

Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council
Held via Zoom on Thursday 14th January 2021 at 7:30pm

Councillors present: Cllr. M. Collier, Chair (MC), Cllr. Gary Hubbard, VC (GH), Cllr. Frank Stennett (FS), Cllr. P. Forster (PF), Cllr. P. Borrett (PBo), Cllr. P. Butler (PBu) & Cllr. J. Borrett (JBo).

Present: Cllrs. Rebecca Hopfensperger, SCC/WSC, and Sarah Broughton, WSC - both left the meeting at 8pm.

ITEM

21/01/1

Chairman's Welcome & Acceptance of Apologies for Absence (LGA 1972, Section 85(1) & (2)):

The Chairman welcomed everyone and outlined the format of the meeting.

Apologies: It was noted the Parish Clerk had reported she was too poorly to attend; all present extended their very best wishes for a speedy recovery.

21/01/2

Clerk cover procedures, due to long term sickness absence.

The possibility of her absence for a long period was discussed and it was agreed the Chair would make contact with SALC to ascertain whether they would provide cover on a temporary basis, should it prove to be necessary. Chair requested ideas from Councillors to reduce the workload we place on the Clerk wherever possible; his telephone number was now replacing the Clerk's for emergency calls. It was agreed that it was a possibility, circumstances permitting, to cancel the scheduled February meeting.

21/01/3

Declaration of Members' Interest (for items on the agenda) – LGA 2000 Part III:

Cllr. Frank Stennett declared an interest in Item 6. (iii), below.

21/01/4

Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings:

1. **PC meeting held on 12th November 2020 - LGA 1972, Schedule 12, para 41(2):**
Resolved 21/01/4.01. The minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2020 were adopted as a true statement and signed by the Chairman (MC).
2. **Extraordinary Planning Meeting held on 14th December 2020:**
Resolved 21/01/4.02. The minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2020 were adopted as a true statement and signed by the Chairman (MC).

21/01/5

Local Authority Reports:

County & District Councillors

Cllr. Hopfensperger submitted a detailed report by email to Councillors earlier on the day of the meeting with updates on Parish Matters, for possible inclusion in 'THE BUGLE', and reiterated...

- The Home but Not Alone scheme is contactable from 9am-5:30pm, Monday to Friday.
- There is also a Hardship Fund, that are able to give advice & support.
- Tree Nurseries, at least 10 (100,000 trees), are being planted as Recovery Woodland Areas, to be areas for people suffering with loss, mental health issues etc. to come and reflect and be with nature.

The two Councillors raised the possibility of adding vehicle recognition to the VAS machines we already have, to identify speeding vehicles and prosecution for fines on a 'three strikes' basis; the VAS machines and the vehicle recognition units would be independent of one another.

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They also informed the meeting that the District Council were issuing many grants to local companies and were encouraging Council staff and members of the public to work from home and online wherever possible. They also outlined the arrangement and workings of a Planning Delegation panel, in relation to Planning item 6. (iv), below.

21/01/6

Planning Applications:

i)

Resolved 21/01/6.01

A formal Resolution to adopt the Parish Council response to the West Suffolk Local Plan (Regulation 18) Issues and Options was agreed and would be published in 'THE BUGLE'.

ii)

Planning Application DC/20/0496/FUL - 68 lodges with parking, landscaping, waste and recycling areas and construction compound/maintenance area, St Genevieve Lakes.

No further details or amendments have been submitted and the Application is 'on hold'.

iii)

Planning Application DC/20/1907/FUL - One cabin: Ducksluice Farm, Fornham St Genevieve.

Further information was received and forwarded by the Local Authority Planning Department but a number of queries remain. The principal of which is that there is strong doubt as to the proposed use of the building as to whether it is just a 'cabin' for private use or, as it appears to be, a straightforward new dwelling. It was agreed to **object**, mainly on this basis.

Resolved 21/01/6.02

Objections to application DC/20/1907/FUL.

iv)

Additional item - Update on Planning application DC/20/1912/FUL - Change of use of part of golf course for the siting of to 22 caravan lodge holiday homes.

Councillor Hopfensperger informed the meeting that, as reported to her, the application was recommended for refusal by a Delegation Panel and the Planning Committee was to accept that recommendation.

21/01/7

i)

Highways/Footpaths/Trees:

Flooding (BMW Garage) Barton Hill & Russell Baron Road Update

Cllr. Hopfensperger advised that the Capital Works had been approved and the drainage works at Barton Hill (near the BMW Garage) were to be undertaken in this financial year. The works for Russell Baron Road has also been approved and funding has been secured, a date is, still, to be confirmed for works to start.

ii)

30mph Roundel Works to Barton Hill, & Traffic Calming Feasibility Update.

The Clerk confirmed in her notes, that the works had been scheduled, but a date for works to start was yet to be confirmed; Cllr. Hopfensperger agreed to push to get a date particularly when the Parish Council had paid for the work some months ago.

It was agreed that investigation and any resulting work discovered necessary in regard to 'traffic calming' is to be left 'on the backburner'.

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- iii) **Repair/replacement of damaged village sign.**
Cllr. Hopfensperger confirmed the gated sign is the responsibility of the County Council Highways department and the Chair will follow this up.
- 21/01/8**
- i) **Parish Matters:**
Play Area Inspections Report / Agree Weekly Inspection Rota
The play area will remain open during current Government guidelines.
Cllrs. P. & J. Borrett (PBo & JBo) would continue weekly inspections.
- ii) The inspection report had highlighted that the swing chains were beginning to wear and would need to be monitored. The report of rotten wood within the Trim Trail hurdles was investigated and found to be very minor and of little/no risk. The bark also needs topping up and it was agreed to look at quotes for the Spring.
- 21/01/9**
- Correspondence:**
Nothing received.
- 21/01/10**
- i) **Finance & Policies:**
Parish Council Bank Reconciliation from List of Payments/Receipts
Resolved 21/01/10.01.
The bank balances and reconciliation of payments and receipts are to be received and adopted and initialled & signed as such by the Chairman. The bank account balance as of 1st December 2020 is £19,315.75.
- ii) **Cheques for signing and approval and to authorise payment of outstanding invoices**
Resolved 21/01/10.02
It was agreed to approve payments of outstanding invoices below and the cheques were approved and signed by Cllr. M. Collier (MC) and Cllr. P. Forster (PF).
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|--------------------|------------------------------------|--------|---------|
| ICO | Data Protection fee | 002177 | £40.00 |
| Mr P Forster | Bugle distribution & VAS Batteries | 002179 | £39.39 |
| M&TJ's | Shrub cutting | 002180 | £96.00 |
| Mrs S Brooklyn | Bugle Editor | 002181 | £187.45 |
| PKF Littlejohn LLP | Audit 2019/20 | 002182 | £240.00 |
| Mrs D Pott | Litter Picker | 002183 | £216.66 |
| Mrs V Bright | Postage & expenses | 002184 | £15.60 |
| First Impressions | Bugle Printing | 002185 | £345.00 |
- iii) **2019/2020 External Auditor report.**
Resolved 21/01/10.03
It was agreed to adopt the external Auditor report.
- iv) **Projected Budget for 2021/2022.**
Resolved 21/01/10.04
The projected Budget for 2021/22 was scrutinised and agreed and adopted with expected expenditure of £28,834.50.

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v)	<p>Precept Figures for 2021/22 After much discussion It was agreed to opt for a slight increase on the precept of £3.86 per household per annum and to give an explanation in 'THE BUGLE' of the reasoning behind making an increase in such challenging times - as low as it is. The Village reserves are relatively low and it is important at any time to hold sufficient funds for 'rainy days'. The next few years may bring more challenges what with the impending proposed changes from 'Infill Villages' classification to 'A' grading for example. The meeting considered it important to have a fighting fund to hand. <u>Resolved 21/01/10.05</u> The Precept figures were set at £28,651.00, an increase of 6.9% - £3.86 per household per annum.</p>
21/01/11	<p><u>Councillors Reports and Meetings Attended / Items for Future Agenda's</u> None.</p> <p><u>Next Meeting to be held on Thursday 11th March 2021 at 7:30pm, venue to be confirmed.</u></p> <p>Meeting closed at 8:37pm</p> <p>Signed: <i>Mike Collier</i> Chair, FSMSGPC</p> <p>Date: 11th March 2021</p>