

FORNHAM ST MARTIN CUM ST GENEVIEVE PARISH COUNCIL

There was a meeting of the Parish Council on 16th April 2015 in the Village Hall, Fornham St Martin

MINUTES

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Mrs Hopfensperger
Mr Paul MacLachlan
The Clerk
16 Members of the Public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor P Butler and PCSO McDade

The Chairman opened the meeting welcoming parishioners to the meeting. Councillor Collier said he was pleased to introduce Paul MacLachlan who had accepted the post of Clerk, commencing duties on 1st July 2015. Councillors unanimously confirmed Paul's appointment and were pleased to have such an able and well qualified person in the post. The Chairman said he wished to place on record how marvellous the daffodils were looking this year and he wished to thank all volunteers who gave of their time to undertake the planting and to thank Councillor Mrs Buxton for organising and obtaining the bulbs. On Councillor Mrs Buxton's suggestion, it was agreed to send a letter to Fornham House thanking them for donating money towards the cost of the bulbs.

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26th MARCH 2015

The minutes were signed as being a true record, following a correction for a typo'

The Council will adjourn for:

Before the commencement of business, the Chairman reported that he had received a telephone call from Mr Andrew Long informing him that Mr Long's father's grave had been desecrated and quite naturally he was outraged. (Mr Yates – churchwarden) who was attending the meeting was unaware of this; consequently he would assess the situation.

Mr Long also drew attention to the bottles, cans and other rubbish which had been tied to poles/30mph signs, which was a disgrace. The Clerk would ask Mr Hoggett to clear these and also those near Norfolk Road. Mr Long said that his wife had seen pictures on a notice board of Indian children playing on rubbish tips. None of the Councillors had seen this picture nor were they aware of who was responsible for that or for hanging up the rubbish.

Councillor Mrs Buxton said that on Monday she had seen someone about to tip some rubbish at Occupation Road. She had called the police. The rubbish was not tipped.

The Council adjourned

3, 5 & 6 BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – AGENDA ITEMS OF INTEREST TO PUBLIC

Councillor Hopfensperger said that she had a meeting with the chairman of Great Barton Parish Council with 4 or 5 of their parishioners looking at an alternative site on land at Rougham Hill, adjacent to the A45. They measured the land which was not being farmed, although the grass had been cut. Councillor Hopfensperger wants this site to be seriously considered in place of Hollow Road. She said that she has been encouraging people to make their comments known and she has found that some people think that it "is a done deal". It is important to emphasise the issue of quality of life when making their views known. Councillor Hopfensperger has put to the Council that they should consult on more than one site, preferably in industrial areas, well away from housing. An ideal site would be on the Industrial Site, where there would be excellent access, following the construction of the eastern inner relief road.

Councillor Owen pointed out that the proposed site at Hollow Road was not in the 2031 Vision Document and therefore should not be considered.

Mr Hilder, from the floor, said he would urge people to look at Cabinet Papers which are on the Borough's website and in particular the North East Bury St Edmunds Master Plan. He said that the Borough had been asking operators of vehicles if they would like to use the Hub facility. This would add to all the other vehicles from Western Way, dust carts etc.

The Chairman reported on his visit to recycling plants in Norfolk and Cambridgeshire, none of which were near residential areas, or combined with a transfer site which made him certain that the proposed site was inappropriate.

Councillors were given a copy of the Chairman's letter to the Chief Executive, Ian Gallin, setting out the Parish Council's position on the proposed hub. This letter would be published in the Bugle.

The rook issue was discussed. The Clerk said he had spoken to two operators. One said that he would be reluctant to shoot the rooks as they were too close to properties and he would need a DEFRA licence. He favoured poking the nests out by using very long poles which he would do in November. As this rookery has been there for many years (Councillor Buxton said they had been there for as long as she could remember) the thought must be that they would return and build again. The second man said he favoured large cage traps but he said that one would have to get the full agreement of people living nearby. After discussion, it was agreed to write to the Environmental Officer asking for advice as there is a possible health risk. Mr Hilder kindly gave the Clerk some useful information which he had on the subject.

From the floor, the issue of Eastern Concrete's application to the Traffic Commissioner for additional vehicles/trailers was discussed. (The Chairman pointed out that unless a site is owned by a parish council, they cannot have any influence on the outcome of the application).

Mr Hilder said he had contacted Mr Woods who is head of planning at St Edmundsbury, asking that he puts in a condition on the site that working can only be on week days between the hours of 8.00am and 5.00pm, consider light pollution and the noise from reversing beepers. Mr Hilder said that with the requested extra lorries/trailers, this will bring the total on the site to 40. Mr Woods has said that he will accommodate the request.

Mr Hilder pointed out that the Hub operators (if it goes ahead at Hollow Road) would require a licence from the Traffic Commissioner.

Councillor Hopfensperger said that the Barton Hill sign had been repaired and the bus shelter cleaned. Councillor Forster said a good job had been done.

Councillor Hopfensperger said there should be a new bus stop sign at the bottom of Barton Hill where a dropped kerb has been installed. She has asked that the sign be ordered.

A lamp post is in need of attention at the back of Russell Baron Road. This would be attended to.

Councillor Hopfensperger said the final piece of resurfacing in Russell Baron would be carried out shortly.

Councillor Hopfensperger said, following the email from a resident of Carnoustie Drive regarding a tree problem, she visited the site and found that the tree in question was half dead and the matter would now be resolved.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Hopfensperger for attending the meeting.

4. POLICE REPORT

Councillors were circulated with the yearly crime statistics, together with other useful information, some of which will be in the Bugle.

From the floor parishioners from the Fornham Park area wished to deal with the matter concerning the application relating to the golf course and log cabins. The Chairman said that, due to the lack of information, from the Planning Department, it would not be possible to come to any conclusion this evening. Councillor Owen, who heads up the planning committee, is endeavouring to get hold of all the relevant past papers, going back to 2002, so that a clear picture can be seen.

Mr Aston addressed the meeting and for the record to be accurate, his points follow verbatim:-

"Thank you, Mr Chairman. I and these gentlemen here live in the restored houses in the centre of Fornham Park. Most of you will, I think, be aware that permission was granted in 2006 for the building of a 9-hole golf course and 26 holiday lodges on the Park. One of the conditions imposed was that the golf course had to be built first. Last month a company called Dream Lodge Group submitted a planning application, asking the Borough Council to lift that condition and to allow the 26 lodges to be built on their own. They gave two reasons:

- 1. The Council's development management policies have changed, and they no longer require leisure facilities to be built before holiday accommodation.*
- 2. The proposal for a golf course is not economically viable.*

The Borough Council will have its own view as to the validity of Dream Lodge's first argument. The second argument – that a golf course on the park would not be profitable – may well be correct. However, Dream Lodge's brochure and website both tell us that instead of 26 lodges there will be 84, plus "further facilities as planning approvals are gained." This suggests that they think a development of just 26 lodges would not be viable either – it simply wouldn't generate enough income to fund the management of the 260 acres of parkland they are acquiring. So the new application looks rather like a Trojan horse – an attempt to establish a precedent for the building of lodges, to make it easier to gain permission for additional development. Unfortunately, some of the statutory consultees appear not to have engaged fully with the new application, and two have already responded that they have no comments to make.

Dream Lodge have not yet published any information on the location of the extra lodges or the further facilities, which would probably be a restaurant and a swimming pool, because that is what they already have in their larger parks. The presence of the landfill site and the noise and smells from the concrete and sewerage works will inevitably limit their options. And there are two other factors which are likely to further restrict development. Fornham Park is designated in the 2031 Plan as a Special Landscape Area, and the Council describes these as landscapes that have "a very limited capacity to absorb change." The buildings that survived the demolition of the original hall in 1951, including the church tower, are all listed, and the Council's policy on listed buildings says that "proposals that detract from the setting [of such buildings] will be resisted." Even if the first 26 lodges were approved, it cannot be a foregone conclusion that permission would be granted for further development. Dream Lodge's precedent setting strategy could well backfire on them.

So, in order to prevent permission being granted for a development that is probably not viable – and one which could put the future of the Park itself in jeopardy – we'd suggest that the Parish Council respond to this application by asking the Borough Council:

- 1. to investigate Dream Lodge's plans for Fornham Park thoroughly,*
- 2. to establish whether the company believes the 26 lodge proposal is viable on its own,*
- 3. and to encourage the company that if its intention is to undertake substantial additional development, then the current application should be withdrawn and a fresh one submitted, showing exactly where the additional lodges and facilities would be located, so that the proposal can be properly assessed by all concerned."*

Mr Hilder drew attention to the proposals for West Stow Country Park and the large number of caravans and tents which will add to the noise, light and traffic issues. He drew attention to the fact

that if the planners allow the golf course to be dropped from the application, this would in effect mean that the original application would fall and they would have to start from scratch with a new application for the lodges. There is also the matter relating to 106 agreements. Councillor Owen would take this on board and also to see whether further archaeological investigations should take place. As time is of the essence, a planning meeting will be arranged, giving 3 working days' notice. The Clerk to find out about the Village Hall's availability.

Paul MacLachlan advised to request ALL material information, starting from day one.

The Council reconvened

7. DECLARATION OF INTEREST - None

8. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MARCH MEETING

a. Flashing signs

The Clerk had not received anything from Mr Mitson. Councillor Hopfensperger said she would chase him again.

b. Barton Hill sign

This has now been repaired.

c. Barton Hill Bus shelter

This has been cleaned.

d. Rooks

This issue had been discussed earlier but Councillor Owen did tell Councillors that he had been informed by a parishioner that the rooks had damaged their car which cost £1k to be repaired.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. SALC

Councillors had been circulated with an email from SALC re: "Wings Over the Brecks"

b. Playing Field – Nothing

c. Tree Warden

As advised last month, the Borough has refused to issue the Parish Council with a map of the TPO's. Mr Hilder said that he may have some paperwork which he will gladly look out.

d. Rights of Way

Councillors felt that it was time the matter of the path opposite Flint Cottages was resolved. It has been 18 months since remedial work had been promised and many excuses have been received. It was agreed to write to the Chief Executive, asking for immediate action.

e. Village Hall – Nothing

f. Planning

The Clerk has received no responses to his requests for an update on the Forham Farm, Thetford Road matter. He would ask Councillor Hopfensperger to obtain an answer.

Both the applications made by Carrs BMW for additional advertisements have been approved.

The applications in respect of tree work in Carnoustie Drive, Fulford Close, Gleneagles Close and Parkland's Green have been approved.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Several pieces of correspondence, circulars etc had been received and circulated to Councillors and did not require answers.

The emails from Mr Zarattini would be answered by the Clerk

Richard Freeman had sent the text for the article to be placed in the Bugle which he and Cedric Hanson had compiled, called the "Fornham St Martin Mills". Councillors were pleased with this and agreed it would be appropriate for it to be in the next issue of the Bugle

The Parish and Town Council Task and Finish Liaison Group Vision 2031 notes of meeting had been circulated. The Chairman had attended this 3 ½ hour meeting and found it worthwhile as it was keeping our Parish Council in the loop.

Mr Elliott had advised that his party for his children on 18th July subject to conditions discussed at the March meeting.

Other matters discussed were:

Councillor Mrs Buxton said she was concerned about an advertising board (garden design) outside Fornham House which impinged upon the daffodils. The Clerk would have the board removed.

Councillor Mrs Hubbard said that the 700 signature petition was to be handed over at the Borough Offices at 9-30 Friday 17th April. The press would be in attendance and Radio Suffolk.

Councillor Forster thanked Gary and Jayne Hubbard for delivering leaflets in Barton Hill.

The Chairman also wished to thank both Sarah Bartrum and Jayne for their efforts in delivering HUB information through the Village and to the wider community; even involving calling door to door. Thanks was expressed to all volunteers who have given so freely of their time.

Relating to the Hub, in the light of Mr Michael Jones' email (former Borough Councillor and ex-Mayor) it was unanimously felt that should it be necessary, Mr Jones would make an excellent advocate at any Development Control Committee hearing. The Clerk would speak to him.

Councillor Mrs Buxton asked whether we had been approached by Ambulance First Response. The Clerk said we had not been.

Mrs Buxton asked if the Parish Council would like her to do the planters this time. The Chairman said that the PC would be grateful if she did so.

From the floor, Mr Yates said following the Parish Council nominating him last year for an award, he had received notice that he and his wife have been invited to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party. Both he and his wife were delighted and he thanked the Parish Council for nominating him.

11. ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

Section 137 Grants

The Clerk had written to the usual local bodies and so far only the Toddler Group had responded, sending in their balance sheet and requesting some help. Councillors discussed this and felt that they would like to offer to purchase some form of equipment rather than a monetary grant. The Clerk would deal with this.

Councillors would consider the Church grant for the churchyard maintenance and the Village Hall electricity at the May meeting

Councillors discussed the charges for advertising in the Bugle which had not been increased for 5 years. The current rates are £30 for half page and £60 for a full page. It was agreed to increase them to £70 for full page and £35 for half page.

Councillors were given the internal auditors report and the accounts and bank reconciliation for the year ending 31st March 2015. These will be posted on the website.

The Annual Return which will go to BDO was signed by the Chairman

The following accounts were presented and passed for payment

Mrs J Hubbard	Stationery	41.65
The Borough	Weekly bin collection	62.40
Revenue and Customs	PAYE	88.80
eon	Hall electricity	606.89
IDS Business Services	Internal Audit	280.00
P & S Brooklyn	Bugle editors	147.25
D Hoggett	Litter picking/ playing field	137.70
SALC	Subscription	480.00
N Pitcher	Salary/ expenses/ computer services	***349.47

*** The Clerk had made an error when advising the bank of a change in his standing order. Instead of quoting the net amount he quoted the gross. This meant that he owed the Parish Council £89. This amount has been deducted from this month's salary and the standing order has been cancelled by a letter signed by the Chairman and Councillor Forster.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 14th MAY 2015 - ANNUAL PARISH AND ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING COMMENCING 7:00 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting, thanking everyone for their attendance.