

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 9th MAY 2019

Minutes

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

Also Present: Rebecca Hopfensperger – WSDC/SCC, Sarah Broughton – WSDC, David Yates & Rev'd Sylvia Bareham – St Martin's Church, Beryl Dykes – Ladies Club, Cedric Hanson – Elderberry's & Joannah Metcalfe – Greener Growth.

5 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 10th May 2018**

Resolved APM19/05/2.01

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th May 2018 were adopted as a true statement and signed by the Chairman (MC).

ANNUAL REPORTS

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

It does not seem possible that it is almost four years since the Parish Council first heard of the plans for the West Suffolk Operational Hub. As you will all remember there was an enormous response from residents and a great deal of work for the Parish Council. One of the few positives that came out of this was the coming together of the three Parish Councils sharing ideas and resources and the formation of the Community Liaison Group. We are given to understand that the WSOH will be open for business early October this year. The CLG is still operational and this will enable the Parish Councils to continue to monitor developments and raise concerns on behalf of residents in a timely manner.

Playing Field:

The trim trail on our playing field has received some attention with some minor safety repairs and a top up of the wood chip surface.

Speeding:

The Parish Council managed to purchase another VAS machine with the help of Rebecca Hopfensperger and it has been used effectively in the village. We are having installed an extra pole on the B1106 near the Hotel and Golf Club, which we hope will help monitor this area that is fast becoming a speeding black spot.

Au-Revoir:

This year we have to say au-revoir to two councillors who have decided not to stand for re-election this year. Jayne Hubbard has been with the PC for over 12 years and has contributed enormously to the business of the PC. She was also a stalwart member of the Parish Plan committee and has been at the forefront of many initiatives over the years. I would like to personally thank her for all the commitment she has shown towards the village. Lizzy Flaherty has been with us for almost 3 years and has added considerable value to the PC, in particular she has been a forceful residents' representative for Park Avenue together with assisting in analysing much of the information gleaned from the VAS machines and working to compile a list of TPO's within the villages for reference. We will miss them both.

In Conclusion:

The village owes a debt of gratitude to a number of residents who give so freely of their time for the benefit of our village. We have a number of successful societies that meet regularly and our thanks must

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go to all those involved in making these a success. Our thanks go to our litter pickers Donna and Laurie Pott for keeping the village free from litter. We would have no Bugle without our editors Sue and Pat Brooklyn and Peter Forster who collects and sorts the Bugle for distribution by the volunteers. Our thanks to them. We would have no flowers in our tubs without the commitment of David Randall who keeps a gardeners eye on the village and playing field. Our village hall is always ready for use thanks to caretaker Roger. On behalf of the Parish Council I would also like to thank Borough Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger for all her professional help and advice throughout the year. Last but by no means least I would like to thank our Clerk Vicky Bright for all her hard work and efforts on our behalf. Her infectious enthusiasm and knowledge has been invaluable to your Parish Council.

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

Suffolk County Council

**See attached Report Appendix 1*

West Suffolk Council

**See attached Report Appendix 2*

5. Police Service Report/Q&A Session

Apologies received from PC Paul Fox.

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

The church in the village had another very busy year in 2018, 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.

1015 people attended the weekly services, including 59 children, that's 84 a month for the 2 services on Sundays and 2 on Tuesdays, but always room for a few more.!

Additionally, we officiated at 4 funeral services in church, 4 at the crematorium, 2 weddings and 3 baptisms for 1201 people altogether, including 64 children.

592 residents at Fornham House attended the weekly Communion Services over the year.

In total 2215 benefitted from the 107 services held throughout 2018, a few down on last year due to fewer festival services, held in Fornham All Saints in annual rotation, 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.

We were very pleased to receive 2 of the ceramic poppies from the Tower of London exhibition a few years ago, from the families of Cecil and William Feakes, whose names appear on the War Memorial. They formed part of a display of knitted poppies, scrolls and rocks, kindly created by Heather Long, Donna Pott and friends.

The church, now nearly 600 years old, 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, but we would like a few more to lighten the load.

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.

The old water supply pipe from the mains in the public footpath was replaced with a new one to current Anglian Water specifications.

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Our regular Book Sales Coffee and Cakes were held 4 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 October concert was by The Bury Octet, again well attended, and a very enjoyable social evening of mixed music with some organ pieces and a wine buffet.

An organ recital was performed by renowned retired professional organist Christopher Moore, to launch the Bells and Tower Appeal, with wine buffet.

The annual fete was held again at Fornham House in July, with grateful thanks to new manager Stuart Coleman. 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 4 times a year. 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, Sylvia Hilton and Matthew Kemsley forming the rest of the PCC, and Judith Eley (Minutes Secretary)

The formalities of merging the 7 churches in our Lark Valley Benefice with the 3 churches in the North Bury Team continues, under Revd Mark Haworth, with the Church Commissioners now finalising the legal documentation, but this will have little implications for how St Martins continues to provide services and events.

Following the detailed inspection of the supporting framework to the 6 bells in the tower, major works are required if the bells are to be brought back into full use again. Quotations have been obtained and a very experienced Bells Hanger has been selected. 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 hoping for 2 benefactors for what could be suitably inscribed bells in their names. 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.

Finally, grateful thanks to the Parish Council for the annual grant of £698 last year towards the £1986 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 7.30 pm 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 growing plants for flower arranging within a garden, bulbs for the garden throughout the year, the history of gardening, chrysanthemums, plants for problem places, the Chelsea Flower Show, making a drought resistant garden, and changing the world through plants. 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 outings during the months of May to September and this year promises to be no exception with visits to RHS Wisley in Surrey, and Sheringham and Stody Estate Gardens, Melton Constable in Norfolk. 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);

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The year since our last report has been a successful one. Our speakers have been on P.G. Woodhouse, The National Arboretum, Christmas readings, A display of Patchwork, Leonard Cheshire, and The History of Jigsaws. At the A.G.M. We had a talk on Diabetes, and were able to donate £250.

We have held a social event when guests were invited, A Christmas dinner at the Cadugan Arms, and an outing to Pakenham Mill.

At the A.G.M. the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary were re-elected, and the Committee were also re-elected en bloc.

Our membership stands at 31. All ladies are welcome.

- **the Toddler Group;**

No report received.

- **the Elderberry Friendship & Social Club (Cedric Hanson);**

Having now entered our 11th year, we can look back with quiet satisfaction on our achievements and fulfilling our objectives, but there is no room for complacency. We are an active organisation and it is a tribute to the dedication of our Chairman Tom Rowe, although he has been hospitalised for some months, one committee meeting was held at his bedside in the cardiac unit of the West Suffolk Hospital, we are delighted that he is now back among us.

We continue to meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 2pm, at the Fornham All Saints Community Centre, but draw our membership from all the Fornhams and a little beyond. This is possibly due to the kindness of those members with cars and enables those who are not so able to enjoy the Club fellowship.

We have already had two meetings this current year, one a talk on the Ipswich murders and a lunch out in Clacton in August, and one to Wicksteed park in November. There is also an outing to the Moat House Gardens at Little Saxham and various other social events planned.

At our AGM we decided in future to start our year in April and also to fix our annual subscription as opposed to a charge at each meeting, but this will not entail an increase in charges overall.

Although we have had new members join us we have lost one or two, so that our total membership is static. Therefore, we are actively canvassing for people to come along to see what we have to offer in the hope they will enjoy our company and stay with us. Our age limit is flexible.

Finally, we thank our two councils for the support they have given us and hope that what we are doing continues to merit that support.

- **the Village Hall Committee (Clerk read out on behalf of Maureen Hockett);**

I am pleased to say that the Hall continues to be regularly used by at least 15 different groups. We haven't lost any groups. Slimming World continues to draw in regular users to their meetings on Mondays. We also have individual bookings from families for parties; a local parent who is making frequent bookings for all-day Sundays for a space for their son and his friends to play Dungeons and Dragons; as well as the Council for polling days. Also there is a local theatre group who have booked every vacant Thursday evening up to the end of June for rehearsals.

The new Treasurer is Peter Freeman, who has taken over from Phil Hockett. Phil continues to be a member of the Committee and is the Minute taker at the meetings.

During the last year we have undertaken some maintenance – the external painting of the windows; the hall floor has been sanded down and re-varnished; improvement made to the ventilation in the small hall with vents in the chimney breast, and the direction of opening of the back door has been changed together with the addition of safety glass. The small hall still requires better air flow and we are proposing to put further ventilation in to the wall opposite the main window. Once this work has been completed then we will be redecorating the hall. The other outstanding work is to create a storage space for the tables and chairs which will be screened off. This will allow the small hall to be used safely as an overflow area for the main hall.

Finance –

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We have put up the charges for the Hall from January of this year by a small amount, but that is the first increase since 2016.

The Accounts for the year ending March 2019 are under preparation and a copy will be sent to the PC following our AGM on Thursday 16 May 2019.

Our Volunteer gardener has retired and so Phil and I will undertake the maintenance of the grounds. One of our Committee will be contacting Steve Lumley with regard to filling in the pot holes in the Lane, as far as our car park entrance.

We are still intending to install WiFi in the hall and are awaiting feedback from the regular users to see if this would be beneficial to them. The main aim of putting in this facility is to attract commercial users, those who could hire the hall for a business meeting, or presentation.

The ceiling of the main hall is safe but would benefit from re-plastering and painting to cover up the patches but this will need to wait for further funds to accrue.

We will be carrying out our maintenance during a week in August, yet to be decided, in order to repaint the main hall and any other areas requiring attention.

Regular checks are made on the equipment by the Hall Manager and the Health and Safety policy is updated annually by myself and John Sommerville. A copy is kept in a file in the kitchen.

We would like to thank the PC for their continued support.

As ever we would be pleased to hear from anyone who is willing to support the Village Hall by joining our small Committee.

Maureen Hockett – Chair

Peter Freeman – Treasurer

Paul Butler – PC Rep

Jean Cook – Mothers & Toddlers

Phil Hockett – elected

John Sommerville - elected

8. Cycleways Consultation

The Clerk confirmed the consultation in the Bugle had received two responses, both against the proposal. The Parish Councils of West Stow & Culford have not yet responded. The Clerk is to follow up with West Stow & Culford and place the consultation again in the next edition of the Bugle.

9. Discuss possible enhancement of King George V playing Field

• Eco Friendly Pest & Weed Control / Nature Areas to encourage wildlife

Joannah Metcalfe from Greener Growth, which is a not for profit organisation which works with groups, Parish Councils, Schools and Prisons to establish Eco Friendly Nature areas, conservation and education, gave a talk on suggestions for the King George V Playing Field, such as;

- It was agreed that what was needed was low maintenance & high yield techniques with seasonal growth, in a peripheral design,
- Hedgehog houses, in wooden wigwams,
- Information boards, and a nature trail,
- Free Heritage Orchard Trees, around the edge of the field, this provides a blossom bank for several months to encourage wildlife and the trees are Heritage species,
- Barn Owl, Bat & Bird boxes,
- Insect & Bee hotels, wild flower turf area

It was agreed that the Clerk and Chair would meet with Jo Metcalfe in June on site to discuss designs and plans in more detail and the Clerk is to work on other options for weed control and Mole control, for the next agenda.

• Picnic Benches

The Clerk advised that there had been no response from the Bugle consultation. She is to put the consultation in the Bugle again and is also to consult with the Toddler Group.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Meeting Closed at 8:37pm