

# Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council  
held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall

**1 Councillors present:** Cllr. J. Borrett - Chair (JBo), Cllr. M Collier - Vice Chair (MC), Cllr. P. Borrett (PBo), Cllr. P. Butler (PBU), Cllr. S. Eley (SE), Cllr. P. Forster (PF) & Cllr. F. Stennett (FS).

**Also present:** Vicky Bright, Clerk PC. Cllr. Rebecca Hopfensperger – WSC/SCC.

ITEM	<b><u>PUBLIC FORUM:</u></b>
	<p>2 members of the public were in attendance.</p> <p>Residents raised concerns and objections in reference to amended application DC/22/0051/FUL and urged Councillors to object to the application; despite the proposed Pickle Ball Court being removed from the application, residents still feel the tennis courts are still too close the neighbouring houses and previous planning had already been granted elsewhere on the golf course which would be more suitable, the noise report did not address noise levels from the view of properties in Birkdale Court, no risk assessment has been carried out on the 10<sup>th</sup> Fairway and its proximity to the Lark Valley Drive footpath.</p>
23/03/1	<p><b><u>Chairman's Welcome &amp; Acceptance of Apologies for Absence (LGA 1972, Section 85(1) &amp; (2)):</u></b> <b>Apologies:</b> None.</p>
23/03/2	<p><b><u>Declaration of Members' Interest (for items on the agenda) – LGA 2000 Part III:</u></b> Cllr. F. Stennett declared an interest in Items f (v), (vi) &amp; (vii). Cllr. P. Butler declared an interest in Item 9 (iii).</p>
23/03/3	<p><b><u>Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings - LGA 1972, Schedule 12, para 41(2):</u></b> <b><u>Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – Resolved 23/03/3.01</u></b> The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023 were adopted as a true statement and signed by the Chairman (JBo).</p>
23/03/4	<p><b><u>Local Authority Reports:</u></b> <b>County &amp; District Councillors:</b> Cllr. Hopfensperger gave updates on the following Highways and Planning agenda items 5 (iii), 5 (viii) &amp; 6 (i).</p> <p>Councillors discussed their concerns and frustrations in relation to the LPA's planning process and their procedures relating to Appeals and Enforcement. Cllr. Hopfensperger sympathised and is trying to secure a Planning Officer to attend a Parish Council meeting to explain the processes and procedures and to answer questions and concerns raised by Councillors.</p>
23/03/5 i)	<p><b><u>Planning (For Consideration):</u></b> <b>DC/23/0226/RM - Reserved matters application - submission of details under DC/13/0932/HYB the means of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for health, fitness and racquets club, including a permanent tennis dome enclosure holding three tennis courts, multi-use courts, Battle Box area, padel courts with cover, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, spa garden, lounge terrace, gym and studio facilities, 3 court sports hall, spa facilities, child activity area, lounge and food and</b></p>

# Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council  
held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall

**drink uses, together with ancillary facilities, car parking, servicing, landscaping and associated works. Location: Land North West of Bury, Tut Hill, (Marham Park) Fornham All Saints**

**Resolved 23/03/5.01**

It was agreed to support this application in principal, and it was noted that it is already in the West Suffolk Master Plan.

**ii) DC/23/0051/FUL – Amended - construction of two outdoor tennis courts. Location: All Saints Hotel, The Street, Fornham St Genevieve**

Councillors discussed the amended application.

**Resolved 23/03/5.02**

It was agreed to reiterate previous objections submitted in relation to other concerns noted, that are not in relation to the Pickle Ball Court and also to ask the applicant to reconsider installation of a noise barrier for the Tennis Courts.

The Clerk advised that any comments/objections submitted to the previous consultation, not related to the Pickle Ball Courts, would still be considered by the LPA/Planning Officer, but that residents should still respond to this re-consultation if they still had concerns.

**iii) DC/22/1294/FUL- animal feed mill and associated development including ancillary offices, silos, warehouse, improved access route and parking. Location: Land of Compiègne Way, Bury St Edmunds (British Sugar) – Still Pending Decision. Cllr.**

Hopfensperger advised that the LPA is currently awaiting receipt of further information from the applicant and there will be a re-consultation once this is received.

**iv) DC/22/1887/FUL - create access into All Saints Golf and Country Club. Location: Land off the Street, Fornham All Saints – Still Pending Decision.**

**v) DC/20/0496/FUL - 68 lodges with parking, landscaping, waste and recycling areas and construction compound/maintenance area. Location: St Genevieve Lakes, Road from Bury Road to B1106, Timworth – Pending decision.**

**vi) AP/22/0048/STAND – DC/21/2166/VAR Variation of condition nine of DC/16/2792/FUL to enable the site covering phase two to be occupied for holiday accommodation without a restriction on the length of stay for the change of use of park land to land for siting of 26 additional holiday lodges with access from B1106 - extension to previously approved application SE/05/02293; construction of access road, parking spaces and hardstanding bases and associated landscape planting and infrastructure. Location: The Dream Lodge Group, Fornham Park, Fornham St Genevieve – Pending decision.**

**vii) AP/22/0049/STAND – DC/21/2164/VAR- variation of condition five of DC/15/0662/VAR to enable the site covering phase one to be occupied for holiday accommodation without a restriction on the length of stay for a. change of use of land to nine hole pay and play golf course with changing room facilities and associated landscaping b. 26 timber lodges, manager's lodge and associated landscaping. Location: The Dream Lodge Group, Fornham Park, Fornham St Genevieve – Pending decision.**

**viii) Update on Outdoor Gym application (All Saints Hotel) DC/22/1378/FUL & the Enforcement EN/21/0057 St Johns Plantation Trees**

# Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council  
held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall

Cllr. Hopfensperger advised she had attended the Delegation Panel and had supported the Parish Council's objections and concerns, raising the following concerns;

- The Planning Officers recommendation to approve favouring the applicant and not the residents,
- No consideration or investigation of noise impact to residents and their properties,
- The ongoing tree enforcement and the damage to the environment and the changes to the landscape,
- Visibility impact from the PROW
- The fact that it is a retrospective application, therefore any conditions of approval would need to be robust and would need to be monitored and enforced, with mitigation in place before the gym is being used to protect neighbours, not just the applicant!

The Chair raised concerns again over the impact and damage to the Ancient Woodland. The Clerk was asked to follow up with Natural England regarding the outcome of the investigation by them as to whether the area is a designated Ancient Woodland.

Thanks were given to Cllr. Hopfensperger for her support.

## **Highways/Footpaths & Trees:**

23/03/6

### **Update on Highways Engineer Walk-a-Bout**

i)

Cllr. Hopfensperger advised that;

- Russell Baron Road – An order has been made for Flowline to come out and cut the roots, awaiting date.
- Old Thetford Road PROW – This is scheduled to be cut this winter, awaiting date.
- The Cul-de-Sac sign at Russell Baron Road has now been replaced and the two street name signs are due to be replaced within the next two weeks.
- The Give Way signs at the roundabout have been cleaned.

The Clerk has reported the damaged bench at the lay-by opposite Parklands Green to West Suffolk Parks Team and is awaiting their response, the Clerk is to forward the report reference to Cllr. Hopfensperger to follow up with them.

The Clerk was asked to report the bench at Barton Hill that needs maintenance to West Suffolk Parks Team too.

ii)

### **Update on Street Furniture Licence Application and Highways Gates**

The item was deferred until the street licence application has been decided. The Clerk advised that due to Purdah for the elections, the application to Cllr. Hopfensperger's Locality Budge will now be deferred until after 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The Clerk is to look at quotes for installation of the gates in readiness.

iii)

### **VAS/SID Update +/- New battery / Update on Police Enforcement The Street & Barton Hill**

Matthew Kemsley has confirmed that the issues with the battery not holding its charge are due to the faulty charger, which has now been replaced, so there is no need to purchase a new battery.

# Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council  
held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall

The Clerk advised that following concerns from residents over speeding up Barton Hill, she had contacted the Police, who have responded to advise they will schedule some enforcement by the Camera Safety Team at the bottom of Barton Hill, going up the hill and also on the High Street by the Church. The Clerk is to approach the Speed & Safety Team at SCC Highways to ask them to do a site assessment to determine if an extra post can be installed at the bottom of Barton Hill for the VAS Unit, to monitor traffic speeds going up the hill.

**iv) Discuss signage on Footpath 9 (from old Thetford Road across field towards old railway line and Timworth)**

Cllr. Eley raised the following concerns regarding footpaths to Timworth;

1. There is an obstruction in the footpath between Flint Cottage and the A134 road between Bury St Edmunds and Thetford (Fornham St Martin footpath 8)
2. There are no signs on the A134 road warning that a footpath crosses the dual carriageway
3. There is no style nor Footpath Sign showing where Fornham St Martin footpath 9 starts.

The issues were discussed and the Chair advised he had reported the issue of the dual carriageway to Cllr. Hopfensperger last August for a Highways Investment Funding request, as the path to Timworth crossing the A134 has been abandoned for years now. He advised that If you walk across The Drift footbridge there is a trackway on your left running parallel with the roadway all the way to the road from Fornham All Saints to Gt. Barton, near the rifle range, although it is unclear if this is an official PROW. There is also another PROW running through Peterhouse's farmland, called Livermere Drift, it was suggested that maybe a request for a permissive path could be sought.

The Clerk asked both Cllr. Eley and Cllr. Borrett (JBo) to forward all correspondence and documents, maps, photos to her so that she could look into the issues and contact PROW and Highways, cc. Cllr. Hopfensperger.

**23/03/7  
i) & ii)**

**Parish Matters.**

**Weekly & Monthly H&S Play Area/Trim Trail Inspection Reports / Agree Rota**

The Clerk was asked to obtain quotes for better signage at the play area, advising adults are not to use the equipment. Cllr. Borrett (JBo) is to carry on doing the weekly inspections until the next meeting.

It was agreed to wait for the annual RoSPA inspection and then to take it up with the new Inspector, to determine which timbers need replacing on the Trim Trail.

The Clerk confirmed receipt of the new Service Level Agreement with WSC for the monthly inspections and confirmed they are to be FOC again this year.

The two benches (bottom of the field & adjacent) need re-staining, the Clerk is to get quotes for the work.

The installation of the overhead barrier at the field and the welding of the gate is to be carried out by the end of March.

**iii) Quotes for replacement glass pane for Bus Shelter at Barton Hill  
Resolved 23/03/7.01**

# Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council  
held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall

It was agreed to accept the quote from Moreton Hall Glass, for the supply & fit of 1no. pane of 6mm, clear, toughened safety glass - £251.00 + vat.

The works to install the glass should be completed within 3 weeks.

#### iv) **Discuss the Coronation**

The Clerk advised that Parish/Town Councils have no official role or duties for the Coronation, unlike the Proclamation. There is little funding available, however it has been confirmed that fees for road closures will be waived for the Coronation and Street Parties. It was suggested that residents decorate their homes with bunting and flags and hold their own picnics and street parties. The Parish Council encourages residents to use the King George Playing Field, and a notice will be placed in the Bugle advising of this.

23/03/8

#### **Correspondence:**

**Alternative Fuel Payment – Alternative Funding** which the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) has now launched.

#### **What is it?**

The Alternative Fuel Payment (AFP) is a government scheme which offers payments of £200 to households that use alternative fuels to the gas grid as their main source of heating. This includes households that use **tank or bottled gas, liquid petroleum gas (LPG), heating oil, wood or other solid fuel**. The money is intended to ensure that households using alternative fuels are not left with a higher per centage increase to their heating costs compared to those using mains gas who are supported by the Energy Price Guarantee. Most households on alternative fuels will have already received this payment through their electricity supplier in February. But there are a small number of households that don't have a direct contract with an electricity supplier as so they will need to make a claim under the **AFP Alternative Funding** scheme.

#### **Who is it for?**

The government has advised that provided they can provide sufficient proof of address, receipt of fuel costs, and are not otherwise ineligible, households eligible for AFP Alternative Fund may include:

- park home residents.
- housing association, social and private tenants, and leaseholders, supplied via a landlord with a commercial meter.
- households in house boats on residential moorings
- households on a private electricity network, for example those supplied by a heat network.
- Off-grid households.
- traveller households on authorised sites.
- households in temporary/supported accommodation

#### **Can residents qualify for this and the Energy Bills Support Scheme?**

Yes, although if they aren't receiving the money for the schemes automatically, then they will need to submit separate claims.

#### **How do people make a claim for AFP Alternative Funding?**

# Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council  
held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall

People will need to submit a claim on the Government website at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-alternative-fuel-bill-support-if-not-automatic>

There is also a government helpline open from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday for anyone who requires help and support to make a claim or progress a claim. The helpline number is **0808 175 3287**.

**Applications will close on 31 May 2023.**

23/03/9

i)

## **Finance & Policies:**

### **Parish Council Bank Reconciliation from list of payments/receipts**

#### **Resolved 23/03/9.01**

The bank balances and reconciliation of payments and receipts were received and adopted and initialled & signed as such by the Chairman. The bank account balance as of the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 is £21,498.51.

ii)

### **Cheques for signing and approval and to authorise payment of outstanding invoices**

#### **Resolved 23/03/9.02**

It was agreed to approve payments of outstanding invoices as below and cheques were signed by Cllr. M. Collier & Cllr. P. Forster.

Fornham VH	Reimburse duplicate electric contribution payment	002343	£327.53
Mrs D Pott	Litter picker	002344	£132.12
Mrs V Bright	Office Allowance 23/24	002345	£312.00
Mrs V Bright	Mileage & expenses	002346	£9.38
SALC	Payroll	002347	£54.00

iii)

### **Consider an Increase to the Village Hall Electricity Donation**

The Clerk reiterated the current donations given annually to the Village Hall; £500 towards upkeep and a further £500 towards electricity costs. The Clerk also advised that for the past 3 years the Parish Council had given a significant increase to their donation towards the electricity costs at the hall, to help subsidise loss of income due to the pandemic. It was discussed that the Village Hall Committee need to be exploring all avenues for grants & funding that is available, and that they need to be securing the best possible energy tariff, and looking into deals for charities, going forward.

#### **Resolved 23/03/9.03**

It was agreed to increase the annual donation towards the electricity costs at the hall, for the year 22/23 and for the year 23/24, to be reviewed again in May 2024.

iv)

### **Consider a Donation to Celebrate the 850<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Fornham**

The Clerk presented a request from the West Suffolk Council Heritage Officer;

# Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council  
held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall

*“a project to mark the 850th anniversary of the Battle of Fornham is being planned. Cllr. Beccy Hopfensperger has very kindly given £2800 of her remaining locality funds toward the project and we are keen to top up from other avenues.*

*The project:*

- *Two sharing days for the public, a free one at Moyses Hall and another at Fornham All Saints Hotel (**Moyses one funded by Friends of the museum, and hotel to fund £2000**)*
- *Displays at Moyses Hall – including the two Fornham swords side-by-side for the first time. The second one kindly lent by the Hotel. (**funded by the museum**)*
- *A re-enactment of 12th Century Battle techniques at West Stow at the end of March. (**£500**)*
- *Lectures at Moyses Hall (**funded by museum**)*
- *Information panels about the Battle at the site itself. This is really exciting! (**£5000**)*
- *Installation of panels (**funded by the Hotel**)*

*So total needed £7500 – now thanks to Cllr. Hopfensperger £4700.”*

Councillors discussed the request and raised disappointment that this is the first the Parish Council and residents have heard about this project, before now. They were concerned that there has been no community involvement, and no input from residents of Fornham has been asked for. There was also concerns that the Hotel have been used for the venue, rather than utilising the community village hall within the village where the battle actually took part. The Clerk was asked to write to the Heritage Officer, Daniel Clarke and express the parishes disappointment and voice our concerns, and to decline the invitation to give a donation.

v) **Discuss Elections 4<sup>th</sup> May**

The Clerk gave a report on the timeline for elections and the nomination process. She is to forward information and links to the WSC Elections website page to all Councillors. The Clerk provided all Councillors with a Nomination Candidate Pack. The Clerk is to place a notice in the Bugle regarding the elections and how to stand, with the WSC website links and information on Voter ID.

23/03/10

**Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agenda's**

None.

**The next Full Parish Council Meeting is to be held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7:30pm, in the Village Hall.**

Meeting closed at 9:57pm

**Signed:** John Borrett  
**Chair, FSMSGPC**

**Date: 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023**