continued support we receive from both Fornham Councils we are able provide all this and we really do appreciate this.

- **the Village Hall Committee (Maureen Hockett);**

The Committee are extremely pleased to welcome Roger Farnell as our new Hall Manager. He comes with a wealth of experience and skills in maintaining a building. School Caretaker and Maintenance Manager at Fornham Care Home. Roger attends our Committee Meetings and has the support of Colleen Leach as a deputy for the Hall duties.

I am pleased to say that the Hall continues to be regularly used. There is a booking for most days of the week throughout the year; either Weekly - Fortnightly - or Monthly. One Track Minds has a modelling club on a Saturday every other month. At weekends we have had 3 children's parties and 2 christening parties. Bury Model Railway club had an Open day in March, Defibrillator training in February, BMW Club East Anglia will have their AGM in October. We have had enquiries from the Pines Residential Home re staff training in June, children's karate sessions and Yoga classes. There is also interest from a lady who wants to run dog training classes. A total of at least 15 different organisations use the Hall regularly.

On Mondays Slimming World holds two sessions, at 1730 and 1930. The Group Leader Jason Perrio reports an increase in the numbers attending, and several successes locally. We will be putting a report in the Bugle highlighting those successes.

We continue to maintain the Hall through the DIY skills of members of the Committee, and now with the help of Roger, and with the support of our volunteer gardener Dave Beckett and his wife Pat. At the beginning of April, we had to call in an expert, Alastair Abercrombie, as further work was needed to be carried out on the ceiling. This time he repaired four small patches which were identified as being at risk of collapsing. We will be undertaking maintenance work in August. The Hall will be closed from Tuesday 7 to Friday 10 to allow Roger to carry out the work of sanding down and re-varnishing the floor. This work will be in addition to his duties as Hall Manager.

Following some online research, 2 members of the Committee made arrangements to visit an organisation Alpha Furniture Ltd in Beaconsfield to look at and test out chairs for the Hall. Our criteria - they had to be lightweight, stackable and importantly comfortable, and a chair was brought back as a sample for the Committee to try out. The chairs were purchased in October and delivered to the Hall in late November. Hopefully they are a success. We also purchased four new lightweight folding tables from another company online.

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The chairs that were broken and those that were shabby were disposed of at the local recycling centre, by arrangement, by 2 of the Committee members.

New Projects -The Committee are presently considering the purchase of a data projector and installing Wi-Fi. We are only researching the costing of these proposals at the moment and the projects of course depend on the funds available. We are aiming to attract local businesses and organisations to hold meetings in the Hall during the day as we have slots on two Fridays in the month as well as Tuesday afternoons and evenings. The Small Hall is still on our project list. We would like to decorate this and make the area more useable even though it remains the storage area for the tables and chairs, but continue to be concerned about the damp in the chimney breast although the roof is now sound. Paul Mullen, our local builder will be taking another look at this area, both inside and outside, - we're just waiting for better weather as we've had to cancel previous arrangements.

Income for the year ending March 2018 was £12,547 and expenditure was £11,409. The closing bank balance is £5,444. Income includes £2,876 of donations from the Parish Council, St Edmundsbury Council and Suffolk County Council. The current annual running cost is just over £8,000, this includes Hall Manager's salary, Insurance, Electricity costs of approx. £600 which is the amount owed after support from the Parish Council, Firetek inspection, window cleaning, electrical repairs, paper products and cleaning materials.

In July 2017 we had the five-year Electrical Inspection which was carried out by Ben Hail, who now does all the electrical work for the Hall, including any urgent repair work. We do keep an amount aside for emergency maintenance. There has been no Increase in hire charges since 2016 but we will be putting these up in 2019 by about 3%. The Committee would like to thank the Parish Council for their financial support with the electricity bill, and Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger for her financial support with regard to the chairs.

The Committee members are myself, Phil Hockett, John Somerville, Paul Butler, Peter Freeman and Jean Cook. We are always looking for new members to join us. The meetings are held four times a year and each is kept to a time of approx. 1.5 hours. We liaise outside of the meetings by email. If anyone is interested, then please do contact one of us. You will be made very welcome.

The Parish Council expressed their thanks to the Committee, as a valuable asset to the village.

8. Report on King George V Playing Field

The Parish Council can now confirm that the Trusteeship for the King George V Playing Field is now complete, with the Parish Council as a Body acting as Trustee's, this is now registered with the Charity Commission as such, and with Land Registry. The Parish Council will now be responsible for any maintenance and upkeep. The Parish Council stresses that the field will remain as a village asset in perpetuity. Any suggestions for improvements, new facilities would be gladly received.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Meeting Closed at 8:40pm

Signed: *Mike Collier*

Date: 9th May 2019

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