

# Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council  
Held at the Village Hall on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 7.30pm

**Councillors Present:** Cllr. Gary Hubbard (GH), Cllr. Penny Borrett (PB), Cllr. Peter Forster (PF), Cllr. Paul Butler (PB) and Cllr. Jayne Hubbard (JH).

**Present:** Vicky Bright - Parish Clerk and Rebecca Hopfensperger, Borough & County Councillor.  
2 members of the public were present.

Item	The Vice Chairman, Cllr. G. Hubbard welcomed everyone in the absence of the Chairman.	Action
	<p><b><u>Public Forum – LGA 1972, Section 100(1):</u></b> One member of the public expressed concerns of the proposal of a Wild Flower Meadow at the King George Playing Field. He stated that he felt that the decisions were not well published and that several residents were concerned. He expressed concern that the playing field had been cut twice and that it was “in a mess, with large clumps of rotting cuttings and that the perimeter had been cut separately, he also stated that the surface was flat and uneven and the grass seed used was too coarse. The Vice Chairman reiterated that the scheme had been published in the Bugle 3 times asking for Public Consultation, with no response at that time from residents. The grass had been cut twice to stimulate growth as advised by Andrew Cobbold from the Borough Council. The resident stated that the field had been rotivated and seeded before the May meeting when the decision was taken to plant the Wild Flower Meadow, the Vice Chairman responded that the initial ploughing had been carried out due to Chaffer Bugs. He also confirmed that the contractor had exceeded the initial request and planted a too larger area than agreed. It was confirmed that the plan is to look at the scheme again, with the plan to reinstate one third to Playing Field and Parking, and that this will go to Public Consultation again and will be advertised in the Bugle, to be deferred until the September meeting</p>	
16/07/1	<p><b><u>Accepted Apologies for absence – LGA 1972, Section 85(1) and (2):</u></b> Cllr. Mike Collier. <b><u>Absent:</u></b> None.</p>	
16/07/2	<p><b><u>Declarations of Members' Interests (for items on the agenda) – LGA 2000 Part III:</u></b> Cllr. G. Hubbard declared an interest in Item 7 (ii).</p>	
16/07/3	<p><b><u>Minutes of the last meeting – LGA 1972, Schedule 12, para41(2):</u></b> <b><u>Resolved 16/07/3.01</u></b> The Minutes of the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016 were adopted as a true statement and signed by the Vice Chair (GH), in the absence of the Chair.</p>	
16/07/4	<p><b><u>Local Authority Reports:</u></b> <b><u>County &amp; Borough Councillor</u></b> Rebecca Hopfensperger updated the meeting with the following;</p> <p>West Suffolk Hub – The Full Council vote was not unexpected, but was disappointing. Thanks to all who attended and supported, the fight is not over yet. The Planning Application will be in late Autumn, a lot of work is needed prior to the application, including traffic surveys at peak time i.e. Sugar Beet Campaign. It is important to keep up momentum and to object/comment on the application.</p> <p>Fornham Park – The Development Control Committee voted deferral, the best outcome hoped for, they took on concerns of inappropriate cycle/pedestrian paths via South View roundabout and</p>	

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concerns over landscaping timeframe. The Agent for the Applicant, myself, the PC Chairman Mike Collier and the Planning Officer are to meet at Fornham Park for a site meeting to discuss concerns and alternative routes. The application can proceed but the Golf Course must be first. Conditions limited to 27 Lodges only.

Devolution Consultation – Is being carried out now until the end of August. The second stage in October will be for all councils for final sign off on deal agreed. Suffolk so far have approved.

Highways Operational Plan – RH to email to Clerk.

RH

Village Sign – RH to chase.

RH

16/07/5

## Clerks Report

i) The Clerk advised that the vacancy for Councillor would need to be published, and that if a request for Elections is not called within 14 days of the notice then the Council can go ahead and co-opt to fill the vacancy. The Clerk will update at the next meeting.

The Clerk advised that she was currently looking into whether the previous Clerk had carried out a Financial Risk Assessment or Review of the Internal Audit Process for this year and would update at the next meeting.

Clerk

The Clerk advised that she is hoping to work with Cllr. Collier to update the Asset Register and then look at putting into place a Risk Assessment procedure.

Clerk/MC

The Clerk advise that she is still updating the website.

Clerk

16/07/6

## West Suffolk Operational Hub

The Vice Chairman read out a copy of the Chairman's statement which was given at the Full Council meeting, a copy is available to be seen in the Bugle.

16/07/7

## Planning and Environment

i) **DC/16/1231/HH Householder Planning Application - (i) Single storey rear extension (ii) first floor side and rear extension and (iii) creation of second floor rooms in roof space – Richmond, Old Hall Lane Fornham St Martin**

### Resolved 16/07/7.01

No Objections. Suggested comments to use frosted glass in the windows overlooking the neighbouring property.

ii)

**DC/16/1165/HYB 1 new office building with associated hardstanding and outline application for 2 additional buildings as an extension to the business centre – Offices, Culford Road Fornham St Genevieve**

Clerk

The Clerk was asked to go back to the Planning Officer with the following comments/questions before the Parish Council could submit their response;

- Comment on the irrelevance of the mention to the previous approval, as this was solely for agricultural use and included no parking.
- Question intended use (Office Use?) due to the height of the building and the roller shutter doors.
- To suggest the two suggested proposals be submitted separately and assessed on their own merits.

# Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council  
Held at the Village Hall on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 7.30pm

iii)

## **DC/15/0662/VAR Fornham Park Application Update**

The Vice Chair read out a statement on behalf of the Chairman, which was presented to the Development Control Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2016;

Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve has been consistent over the years in its objections to inappropriate development on Fornham Park which is within open countryside and Policy protected landscape. We have objected to this current application through no less than five rounds of consultation drawing attention to the following:-

Competition with St Genevieve Lakes project which is endorsed in Rural Vision 2031.

Landscape and negative visual impact

Removal of an associated leisure activity.

Impact on residential properties inside and around Fornham Park.

Traffic volumes, nuisance and safety.

Unsafe pedestrian and cyclist access and amenities .

As summarised in paragraph 8 of your officers report serious reservations continue to be expressed by the Tree and Landscape officer that the landscape and character impact are considered both harmful and notable as summarised in paragraph 22 of your officers report.

The Parish Council is however conscious that the principle of development was established in 2005 and you are now faced with a recommendation by your officer to grant permission on grounds of economic benefit both during construction and subsequent tourist industry operation. In the event that committee members are mindful to grant permission despite the significant adverse impact on the character and appearance of landscape and countryside we ask that you give serious consideration to the following mitigations and conditions relating to access, nuisance and safety.

The Parish Council fully support most of the conditions proposed by your officer with the exception of number 8 which requires the construction of an unnecessarily long road around the back of land fill in order to access the lodges. Members were driven over this route on their site visit on the 30<sup>th</sup> June and it is almost certainly enforceable. This road would add half a mile to each inbound and outbound journey and expose drivers to the unpleasant odours of the adjoining sewerage works. Inevitably many will choose instead to access and egress the lodges via the North Lodge Drive entrance on which highways have expressed safety concerns. The solution lies in the construction of a much shorter access road between the main gates (as per condition 7) and the proposed lodges via the arable land immediately to the south of them. This would be cheaper to build and reduce environmental impact, vehicle miles and drainage issues.

Paragraph 28 of the officers report suggests that pedestrian and cycle access via the roundabout on the B1106 and South Lodge Drive would be appropriate. Members of the Parish Council and local residents have grave concerns about the safety aspects of this proposal and it should be re - examined by Highways to see what should be done to remove any danger.

The Parish Council also suggests a Section 106 should be sought to provide a cycle route between the main gates and North Lodge Drive which could easily be constructed

# Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council  
Held at the Village Hall on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 7.30pm

close to the fencing alongside the B1106, or parallel with the access road as mentioned above, and this would dramatically improve the safety of both cyclists and other road users. This would mitigate the loss of public amenity from the lifting of the golf course condition, and encourage cyclists and tourism.

16/07/8

- i) **Finance & Policies:  
Parish Council Bank Balances and Reconciliation from list of payments and receipts and to approve bills for payment**

**Resolved 16/07/8.01**

That the bank balances and reconciliation of payments and receipts be received and adopted and initialled & signed as such by the Vice Chairman (GH), in the absence of the Chair. The bank account balance as of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 is £26,628.07.

- ii) **Cheques for Signing and Approval**

**Resolved 16/07/8.02**

It was agreed to approve the payments of the following outstanding invoices and the cheques were approved and signed by Cllr. G. Hubbard and Cllr. Paul Butler.

M&TJ's	Grass Cutting June 2016	1855	£756.00
Mrs V Bright	Mileage & Expenses	1856	£27.21
David Hoggett	Litter Picking	1857	£150.96

- iii) **Bugle Advertising Fees Review**

It was agreed to defer this item to the September meeting when the Clerk will present a full financial report on the Bugle and suggested Fees increase.

Clerk

- iv) **King George Playing Field Trusteeship and Governing Documents**

The Clerk advised that the issue of the Trusteeship required further looking into, as she had now received a large collection of files and correspondence relating to the issue from Fields in Trust, David Payne and the Charity Commission. It was agreed to defer the item of Trusteeship transfer and the adoption of governing documents until the September meeting to allow the Clerk to do more investigations and compile a report.

Clerk

16/07/9

- i) **Parish Matters:  
Update on King George Playing Field/Wild Flower Meadow Scheme**

The Clerk advised that due to the issue of the Trusteeship still being outstanding and the need for more public consultation on the scheme that this item be deferred until the September meeting, this was agreed by Council. The Clerk is to place a notice for Public Consultation in the next edition of the Bugle asking residents to submit comments, designs and ideas before Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2016, to be emailed to the Clerk; [fsmgpc@gmail.com](mailto:fsmgpc@gmail.com) or posted to 3 Scott Avenue, Mildenhall, Suffolk IP28 7LT.

Clerk

- ii) **Update on Highways Meeting**

A meeting with Highways was held in the village on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 9:45am Present were Mike Collier-Chair, Vicky Bright, Clerk and Hen Abbot – SCC Highways Engineer. The following items were discussed and actions agreed;

***Roads, Footways & Verges:***

The Early May Cyclic Program for hedges/verges cutting was delayed with no explanation.

# Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council  
Held at the Village Hall on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 7.30pm

Next due on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016. But the weather has caused faster growth.  
Wait for 11<sup>th</sup> July and if not cut the Clerk will report the following hedges/verges online;

- B1106 (Parklands Green) Hedge & verge
- Thetford Rd (Opp. BMW Garage) Hedge & Verge
- Footpath Barton Hill (Rectory), verges.

### ***Litter & Leaves on Footways:***

This is the responsibility of St Edmundsbury BC. Clerk to report leaves and request the sweeper to come out. Clerk to report litter problem and ask about regular litter picking.

### ***VAS Post:***

Missing post to be replaced. Clerk to liaise with Cllr. Hopfensperger regarding sourcing replacement and costs for September meeting.

### ***Cycle tracks:***

This is the responsibility of the Police to enforce cyclists to ride on roads, not footways. Clerk to place a notice in Bugle asking cyclists to observe the law.

### ***Potholes:***

Report online. If over 400mm diameter and 100mm depth, Highways should repair within 5 days. Smaller potholes can take up to 20 days. Suggested that the PC survey and report each pothole online.

### ***Gulley B1106 (Opp. Parklands Green):***

Highways to action this and get the gulley cleared. Gulley's should be cleared every 6 months by Highways (but not soakaways). Highways are currently updating the lists of Gulley's needing attention.

### ***Footways Parklands Green:***

Highways are to add the footways in Parklands Green to their list of works, but they do not yet rate as priority. Suggested that the Clerk take photos of the worst areas and report online.

### ***Trees Parklands Green:***

The Clerk is to contact the Tree Officer at St Edmundsbury DC to look at the trees needing attention on Parklands Green, and also to request a list of TPO Trees in the villages.

### ***Reflective Bollards:***

Highways will not approve bollards on the Street verges. However, bollards could be a put on the Green area where the village sign and seating is. Another option would be to have planting and to re-establish the edging of the Green where it has encroached on the tarmac area. Suggested this be put to public consultation. The Clerk is to report the damaged bollards on the Street online and at the Roundabout at Barton Hill (A134).

### ***White Lining at the Pub (The Woolpack):***

Highways are to re-paint and identify the area as No Parking (extension of footway).

iii)

### **Play Areas Inspection Report and Risk Assessment Procedure**

It was agreed that Cllr's P. Foster and J. Hubbard would share the Weekly Risk Assessment of the play areas between now and the next meeting.

PF/JH

The Clerk reported that the items highlighted on the report were weed and vegetation growth, the Clerk is to chase this with the Landscaping contractor. The second issue was the lack of signs indicating contact details in an emergency, the Clerk is to source quotes for signage for the next meeting.

Clerk

Clerk

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Held at the Village Hall on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 7.30pm

16/07/10

## Correspondence

The Clerk advised that the consultation on Devolution had been launched and would run until Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2016. The website [www.eastangliadevo.co.uk](http://www.eastangliadevo.co.uk) has all the information about the deal itself. The Clerk will place a notice in the Bugle with all the information and the web address.

The Clerk advised that the West Suffolk Planning Service upgrade is now live;  
[http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning\\_applications/index.cfm](http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning_applications/index.cfm)

Clerk

16/07/11

## Councillors Reports and Items for the Next Agenda

- Play area signage quotes
- Highways Update
- Village Hall Parking (PB)
- King George Playing Field Trusteeship / Wild Flower Meadow Scheme
- Bugle Financial Report & Fees Revision

**Next Meeting to be held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall**

Meeting closed at 9:31pm

**Signed: Gary Hubbard**  
**Vice Chairman (in the absence of the Chairman)**

**Date: 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

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