

**Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve**  
**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall, The Street,**  
**Fornham St Martin at 7:30 on Monday 23 May 2016**

Present: Parish Councillors Mike Collier (Chairman), Jayne and Gary Hubbard, Penelope Borrett, Peter Forster and Paul Butler together with 36 members of the public.

**1. Welcome**

The Chairman, Mike Collier, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting dated 14 May 2015**

The minutes were agreed a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**4. To receive a report from the Parish Council**

The Chairman read the report at appendix 1. There were no questions arising.

**5. To consider proposals for the wild meadow area in King George's Field**

The Chairman explained that, following chafer bug damage to the King George Field, the Parish Council had decided to divide the field so that part would be converted to a wild flower meadow whilst the remainder was left as open field for ball games.

The Chairman explained that the decision to convert part of the field to a wild flower meadow had been advertised in The Bugle via minutes of the Parish Council and by articles explaining what was intended and seeking residents' views. On the basis of feedback received the Parish Council had decided to proceed to convert two thirds of the field to wild flower meadow, retaining one third for ball games.

The Chairman confirmed that because Fields in Trust have an interest in the field they have been consulted about the proposed division of the field and have no objection to the proposal.

A local resident read from a prepared statement objecting to the proposals. The Chairman asked to receive a copy of the statement so that the parish council could consider the points raised at their next meeting.

A local resident asked the Parish Council to ensure trustee approval for the scheme.

A local resident asked the Parish Council to consider how the field would be maintained in order to maintain the area as a thriving wild flower meadow.

A local resident expressed the view that the field ought to maintain capacity to provide a car park area for church events.

A local resident wondered whether there might be interest from local youth teams wishing to use the field. The Chairman explained that had been no such interest for some years.

The Chairman invited any interested local residents wishing to form a Management Committee for management of the field to contact him.

## **6. Interim results of the consultation for the West Suffolk Operational Hub**

The Chairman welcomed Adrian Graves and invited him to address the meeting. Adrian spoke from a powerpoint presentation the content of which can be viewed at appendix 2.

Adrian concluded the presentation by encouraging local residents to continue their opposition to the siting of the proposed hub at Hollow Road Farm.

## **7. Reports from local clubs and societies**

- (i) David Yates gave a report on behalf of Fornham Parish church. The content of the report can be seen at appendix 3.
- (ii) Michael Clark gave a report on behalf of the Garden Club. Michael detailed the activities of the club, gave the dates and times of meetings and invited new members. The Chairman commented that it was one of the foremost gardening clubs in the County.
- (iii) The Chairman read a prepared statement (see appendix 4) on behalf of the Ladies Club.
- (iv) Maureen Hockett spoke on behalf of the Village Hall Committee. The content of the report can be seen at appendix 4. A local resident asked the Village Hall Committee to consider installing wi-fi.

## **8. Development of the All Saints Hotel**

The Chairman welcomed David Harris and invited him to bring the community up to date with the improvements being undertaken at the All Saints Hotel.

David explained that the hotel had required a significant injection of funds to turn around what, for many years, had been a failing business. Well over £1m had been spent on improving the grounds, the golf course and the hotel facilities. Mr Harris invited local residents to contact him if they would like a tour of the complex. He hoped that residents would take the opportunity to use the bar and restaurant facilities offered at the hotel.

Residents commented on the improved appearance of the hotel from the roadside and welcomed the improvements made to date.

In response to a question from a local resident Mr Harris acknowledged that the changes would have some impact on wildlife but, where possible, efforts were made to safeguard their environment.

**9. County and Borough Councillor's report**

Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger was not present at the meeting due to illness.

**10. Open session**

Local residents contributed as follows:

- commenting on the potholes developing along The Street;
- asking the Parish Council to seek *Quiet Lane* status for appropriate roads within the parish;
- commenting that the path from Barton Hill to the village was in need of maintenance.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:21pm thanking everyone for their attendance and contributions.