

# Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council  
held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June 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),

**Also present:** Cllr. Rebecca Hopfensperger – WSC/SCC.

ITEM	<b><u>PUBLIC FORUM:</u></b>
	1 members of the public was in attendance.
23/06/1	<b><u>Chairman’s Welcome &amp; Acceptance of Apologies for Absence (LGA 1972, Section 85(1) &amp; (2)):</u></b> <b>Apologies:</b> Cllr. Paul Butler. Parish Clerk, Vicky Bright sent apologies.
23/06/2	<b><u>Declaration of Members’ Interest (for items on the agenda) – LGA 2000 Part III:</u></b> None.
23/06/3	<b><u>Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meetings - LGA 1972, Schedule 12, para 41(2):</u></b> <b><u>Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 –</u></b> <b><u>Resolved 23/06/3.01</u></b> The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 were adopted as a true statement and signed by the Chairman (JBo).
23/06/4	<b><u>Local Authority Reports:</u></b> <b>County &amp; District Councillors:</b> Cllr. Sarah Broughton sent her apologies.  Cllr. Rebecca Hopfensperger gave updates to Councillors on various matters; including the outside gym and tree removals at The All-Saints Hotel, plus new warning signage proposed for the crossing over the A134 from/to Barton Hill and efforts to control/reduce the massive light pollution at the Hub.
23/06/5	<b><u>Planning (For Consideration):</u></b>
i)	<b>DC/23/0811/HH - single storey side extension. Location:1 Gilstrap Road, Fornham St Martin IP31 1TD</b> <b><u>Resolved 23/06/5.01</u></b> Discussed and agreed to submit No Objections.
ii)	<b>DC/23/0686/FUL - Installation of raised timber decking and balustrades to holiday lodges. Location: All Saints Hotel, The Street, Fornham St Genevieve IP28 6JQ</b> <b><u>Resolved 23/06/5.02</u></b> Discussed and agreed to submit Objections on points of disagreement raised and summarised, based on the original Application (Approved on Appeal) and the objection we previously submitted to that Application plus the comments of the Parish Councillors who agreed this should have been treated as a whole new Application rather than a kind of variation as there would seem to be a dramatic change in the proposed numbers of bedrooms for holidaymakers without yet more parking spaces being made available.

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**(For Information Only):**

- iii) **DC/23/0571/HH - single storey front extension to garage. Location: 24 Wentworth Close, Fornham St Martin – Pending Decision!**
- iv) **DC/23/0622/VAR - variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of DC/21/1142/FUL (allowed on appeal) to allow alternative lodges. Location: All Saints Hotel, The Street, Fornham St Genevieve – Pending Decision!**
- v) **AP/23/0023/STAND - Planning application DC/21/2245/FUL - a. one dwelling (following demolition of existing dwelling) b. new vehicular access c. 2 metre close boarded acoustic fence. Location: Rathkeltair Lodge Barton Hill Fornham St Martin – Pending Decision!**
- vi) **DC/23/0424/HH - a. dropped kerb b. removal of boundary wall and fence c. hard standing to form driveway. Location: Trisco, The Street, Fornham St Martin – Pending Decision!**
- vii) **DC/23/0290/VAR - variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of DC/22/0483/FUL to enable use of amended plans to include Infill of lower ground floor level link between new and existing bedroom wings. Location: All Saints Hotel, The Street, Fornham St Genevieve – Pending Decision!**
- viii) **DC/23/0494/FUL - one commercial building for storage of equipment. Location: Hollow Road Farm, Steve Lumley Planing Ltd, Hollow Road, Fornham St Martin – Approved 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023!**
- ix) **DC/23/0346/HH - a. two storey rear extension to house b. first floor garage extension and link to main house c. four dormer windows and six replacement dormer windows d. bifold doors to replace windows. Location: Tollbridge House, Thetford Road, Fornham St Martin – Approved 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023!**
- x) **AP/23/0020/STAND - Planning application - a. reconfiguration of second floor roof to existing bedroom wing b. four storey linked extension creating 37 bedrooms and three residential dwellings on the second floor (DC/21/1426/FUL). Location: All Saints Hotel, The Street, Fornham St Genevieve – Pending Decision!**
- xi) **DC/23/0051/FUL - construction of two outdoor tennis courts. Location: All Saints Hotel, The Street, Fornham St Genevieve – Pending Decision!**
- xii) **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) – Pending Decision!**
- xiii) **DC/22/1887/FUL - create access into All Saints Golf and Country Club. Location: Land off the Street, Fornham All Saints – Pending Decision!**

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- xiv) **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!**
- xv) **Update on Refused Application DC/22/1378/FUL Outdoor Gymnasium & Enforcement EN/21/0057 St Johns Plantation Trees**  
Cllr. Rebecca Hopfensperger reported on the situation in her earlier report, at item 4. above, which leaves the situation 'on hold' awaiting further developments and confirmed the Hotel are entitled to continue using the outdoor gym area meanwhile.
- 23/06/6  
i) **Highways/Footpaths & Trees:**  
**Update on Highways Outstanding Issues**  
All outstanding items were listed and discussed and particularly regarding the parlous state of roads and footpaths in the villages as a whole but also in particular the Thetford Road pathways and Parklands Green paths which are, in many places, quite dangerous. The PC agreed the 'no mow May' decision should be rescinded as the state of footpaths worsens each year; weeds and nettles and harmful grass seeds are left to mature and spread. Grass seeds can be dangerous for humans and particularly for dogs in that they can easily penetrate their skin. If left untreated this could cause infection and can be incredibly painful, in the worst case the internal damage can even be fatal. The road/path edges should be cut and the dangerous grass removed from site - before the seeds grow.
- ii) **Update on Highways Gate**  
The 'gate' is ordered and delivery is awaited.
- iii) **VAS/SID / Discuss New Batteries Quote / Update on application for an extra post on Barton Hill.**  
The residents of the dwelling, that the new VAS post is planned to be sited next to have been contacted and their comments are awaited.
- iv) **Discuss the Footpath from Barton Hill to the A134 Crossing Surfacing**  
The 'new' footpath from the bus shelter to the crossing over the A134 is beginning to break up through weed growth penetration of the sub-base and surfacing. It seems from inspection there are at least 60 (SIXTY) such places and they will only worsen. The pathway has hardly been subjected to much use and would appear to have been poorly constructed; the old footpath running down Barton Hill, which has seen heavy usage over a number of years, shows no such damage whatsoever. Given the poor state it is in, it should be remade properly as soon as possible.
- v) **Discuss the tree planting/screening in front of the fencing to the Waste Hub**  
A large number of trees which were meant to screen the Recycling Centre from view, are dead or dying and should be replaced as soon as possible. A comment was made that Monitoring of the planting is obviously not taking place and if 'Enforcement' cannot get this done on the West Suffolk Council's own site, what chance is there of getting anything else enforced. Cllr. Sarah Broughton reported via email before the meeting that, "I did ask about replacement trees for those that have failed a few months ago but I will chase again".

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23/06/7

## Parish Matters.

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

No new issues highlighted on reports. Cllr. Borrett (JBo) is to carry on doing the weekly inspections until the next meeting.

### ii) **Update on Grass Cutting and agree Weed Spraying Quote / Discuss Tree Works in the Playing Field**

Following a meeting on site with the grass mowing team from WSC they responded with these comments...

*“As stated, we will flail back the boundaries within the next few weeks, however one of the main issues is the overhanging trees along the boundary edge and this is something which the Parish would need to undertake by employing a contractor to crown lift the canopies to 2 to 3 m from ground level as these are not only cutting out light but causing issues for our mowing machines to get underneath.*

*The other boundary issue is the footpath between the Recreation Ground and the Churchyard which you have told us is owned by Cambridge University which has brambles coming into the Recreation Ground from the footpath. If you wish, we can spray some of the pernicious weed and bramble infestation as we hold chemical herbicides which would control this infestation.*

*I consider that if the Parish can deal with the crown lifting of the trees (if budgets allow) as soon as possible and we flail the boundaries, we can go somewhere to reclaiming the field which is being gradually encroached upon”.*

### Resolved 23/06/7.01

The PC accepted the quotation in the sum of £143.80 for treating brambles and pernicious weed, including the Churchyard boundary footpath.

### Resolved 23/06/7.02

The quotation for grass cutting for the sum of £1,475.76 was also approved.

### iii) **Benches Quotes (Playing Field)**

#### Resolved 23/06/7.03

It was agreed to accept a quotation from Ford Fencing covering works to two benches for £276.00.

### iv) **Quotes for repair to wooden bus shelter roof**

It was reported the wooden shelter is leaking badly and it was agreed that the Chairman will make an on-site inspection during a rainfall.

### v) **Notice Boards Update +/- Quotes**

Updated information awaited.

### vi) **Discuss and agree action Ref: Bonfires Tollgate Bridge**

It was discussed and agreed to take advice on this nuisance.

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- vii) **Discuss the Pumping Station Alarm Footpath 008 (SCC)**  
It has been reported that the alarm is still active, having had assurances it would be permanently silenced, although Councillors who have recently walked the footpath have not experienced this at all - it was agreed to await any further developments and further update from SCC.
- viii) **Discuss Bugle Compiler Probationary Period Review**  
**Resolved 23/06/7.04**  
It was agreed to continue with The Bugle Compiler (Meral Ahmed) as Councillors were content with her performance during the Probationary Period.
- 23/06/8 **Correspondence:**  
Correspondence was received from residents as follows;
- The footpath from Old School Lane alongside the golf course was heavily overgrown, with some residents taking shears to it themselves.
  - Illegal dumping was reported close to the wooden bus shelter with a resident voluntarily dealing with it.
- 23/06/9 **Finance & Policies:**
- i) **Parish Council Bank Reconciliation from list of payments/receipts**  
**Resolved 23/06/9.01**  
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 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023 is £44,288.95.
- ii) **Cheques for signing and approval and to authorise payment of outstanding invoices**  
The Cheques will be signed between meetings, once the Clerk is back in the office.
- iii) **New Bank Account & Bank Mandate Update**  
Deferred to the next agenda.
- 23/06/10 **Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agenda's**  
By invitation, Councillors M Collier and J Borrett attended a tour of the Hotel with Mr David Harris, including a close look at the new wing currently under construction and the 'outside gym' area.
- The flower planter at the top of Barton Hill has been relocated, with a great deal of muscle power and expertise from David and Pat Randall plus Cllr. Borrett, to the opposite side of Russell Baron Road - with thanks too to Mark, a resident of Oak Grove, for his able assistance. The move was necessitated by over-shadowing from trees and encroachment of their roots into the planter, hopefully the flowers will flourish in the new location.
- Advertising for current Parish Councillor vacancies will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

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**Date of Next Meeting: Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023, in the  
Fornham St Martin Village Hall.**

Meeting closed at 8:51pm

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

**Date: 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023**