

Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council
held on Monday 9th October 2023 at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall

Councillors present: Cllr. J. Borrett - Chair (JBo), Cllr. M Collier - Vice Chair (MC), Cllr. P. Borrett (PBo),
Cllr. P. Butler (PBu) & Cllr. N. Steward (NS).

Also present: Vicky Bright, Clerk PC. Cllr. Rebecca Hopfensperger – WSC/SCC. David Yates – Fornham
St Martin PCC.

ITEM	<u>PUBLIC FORUM:</u>
23/10/1	<p>Two members of the public were in attendance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The issue of the Barton Hill footpath was raised, it needs cutting back, there is also mud on the road. The surfacing is also an issue, and once it is cut back the surfacing defects will be even more apparent, Cllr. Borrett (JBo) advised it hadn't been done properly in the first place and now patch repairs were not good enough and were inefficient and was a waste of tax payers' money. The Clerk advised that Cllr. Hopfensperger had reported at the last meeting, that she has requested that the footpath be cut, the Clerk is to ask her to chase this up.• David Yates advised that the bells are to be removed from the tower on the 14th/15th October and are available to people to see them on Sunday 15th October at 6pm. Cllr. Butler extended thanks to David Yates for his hard work and efforts.
23/10/1	<p><u>Chairman's Welcome & Acceptance of Apologies for Absence (LGA 1972, Section 85(1) & (2)):</u> Apologies: None.</p>
23/10/2	<p><u>Declaration of Members' Interest (for items on the agenda) – LGA 2000 Part III:</u> None.</p>
23/10/3	<p><u>Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings - LGA 1972, Schedule 12, para 41(2):</u> <u>Meeting held on 11th September 2023 – Resolved 23/10/3.01</u> The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th September 2023 were adopted as a true statement and signed by the Chairman (JBo).</p>
23/10/4	<p><u>Local Authority Reports:</u> <u>County & District Councillors:</u> Cllr. Hopfensperger reported on West Suffolk Council issues;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is to be a review of grass cutting due to the fact that there has been issue with the schedule and areas being missed etc.• West Suffolk Hub – it was decided at the last full council that the current plans on the hub will be stopped, instead the Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre will receive some work to update it, but we've not be told what this will entail and when it will happen.

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- Christmas in Bury St Edmunds – There are lots of things happening with regards to Christmas in Bury details of events can be found here [The Official Tourism Site for Bury St... | Bury St Edmunds & Beyond \(visit-burystedmunds.co.uk\)](https://www.visit-burystedmunds.co.uk)

Cllr. Rebecca Hopfensperger gave updates to Councillors on various matters, including; 6 (i), (ii).

Cllr. Butler raised concerns over the state of the surfacing on Station Hill, stating “it’s a disgrace”. He also called for no more flats to be built within the town, and stated that the flats on Station Hill and Tayfen Meadows are more than sufficient.

23/10/5

Planning (For Consideration):

i)

AP/23/0042/STAND - Planning application - outdoor gymnasium including open sided exercise shelter, moveable exercise equipment and equipment storage container LOCATION: All Saints Hotel, The Street, Fornham St Genevieve, Suffolk (APPLICATION NO: DC/22/1378/FUL)

No further comments to be submitted, other than reiterating our previous objections.

(For Information Only):

ii)

DC/23/1375/TPO - TPO 164 (1971) - Tree preservation order - trees marked purple on submitted maps (A1, G1 and G2 on order) – all works specified on submitted tree schedules. Location: Open Space, Culford Road, Fornham St Martin, IP28 6BY – *Pending decision!*

iii)

DC/23/1330/TPO - TPO 175a (1993) Tree preservation order - one Sycamore (T1 on order) fell. Location: Fornham Grange, School Lane, Fornham St Martin – *Pending decision!*

iv)

DC/23/1343/FUL - two outdoor tennis courts. Location: All Saints Hotel, The Street, Fornham St Genevieve – *Pending decision!*

v)

DC/23/1154/OUT - Outline Planning Application (means of access to be considered) for demolition of existing buildings and structures to provide new employment floorspace (Classes E(g)(iii), B2 and B8) including vehicular access with all other matters reserved. Location: Shepherds Grove Industrial Estate, East Sumner Road, Hepworth – *Pending decision!*

vi)

DC/22/1294/FUL- animal feed mill and associated development including ancillary offices, silos, warehouse, improved access route and parking. Location: Land of Compiegne Way, Bury St Edmunds (British Sugar) – *Approved 6th September 2023!*

vii)

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

viii)

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!*

ix)

Update on Enforcement EN/21/0057 St Johns Plantation Trees – *No action will be taken until the appeal decision has been reached, regarding the two previously advised tree re-planting schemes.*

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23/10/6
i & ii)

Highways/Footpaths & Trees:

Update on Outstanding Highways Issues/Footpaths

Cllr. Hopfensperger gave the following updates;

- Cllr. Hopfensperger has advised that Andy Moore will be visiting and carrying out the works himself to clear the footpaths in Parklands Green; this may take longer as the highways contract for Milestone, who take over from Kier, started in October and there were a few transitional arrangements to iron out.
- There is no further update on the Manners Road resurfacing, date TBC - again we are awaiting a new schedule of work following Milestone's take over.
- Footway surfacing on Barton Hill to A134, Andy Moore has updated that it is still not meeting a priority intervention criteria but will continue to monitor.
- The bench repairs at Barton Hill - the bench was property of St Edmundsbury Council and should have been adopted by WSC when they merged, along with the one opposite Lark Valley Drive and the one opposite Parklands Green (FSG) - West Suffolk are going to send me a list of assets in the village registered with them and I've asked to check that the Barton Hill, Culford Road and Lark Valley benches are included.
- The gully works by Flowline on Russell Baron Road are still pending, date TBC – awaiting the schedule from Milestone.
- The vegetation on Thetford Road has only partly been cut back – I can confirm I have reported this.
- Street Light Russell Baron Road – Reinstatement SCC – I can confirm I have now reported this to them.
- The Market Stall at Barton Hill has reappeared, it has been reported to Enforcement to follow up on

The Clerk is to request that a representative from PROW and Cllr. Hopfensperger meet with the Clerk/Chair on site to try and resolve the issue of the Old Thetford Road footpath, and what is technically a PROW, or not, and who is responsible for what sections, to get it maintained and added to the 'cyclic' schedule.

Cllr. Steward (NS) is to send the Clerk photos of the obscured pedestrian crossing sign by the crossing on Barton Hill, for the Clerk to report it to Highways.

23/10/7
i)

Parish Matters.

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

Cllr. Borrett (JBo) is to carry on doing the weekly inspections until the next meeting.

ii)

Vandalism and Insurance claim for Trim Trail +/- discuss consultation for repair

The Clerk advised that she had received no response from the Bugle consultation regarding what to do with the Trim Trail and play area. It was agreed to put the consultation notice in the next edition of the Bugle again. The Playdale quote for the damage to the trim trail is for replacement, as they deem it not cost effective to try and repair due to the age and state of the wood. The Clerk has sent the quote to the Insurers to ask if they will pay out on replacement, and is awaiting their response.

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- iii) **Discuss Quotes for Tree Works in the Playing Field**
Resolved 23/10/7.01
It was agreed to accept the quote from Heartwood Tree Services for the tree works in the playing field and village green at a cost of £800.

It was agreed to tender out the grass cutting and landscaping contract in the New Year.
- iv) **Quotes for repair to wooden bus shelter roof**
Deferred until options and quotes have been explored.
- v) **Notice Boards Update +/- Quotes**
The Clerk is to go back to the company and get a second quote for larger notice boards, and to also get comparison quotes. It was discussed to replace the notice boards in phases over the next two financial years.
- vi) **Discuss further Bonfires – Tollgate Bridge**
Cllr. Borrett (JBo) is to get photos & video evidence with a diary of incidences be sent to Cllr. Hopfensperger and Environmental Health, once enough evidence is collected. It was advised that if the bonfires are burning toxic materials, or is too close to buildings then it can be reported immediately. It was suggested that the Clerk place a notice in the Bugle advising residents about the law around bonfires.
- vii) **Discuss the current village hall finances/funding status**
Cllr. Butler (PBU) advised that the Chair and Hall Manager were doing an excellent job, and recent refurbishments had been made to improve the hall and make it more energy efficient. However, since the Pandemic income has been significantly reduced, more hires are needed and with the rise in electricity costs the hall is not making enough income to support its outgoings (May, June, July 2023 £3,825 income with £5,802 outgoings). It is getting to the point where thoughts around marketing and whether the hall should be a community asset or a commercial enterprise, are being considered. It was requested that the Parish Council consider increasing its annual donation when it is considered next May.
- 23/10/8 **Correspondence:**
None.
- 23/10/9
i) **Finance & Policies:**
Parish Council Bank Reconciliation from list of payments/receipts
Resolved 23/10/9.01
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 1st September 2023 is £37,285.71.
- ii) **Cheques for signing and approval and to authorise payment of outstanding invoices**
Resolved 23/10/9.02
It was agreed to approve payments of outstanding invoices as below and cheques were signed by Cllr. M. Collier and Cllr. Butler.

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Mrs V Bright	Mileage, expenses & overtime	002390	£56.16
Mrs D Pott	Litter pickers Inv. 0009/23	002391	£132.12
Meral Ahmed	Bugle compiler Edition 131	002392	£227.59
Arthur J Gallagher Ltd	Insurance 23/24	002393	£1031.50
PKF Littlejohn LLP	Audit 22/23	002394	£252.00
CAS OneSuffolk	Website annual fee	002395	£60.00
SALC	Payroll	002396	£54.00
WSC	Grass cutting KGPF 2023	002397	£1770.91
First Impressions	Bugle printing	002398	£434.70
Ford Fencing	Hurdles removal	002399	£578.40
M&TJ's	Grass cutting Inv.15104	002400	£480.00
FSM PCC	RBL Wreath	002401	£20.00
FSM PCC	Hedge cutting donation	002402	£150.00

iii) **Adoption of the AGAR External Audit Report & Certificate for 2022-23
Resolved 23/10/9.03**

It was agreed to accept the 2022-23 AGAR External Audit Report and Certificate, with the following raised other matter;

The smaller authority has not provided:

- an adequate explanation for the variance between the prior and current year values in Box 3 of Section 2.
- an adequate explanation as to why the prior year Box 8 figure does not agree to the prior year bank reconciliation provided by the smaller authority.

iv) **Consider a donation to the Church for the annual hedge trimming in the churchyard
Resolved 23/10/9.04**

It was agreed to give a donation of £150, towards the £300 cost of the annual hedge trimming for churchyard maintenance.

It was suggested that the annual donation be reviewed in May, to include a proportion towards annual hedge cutting as well as the annual grass cutting, and this is to be included going forward.

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- v) **New Bank Account & Bank Mandate Update**
Deferred to the next agenda.

23/10/10

Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agenda's

Cllr. Borrett (PBo) requested that Christmas Boxes/Gifts be discussed at the next agenda for the Council employees and volunteers.

Date of Next Meeting: Parish Council Meeting on Monday 13th November 2023, in the Fornham St Martin Village Hall, followed by the King George Playing Field Charity Trustee Meeting.

Meeting closed at 9:47pm

Signed: *J. Borrett*
Chair, FSMSGPC

Date: 13th November 2023