



VILLAGE VOICE

Fornham All Saints
Village Magazine

Photo by Csaba Tabber on Unsplash

February - March 2025

Issue No. 251

Fornham All Saints Officials

Parish Councillors

Don Lynch

Mat Stewart

Derek Brown

David Surman

Richard Nicholls

Vacancy

Vacancy

Vacancy

Justin Hook (Parish Clerk)

clerk@fornhamallsaintsparish.gov.uk

Other Representatives

Rebecca Hopfensperger
(District & County Councillor)

07876 683516

Sarah Broughton
(District Councillor)

07929 305787

Peter Prinsley
(Labour MP)

peter.prinsley.mp@parliament.uk

Meetings

The Parish Council meets at 6:30pm in the Community Centre, on the third Tuesday of each month, except August & December. Please check the Village Hall notice board for any date changes.

Website

www.fornhamallsaintsparish.gov.uk

The deadline for articles for the April - May Village Voice will be 20th March.

The 'Village Voice' is published by the Fornham All Saints Parish Council. Views and opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily accepted as being those of the Fornham All Saints Parish Council. The 'Village Voice' accepts all articles, notices and advertisements in good faith. We cannot be responsible for the content of any submissions, nor liable for the quality of goods and services offered.

From the Editor & Parish Clerk

Well Christmas seems like such a distant memory already and it's no longer socially acceptable to wish you a happy new year, but I do hope that you enjoyed the festive period and that 2025 is starting to shape up nicely!

The Parish Council didn't meet in December, but I'm pleased to say that at the January meeting, the Councillors signed off on some projects to tidy up the pavements in the village. The volunteering group have been doing an amazing job on the areas that they can safely work on, but with a lot of the work being so close to the highway, we do need professionals for some jobs and that may mean traffic lights. I know... There's been a lot of them in the village recently, but let we'll try keep disruption to a minimum, and our works will hopefully make traversing the pavements easier, and the village look tidier!

As Clerk, I met with some folk from Suffolk Traditional Orchard Group who were involved with the planting of the community orchard at Larks Gate. We took a look at the 19 fruit trees planted around the perimeter and discussed putting together a team who would be willing to undertake a pruning workshop and take on responsibility for some ongoing maintenance. Sadly it felt too short notice to pull together this year, but we're keen to look at it again later in the year for next season. If that's something that interests you, please do get in touch.

Today I heard the sad news that the 3 Kings, the village pub is closing at the end of the month. That is a big loss to the village. The current owners did a great job of updating and transforming the pub. A big thank you to Chris and the team. We wish you all the best in whatever ventures come next.

I've also been told that the art club at the community centre is closing, due to a lack of people to help run the club. It is a sad reminder folks, that we must try to support the good things that we have in our community, otherwise we do risk losing them.

Sorry! On a more positive note I'm excited to hear that the village is getting a mobile fish & chip van, visiting the community centre car park on a Tuesday night, beginning later in the month - see the advert later in the magazine for more information.

We've also included a brief introduction to 'devolution' and what that means for Suffolk. We'll be hearing a lot more on that in the months to come, so we will do our best to keep you updated.

The next Parish Council meeting will be **Tuesday 18th February 2025, 18:30 at the community centre**. Come and have your say on village matters. Maybe see you there? I'll save you a seat!

And if you have anything interesting for the next Village Voice, please email: **villagevoice@fornhamallsaintsparish.gov.uk**

Enjoy this issue. When we speak next, spring will have sprung! I'm seeing lots of signs when I'm out walking the dog. I do love spring, as it starts to get warmer and things begin to green up again.

Justin Hook

Justin Hook, Village Voice Editor & Parish Clerk



To keep up with other village news, why not like or follow our Facebook page?

www.facebook.com/fornhamallsaintspc

Fuel Charity Payments

The Parish has revenue from the allotments which are held in a charity. This money can be given to applicants who are Fornham All Saints residents who require assistance with energy bills.

To register for a grant, please send your name, address and contact details to the Clerk:

clerk@fornhamallsaintsparish.gov.uk

Please register your interest before 1st March 2025.



Would you like an allotment?

Contact the Clerk to get your name on the waiting list for a plot
clerk@fornhamallsaintsparish.gov.uk

Image by macrovector on Freepik

Free February Half Term Activities from Explore Outdoor and Abbeycroft

January is almost over and we are taking bookings for February Half Term! These are all free sessions, aimed at those pupils receiving means tested free school meals.

Family Park Cooking - A great family day out including campfires, marshmallows and cooking a hearty lunch. Each family will also receive ingredients for a weeks' worth of meals to take home.

Adventure Days - Action Packed Adventure Day including a breakfast, lunch and snacks.

Swimming and Lunch - Free swimming and a lunch for families.

Soft Play and Lunch - Free Soft Play and a lunch for families (Kingfisher only)

Water Polo (Bury Only) - Free for ANY children living in Bury St Edmunds (IP32/IP33)

Everything else families need to know (including eligibility and booking) can be found on the website.

These sessions are extremely popular, spaces are limited and are allocated on a first come first served basis so act quickly to give your family the best chance of participating.

To book visit: www.abbeycroft.org.uk/HAF

Email HAF@acleisure.com

Visit www.abbeycroft.org.uk/HAF

Call 01284 757495 (leave a name and number for a call back)



NEXT RURAL COFFEE CARAVAN VISITS

Wednesday 5th February, 10am - 12pm
Thingoe Lodge

future dates:

5th March	Thingoe Lodge
2nd April	Thingoe Lodge
7th May	Village Hall
4th June	Thingoe Lodge

Everyone welcome for a coffee, cake and chat

www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk

Fornham All Saints Parish Council

November Meeting

Approved Minutes from Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 19th November 2024, 18:30, Fornham All Saints
Community Centre

*These minutes were be approved at the Parish Council Meeting on
21st January, 2025.*

Present:

**Cllr Richard Nicholls (RN) (Acting Chair) and Cllrs Jill Mayhew, Derek Brown (DB) and David Surman (DS).
Clerk Justin Hook (JH), Josh Harris (All Saints Hotel) and 1 member of the public.**

Agenda Items

1. Chairman's welcome, opening remarks and to receive apologies for absence
Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Stewart, Cllr Lynch, District Cllr Broughton and County Cllr Hopfensperger.
2. (i) To receive members Declarations of Interests - **none received.**
(ii) Council to consider any new written requests for dispensation and/or requests which have been received - **none received.**
3. To approve & adopt the minutes from the Council meeting held on 15th October 2024
Council resolved to adopt the minutes from the previous meeting and the Chair signed them.
4. To receive County Councillor's report from Cllr. Rebecca Hopfensperger
None received.
5. To receive Borough Councillor's reports from Cllr. Sarah Broughton and Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger

None received.

6. Public open session up to 15 minutes - questions and issues on matters arising from the agenda and from the village

Resident raised the road safety issue regarding the hedging between Sheepwash Bridge and the Anglian Water (AW) entrance. Hedging encroaching into carriageway, causing buses and lorries to go round the corner on the wrong side of the road - lots of near misses already and an accident waiting to happen.

Clerk advised technically this is a Fornham St Martin/ Genevieve issue, but has contacted their Clerk, as well as Cllr Broughton and Cllr Hopfensperger for assistance. Clerk also raised on highways reporting tool and item being considered by SCC for potential actions.

Action: Clerk to follow up.

Resident also raised issue of water escaping from fire hydrant opposite AW entrance, causing mud and debris on the road and pavement and potential ice hazard as winter sets in.

Clerk had already raised with AW and is marked for repair.

Action: Clerk to follow up.

Resident asked if there was any plans to change the double mini roundabouts in the village, after the closure of Tut Hill, highlighting the difficulty in crossing that junction as a pedestrian, in any direction.

Council are unaware of any plans to change that junction, but agree crossing it can be very difficult due to width of road and amount of traffic.

Action: Clerk to speak to Cllr Hopfensperger to identify any options moving forwards.

Following the 'updates' email from Sarah Drane at WSC Planning regarding All Saints Hotel, Council were able to clarify some items with Josh Harris.

Council showed concern for use of the lodges by contractors not holidaymakers and that parking was not to be at the lodge site, nor in front of individual lodges.

Mr Harris confirmed that no stays were longer than the permitted 3 month stays and that there had been issues getting golf buggies across to the main hotel for parking and that AS were talking with WSC about what could be done regarding parking.

Council reminded Mr Harris that parking at the lodge site was not part of the approved planning application and that it was AS's responsibility to comply and police this.

Resident thanked Mr Harris for the works to the ditch on B1106, which was echoed by the Council. Council asked Mr Harris to remove the debris that had been left behind in the ditch so as to not impede drainage.

Mr Harris confirmed that a further 6,000 whips were to be ordered to complete planting across the site. Council reminded Mr Harris that the second part of the felling licence replant along the B1106 for circa 11 trees, was yet complete. Mr Harris agreed to follow this up.

Council agreed that the update email from Sarah Drane was very useful and would like to continue to receive updates.

7. To receive reports from Councillors:

a. Traffic / Roads / VASs / Road Signs - Don Lynch - **none received.**

b. Volunteering - Derek Brown

DB reported another successful session litter picking. Former Chair & Cllr Martin Loveridge will continue heading up the group, with no more sessions planned until spring next year. Thanks to Tony Mayhew for cleaning the Pound Meadow bus stop.

c. Facilities / Assets Management / Community Centre / EV - Derek Brown

No problems reported. EV charging idea is ongoing. Community Council meeting 26th November and will vote on whether to proceed with the slow chargers being provided by the scheme.

d. Local Businesses & Residents / Lark Valley - Richard

Nicholls

RN and the Clerk met James Pickerin from SCC Rights of Way team to walk the Lark Valley Path from Sheepwash Bridge to just past Duck Sluice Farm. Works are due to take place before Christmas to secure the bank in a number of places and to lift the fallen fencing now overgrown with brambles. The Lark Valley Path is one of only three paths in Suffolk that gets three cuts per year. The potential was discussed for Council to pay the contractor extra, to cut wider on each of the three cuts to help keep the path clearer for longer. Estimate £200-300 per cut.

Action: Clerk to add to a Spring agenda.

Question was raised over who put up the Harris fencing either side of the B1106.

Action: Josh Harris to check if AS did this.

- e. Social Issues / Village Voice - Jill Mayhew

Nothing to report. Email re: winter tool-kit to be included in magazine.

- f. Marham Park / Highways / Village Hall / Anglian Water (Lark) - Clerk - **none received.**

- g. Allotments - David Surman

Nothing to report.

8. To receive Clerks report

The Clerk advised that after attending a SALC training session on Councils acting as Sole Trustees of a Charity, more work will be required to differentiate Council business from Charity business.

DB advised that if the EV charging at the Community Centre project moves forwards, then deed documents would be required, showing ownership.

Question was raised if the land is registered?

Action: Clerk to review Charity activity in the new year.

9. Planning:

- i. **DC/24/0614/FUL - RE-CONSULTATION**

All Saints Hotel, Fornham St Genevieve, IP28 6JQ

Planning application - partial change of use of golf course to site six timber pods and associated engineering works

Council resolved to record a vote of no comment.

ii. **DC/24/1495/TPO**

Old Rectory The Green, Fornham All Saints, IP28 6JX

TPO 115 (1986) tree preservation order - two Horse Chestnut (C1 and C2 on plan within G2 on order) overall crown reduction and lift by up to three metres
b. one Oak (H1 on plan within G2 on order) overall crown reduction by two metres and removal of branches around incoming electric cable

Council resolved to support this application.

10. Finance update

- iii. Clerk advised that the October salary payment included an £850.20 tax rebate, which Council would need to reclaim from HMRC at the end of the financial year.

Council resolved to approve payment of the following accounts and outstanding invoices:

Payee & details	Total
J Hook, Clerks salary, October (includes £850.20 tax rebate)	£1,539.73
J Hook, Clerks expenses, October	£30.48
Nest, Clerks pension, September	£9.75
Suffolk Cloud, emails and domain	£130.00
SALC, Clerks CiLCA training modules	£416.40
Total Payments	£2126.36

- iv. **Council noted bank balances correct to 31st October, with correction to current account balance as noted by the Clerk.**

Current	£223.61
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Savings	£44,784.65
Total Bank Balance	£45,008.26

v. Council resolved to approve bank reconciliation for October 2024.

11. 2025/26 budget and precept

Council discussed the proposed 2025/26 budget and made some minor changes.

Council resolved to apply for a precept of £25k, which would equate to a £0.57 increase (0.65%) for a band D property in the parish.

12. Revised NALC pay scales & Clerks review

Council to discuss revised NALC pay scales, effective 1st April 2024. Clerk's pay scale 18 increased from £15.21 to £15.84 per hour, equating to £191.10 of back pay (5 months) and £63.00 extra to be budgeted for the remainder of the financial year (5 months)

Council resolved to approve the Clerks pay increase and back pay in line with the revised NALC pay scale.

Council noted Clerks review to be scheduled for January.

13. Skate & play park inspections

Council to note from report that remedial work required, but all low to very low risk

DB reported it would be prudent to consider a rolling plan to replace some items of equipment and budget for improvements to the fence and gate.

Action: DB to investigate potential costs.

Still waiting on previously ordered parts to make some simple repairs.

Action: Clerk to follow up.

14. Emergency Plan

Council to receive update

DS received an old 2016 emergency plan document from a previous chair, including details of how to start the gas generator. JM understood this document had been superseded. Council questioned the need and legal

obligation for a plan.

Action: DS to invite contact from WSC to present to Council at a future meeting.

15. Microsoft subscription

Council to discuss renewal of subscription due January £59.99 per year for one, £79.99 per year for up to 6, personal licence
or £8.60 per month +Vat for business licence (£123.84 per year)

Council resolved for Clerk to renew a one user personal license.

16. Overgrown pavements

Clerk still liaising with contractors / obtaining quotes.

17. Pruning workshop for community orchard

Clerk awaiting further details.

RN advised a number of apple trees have been lost.

18. Councillor recruitment

Council discussed draft leaflet to attract new Councillors. Council agreed it should make clear that it is open to anybody over the age of 18.

Council resolved for Clerk to print with minor changes, and for JM to organise distribution.

19. Allotment AGM

Council noted the date of Allotment AGM set for Wednesday 4th December, 18:30 in the Village Hall.

20. Upgrades to VAS equipment

Council to discuss location of new solar powered VAS. Based on Elan City's suggestion, the ideal position would be roughly between the two properties fronting Larks Gate on the opposite side. Council will need a street furniture license from SCC, circa. £100.

Council resolved to approve the location for a new VAS unit and for the Clerk to proceed with purchase of new equipment and application for a Street Furniture License.

Action: RN agreed to approach the two Larks Gate properties.

21. Village Voice advertising

Council resolved to increase Village Voice advertising costs to £90 per full page ad (from £84) and £54 per half page (from £45), effective February 2025.

22. Correspondence

vi. Resident email: A1101 roundabout

Covered in open session, Item 6.

vii. Resident email: Hedges on B1106

Covered in open session, Item 6.

viii. Business email [telephone call] Tut Hill driver training facility

Clerk called and email Planning, no response.

Action: Clerk to follow up.

23. Update on Chair & Vice Chair positions

Councillors to discuss options moving forwards

This item was moved to the January meeting. RN agreed to act as Chair.

24. Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st January 2025, commencing at 18:30 in the Community Centre.

At the end of the meeting Cllr Mayhew handed in her resignation from the Council - almost 7 years to the day since she started.

The Council thanked her for her dedication and great service.

Meeting closed 20:20

Minutes from all the Parish Council meetings
and a wealth of other information can be found
on our website

www.fornhamallsaintsparish.gov.uk

For all enquires or questions for the Parish Council,
please in the first instance email the Parish Clerk

clerk@fornhamallsaintsparish.gov.uk

**Do you want to make a positive difference
in your village?**

**Would you like to influence decisions
that affect your community?**

**Do you have innovative ideas, knowledge or
skills that could benefit your community?**

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!!

to apply or for more info, email the clerk
clerk@fornhamallsaintsparish.gov.uk

Fornham All Saints Parish Council

January Meeting

Draft Minutes from Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 21st January, 2025, 18:30, Fornham All Saints Community Centre

These draft minutes will be approved at the Parish Council Meeting on 17th February, 2025.

Present:

Derek Brown (DB) (Acting Chair), Cllrs Don Lynch (DL), Mat Stewart (MS) and David Surman (DS).

District Cllr Sarah Broughton (SB), County Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger (RH), Clerk Justin Hook (JH), Hannah Cuthbertson (HC) from All Saints Hotel (AS) and 1 member of the public.

Agenda Items

1. Chairman's welcome, opening remarks and to receive apologies for absence

The chair opened the meeting and welcomed all those in attendance. Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Nicholls.

2. (i) To receive members Declarations of Interests - **none received.**

(ii) Council to consider any new written requests for dispensation and/or requests which have been received - **none received.**

Council resolved to approve and adopt the minutes, the Chairman signed them.

3. To receive County Councillor's report from Cllr. Rebecca Hopfensperger

RH reported on SCC's decision to put themselves forward for the governments initial plans for devolution, which would see a new authority formed, removing the old

two-tier district and county council structure for greater streamlining and budget saving. Town and parish councils would likely remain the same, with some changes to a centralised planning team and parish councils no longer being consultees on planning applications. SCC's rationale was it's better to be at the table for the first round, to have greater control in shaping the way forward. There is information on the SCC website and SALC are giving regular updates.

Another major change would be the creation of a new Norfolk and Suffolk Mayor - not like a town mayor, instead a single person to be a strategic consultant between the new authority and central government.

Action: Clerk to send links to devolution updates.

Road signs: RH has is now ordering through her localities budget from G-Signs in Risby. Fitting will follow soon.

4. To receive Borough Councillor's reports from Cllr. Sarah Broughton and Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger

Nothing to report.

5. Public open session up to 15 minutes - questions and issues on matters arising from the agenda and from the village

Resident re-raised safety of crossing at the double mini roundabouts. RH had advised of the safe crossing between the mini roundabouts and community centre, but Clerk had misunderstood resident was trying to cross diagonally using the island in between the mini roundabouts, which gives poor visibility to traffic coming from Bury.

ACTION: RH to request engineer visit to assess site. RH to advise Clerk once date agreed. Clerk to advise council and resident.

Resident re-raised issue of hedges along B1106 - technically still outside FAS boundary. Lower part of hedges have been trimmed, but overhanging tops still causing larger vehicles into middle of road causing danger to oncoming traffic and pedestrians.

ACTION: Clerk to report again, with updated info.

Resident request for a village Christmas tree.

Some thought was given to the idea, but item to be scheduled for a future agenda.

Defibrillators were raised and their accessibility from different points in the village. RH and SB offered to help fund one for the community centre.

Who are the village's first responders?

ACTION: Clerk to investigate.

HC confirmed there are defibs at All Saints Hotel and can be accessed from reception. HC will make the AS team aware of this arrangement.

It was suggested that defib information be included in the Village Voice.

6. To receive reports from Councillors:

- a. Traffic / Roads / VASs / Road Signs - Don Lynch

Nothing to report.

- b. Volunteering - Derek Brown

Volunteering to restart from April.

- c. Facilities / Assets Management / Community Centre / EV - Derek Brown

All good with facilities / assets.

Community centre getting prices for improvement works. RH suggested to speak to Locality Officer for details of potential funding sources.

ACTION: RH/SB to send details.

Awaiting response from WSC re: potential for higher speed EV chargers.

Plans being considered for a mobile fish and chip van Tuesday evenings.

- d. Local Businesses & Residents / Lark Valley - Clerk

Clerk reported delays to Lark Valley Path repairs which had been planned before Christmas.

- e. Social Issues / Village Voice - Clerk

It was raised what involvement the council needed in

social issues. RH & SB confirmed they meet 6 monthly with Thingoe Lodge.

ACTION: Clerk to send intro email to Sylvia and continue to reach out to Rural Coffee Caravan for dates.

Clerk reported Village Voice advertising invoices all sent for the 2025/26 period and monies starting to come in.

- f. Marham Park / Highways / Village Hall / Anglian Water (Lark) - Mat Stewart

MS reported parking issues with cars on the road since David Lloyd opened and the car park always seems full. RH is looking into this.

Re-planting hedges and trees still ongoing.

ACTION: RH to chase and keep pressure on.

Section 106 monies for path still unspent but contact gone quiet.

ACTION: RH/SB to chase.

Nothing more from AW currently.

- g. Allotments / Emergency Plan - David Surman
Allotments all good.

Old emergency plan given to Clerk to scan in to form basis of new plan. Tariq, the contact from WSC willing to come to a meeting if required.

7. To receive Clerks report

Clerk having some difficulties setting up new banking with Unity Trust, and requesting to change to Lloyds.

Council resolved to change banking switch from Unity Trust to Lloyds.

8. Planning:

No new planning matters to discuss

Updates on ongoing applications

- i. **AP/24/0023/STAND**

Land Off The Street Fornham All Saints Suffolk

Planning application - create access into All Saints Golf and Country Club

Appeal allowed.

ii. AP/24/0034/STAND

Access To All Saints Hotel, Land Off The Street, Fornham All Saints

Planning application - create a maintenance access into All Saints Golf and Country Club off The Street, Fornham St. Genevieve

Appeal withdrawn.

iii. DC/24/1091/FUL

All Saints Hotel The Street Fornham St Genevieve Suffolk IP28 6JQ

Planning application - parking area for 15no. cars

Decision pending. Works already completed and parking area being used.

iv. DC/24/1123/FUL

All Saints Hotel The Street Fornham St Genevieve Suffolk IP28 6JQ

Planning application - reinstatement of 10 metre high golf ball safety nets to the rear of 23-29 Pigeon Lane on the golf course side of existing tree belt

Decision pending.

HC added AS are also trying to reconfigure the golf course, to help reduce the impact of stray golf balls.

HC reported a recent incident whereby damage had been caused. It was reported immediately and AS acted swiftly with the Course Marshall speaking to the players involved. HC reminded where possible to report incidents as they happen.

Resident raised that AS should be advising all players to obtain insurance, especially as the course is now open to more pay and play memberships.

HC has since confirmed that the requirement for insurance is included on the AS score cards and

signage on course.

v. **DC/24/0538/FUL**

**All Saints Hotel The Street Fornham St Genevieve
Suffolk IP28 6JQ**

Planning application - two pickleball courts and two tennis courts

Decision pending.

vi. **DC/24/0614/FUL**

**All Saints Hotel The Street Fornham St Genevieve
Suffolk IP28 6JQ**

Planning application - partial change of use of golf course to site six timber pods

Decision pending.

vii. **DC/24/0586/FUL**

**Car Park Heath Farm Business Centre Tut Hill
Fornham All Saints Suffolk**

Planning application - a. use of existing car park as driver training facility b. retention of temporary storage containers as classroom and storage area, c. use of existing agricultural access and retention of access track in association with driver training facility

Application withdrawn. WSC advise client obtaining their own traffic survey. Site still being used. WSC advised that if a further application is not submitted within a timely manner then their enforcement team would be notified.

ACTION: Clerk to email planning team for update, copying in RH/SB.

9. Finance update

Clerk advised that the original agenda was issued with incorrect figures listed against the payees. These were adjusted and resent electronically, but the original agenda remained on the notice board.

i. **Council resolved to approve payment of the following accounts and outstanding invoices:**

Payee & details	Total
J Hook, Clerks salary, November	£901.99
Nest, Clerks pension, November	£25.90
J Hook, Clerks salary, December	£715.74
Nest, Clerks pension, December	£11.66
J Hook, Clerks expenses, Nov 24 - Jan 25)	£43.96
West Suffolk Council, grass cutting	£388.06
Parish Council Website, .gov.uk domain & emails	£326.64
Community Workshop, Village Voice printing	£291.53
Wicksteed, play park repair items	£499.44
L Harley, Locum Clerk, policies & procedures	£450.00
Total Payments	£3,654.92

i. Council noted bank balances correct to 31st December.

Current	£280.36
Savings	£44,492.01
Total Bank Balance	£44,772.37

ii. Council resolved to approve bank reconciliation for November & December.

iii. Council noted Q3 finance review and projected end of year figures.

10. Skate & play park inspections

Council noted from report that remedial work required, but all low to very low risk.

Parts have arrived for the play area and will be fitted when weather warms.

11. Overgrown pavements

Clerk has received two quotes for skirting back/tidying the B1106 pavement from Golton Cottages to Sheepwash Bridge, The Street, opposite the bus stop, the A1101 from the mini roundabouts to Marham Park roundabout and the bottom of Pigeon Lane from the bollards to Mildenhall

Road.

Quote 1 - £3,875 +Vat

Quote 2 - £13,810 +Vat

Quote 3 - outstanding

RH confirmed that skirting back is no longer provided by SCC.

Council resolved to complete these works going with the cheaper of the quotes, assuming they have the necessary licenses to work on the highways.

12. Grass cutting

Clerk confirmed as yet no quotes have been received for the grass cutting other than WSC. Ongoing.

HC highly recommended the company that AS use for their grass cutting, RG Landscapes.

ACTION: Clerk to get in touch.

13. Pruning workshop for community orchard

The Clerk met with Paul Read and Celia Stone from Suffolk Traditional Orchard Group who were part of the team that helped set up and fund the orchard. Having inspected each of the 19 trees, the general consensus was that they are healthy trees, on good strong root stocks, that will produce good crops. Some simple maintenance was completed and inventory taken where labels could be found. The advice was that pruning could be done to encourage improved growth, but that left to their own devices, the trees would still produce well naturally. A pruning workshop could be arranged, but it would need to be done mid Feb, with the works completed by end of Feb. Thought was given to potentially involve the volunteering group, the Fornham Garden Club and allotment holders.

Council resolved that it was too short notice to arrange, and therefore to plan to consider the idea of a pruning workshop again at the latter part of the year, leaving the site 'natural' for this next season.

14. Friends of the Village Hall access to website

Council resolved that the Friends of the Village Hall

ought to have access to the PC website, to enable them to update their pages and calendar events only.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange.

15. Community event

Council to discuss the request for permission to hold a village event on The Green, summer 2025. First committee meeting planned for 10am, Saturday 8th February, at the Village Hall.

Council showed concerns for health and safety of an event on The Green, with the obvious worry of a busy road and large numbers of people. Council suggest organisers to strongly consider using the playing field and community centre instead, where there is more space, parking available and not directly on a busy road.

Organisers to provide a full event management plan and appropriate risk assessments before a final decision can be made.

16. Councillor recruitment

Thanks to former Cllr Mayhew for delivering flyers to all residents in the village. Sadly there have been no responses.

Cllr Lynch provided contact details for somebody he has been speaking to who is interested.

17. Upgrades to VAS equipment

Clerk advised that the new equipment has arrived - two solar panels and a whole new solar VAS unit (thank you to RH and SB for their funding input). Waiting for warmer weather to install. Clerk advised after applying for a street furniture license for a new VAS pole, SCC have sent a detailed form that need to be completed.

Council resolved to fit the new unit to the already approved site by the community centre.

18. Correspondence

- ii. Resident raised concerns over van parking opposite end of Pigeon Lane and outside Lucy's restaurant

Council discussed potential options, but resolved

not to take any action.

- iii. A1101 roundabout ***update***

Covered in public open session, item 6.

- iv. Resident email: Hedges on B1106 ***update***

Covered in public open session, item 6.

- v. Business email: Tut Hill driver training facility ***update***

Covered under planning, item 7vii.

19. Update on Chair & Vice Chair positions

Item moved to February agenda for full council consideration.

20. 2025 meeting dates

Council resolved to approve 2025 meeting dates as January 21st, February 18th, March 18th, April 15th (revised), May 20th (AGM), June 17th (plus Annual Parish Meeting), July 15th (revised), September 16th (revised), October 21st, November 18th

21. Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on February 18th, 2025, commencing 18:30 at the Community Centre

Meeting closed 19:59

Minutes from all the Parish Council meetings
and a wealth of other information can be found
on our website

www.fornhamallsaintsparish.gov.uk

Dates For Parish Council and related meetings 2025

February 18th	Parish Council
March 18th	Parish Council
April 15th	Parish Council
May 20th	Parish Council AGM
June 17th	Annual Parish Meeting +Parish Council
July 15th	Parish Council
August	<i>no meeting unless planning</i>
September 16th	Parish Council
October 21st	Parish Council
November 18th	Parish Council
December	<i>no meeting unless planning</i>

All meetings will be held at 18:30 an the community centre unless otherwise advised on the Agenda which will be posted on the village hall notice board at least three full clear days* before each meeting.

Agendas can also been found on the Parish Council website.

www.fornhamallsaintsparish.gov.uk

**excludes Sundays and Bank Holidays*

Why not come along to our next meeting?

Got something to share, or a question to ask? There is always time allocated for questions from members of the public.

Or just come to listen and see what goes on behind the scenes in your village.

Meetings usually last about an hour and a half, but you don't even have to stay til the end if you don't want to (or you get bored!)

For more information, email:

clerk@fornhamallsaintsparish.gov.uk

A Devolution Deal for Suffolk

Empowering Suffolk's Future

You may have heard the word 'devolution' a lot recently and wondered what does that even mean?

We found some useful information on the Suffolk County Council website. See below for a brief introduction and keep an eye on their website for further updates.

Suffolk County Council has been invited to apply to be part of the government's devolution priority programme.

It's part of the government's English Devolution White Paper, which seeks to devolve powers and funding from central government to local leaders and Mayors - whilst at the same time reorganising existing council structures in two-tier areas like Suffolk.

This would simplify and streamline council structures so it's easier for residents to understand and save taxpayers money.

Update 9th January 2025

Suffolk should be fast tracked for devolution and local government reorganisation, councillors have decided.

Following an invitation from ministers, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet today agreed to recommend Suffolk for inclusion in the government's Devolution Priority Programme (DPP), which would see the creation of a directly elected Mayor (likely covering Suffolk and Norfolk) and the replacement of existing council structures with a streamlined unitary council being set up.

The decision followed a debate and vote at a meeting of all county councillors.

www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/devolution

Mobile Library

Dates & Times for 2025:

January 28th
February 25th
March 25th
April 22nd
May 20th
June 17th
July 15th
August 12th
September 9th
October 7th
November 4th
December 2nd
December 30th

Thingoe Lodge
12:35 – 12:55pm

Parish Church
13:00 – 13:20pm

For more information, visit the Suffolk Libraries website:

www.suffolklibraries.co.uk



Defibrillator Information



Defibrillator (AED) 

For use on an unconscious, non-breathing casualty.

Step 1 Call 999 	Step 2 Start CPR 30 compressions 2 rescue breaths 
Step 3 Switch on defibrillator 	Step 4 Follow the visual and verbal prompts 

AED can be used by anyone, no training required.

YOUR NEAREST DEFIBRILLATORS ARE LOCATED:

**TELEPHONE KIOSK NEXT TO THE VILLAGE HALL
Fornham All Saints**

**ALL SAINTS HOTEL - HOTEL RECEPTION
Fornham St Genevieve**

CALL 999 FOR THE CODE

How to use a defibrillator

Call 999 and start CPR. If you're on your own, do not stop CPR, if possible, send someone else to find one. When you call 999, the operator can tell you if there's a public access defibrillator nearby.

Anyone can use a defibrillator. You do not need training. Once you turn it on, it will give clear step-by-step voice instructions. Many defibrillators also have visual prompts and images showing how to use it.

The device checks the person's heart rhythm and will only tell you to give them a shock if it's needed. You cannot shock yourself or someone else accidentally.

Steps to using a defibrillator

Step 1: Press the green button to switch on the defibrillator and follow the instructions.

Step 2: Remove the person's clothing above the waist.

Step 3: Peel off the sticky pads and attach them to the person's bare skin. Put one pad on each side of the chest as shown in the picture on the defibrillator.

Step 4: Once you have attached the pads, stop CPR and do not touch the person. The defibrillator will then check the person's heart rhythm.

Step 5: The defibrillator will decide whether a shock is needed. If so, it will tell you to press the 'shock' button. An automatic defibrillator will shock the person without you needing to do anything. Do not touch the person while they're being shocked.

Step 6: The defibrillator will tell you when the shock has been given and whether you need to continue CPR.

Step 7: If the defibrillator tells you to continue to do CPR, continue with chest compressions until the person shows signs of life, or the defibrillator tells you to stop so it can analyse the heartbeat again.

Help your local NHS and Social Care Services help others by returning equipment.

Local NHS and Social Care Services lose thousands of pounds each year due to missing equipment. All items returned will be assessed, safety tested and either repaired and reused or stripped down for recycling.

Look for equipment label

Contact Medequip to request a free collection:

Call **01473 351805**

Email **suffolk@medequip-uk.com**



What might you have?

- Adjustable walking sticks
- Crutches
- Chair raisers
- Commodes
- Bed levers
- Wheeled adjustable frames
- Perching stools
- Raised toilet seats
- Pressure cushions
- Toilet frames
- Trolleys

If you would prefer to return equipment to Medequip yourself, you can bring it to:

Medequip Ipswich Depot:

Unit 31-33, Bluestem Road
Ransomes Europark
Ipswich
IP3 9RR

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday 8:00am - 6:00pm
Saturday 10:00am - 4:00pm

To find your nearest drop off point, please visit:

mq-uk.com/return-suffolk



Over 90% of returned equipment recycled nationwide.



Keeping people independent


FULLERS MILL
one of Perennial's gardens
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP28 6HD

Join our team

Would you like to volunteer in a beautiful setting of an amazing garden, meeting and greeting our wonderful customers, serving teas, coffees, cakes and gift shops items?

If so, please consider joining the Perennial family at Fullers Mill Garden.

For further details, please email
fullersmillgarden@perennial.org.uk or call 01284 728888



Perennial is an amazing charity that supports people working in horticulture when times get tough. If you would like to help and support us to continue this wonderful work, we would love to hear from you.

Registered in England & Wales no: 8828584. Charity no: 1155156. Registered in Scotland, Charity no: SC040180. VAT no. 9912541 09. Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society (trading as Perennial) is authorised and regulated by the Financial



Fornham Garden Club - Hedgehogs

Lynda Brignall originally trained as a midwife but her interest with hedgehogs started when she found an injured hedgehog and took it to the Hedgehog Hospital run by a lady called Sue at Ousden. Sue started doing this in her home but then purchased 27 acres of land with the hope of opening a wildlife sanctuary. She now has around 100 hedgehogs which are spread around several helpers throughout the area.

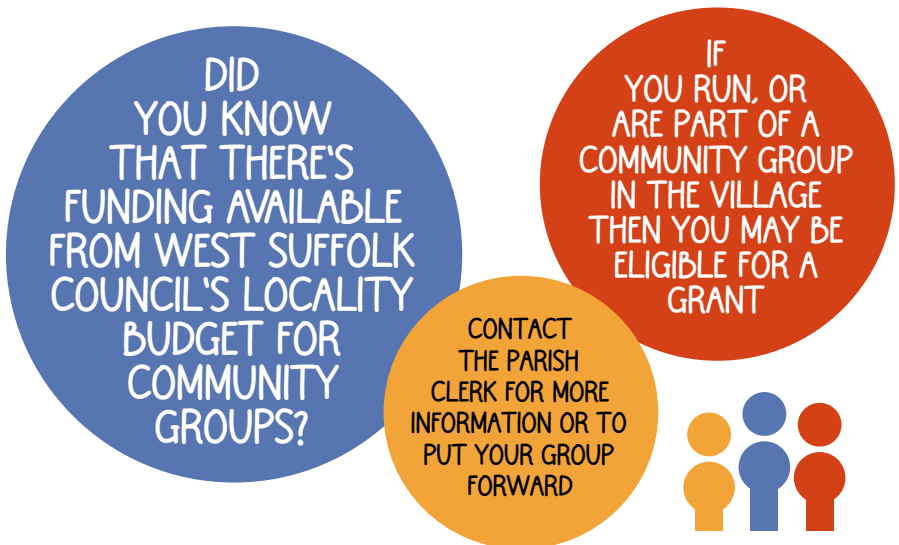
Hedgehogs are now classed as vulnerable to extinction. In the 1950's there were about 50 million but in 2022 there were only about 500,000. They survive in both urban and rural locations, dislike rain and wet areas, can walk up to 2 miles a night and are non-aggressive calm creatures. They are nocturnal, have a great sense of smell but poor eyesight. Their lifespan is 2-5 years, but are solitary and do not mate for life. Adult males are called boars and adult females are sows. There are different colours - dark brown, albino, blonde and black. Babies are called urchins or hoglets and leave the nest at about 8 weeks old. Hedgehogs have a vast vocabulary with all sounds having specific meanings.

Their diet contains beetles, earthworms and caterpillars, but they will eat roadkill, birds eggs, apples and suet balls. They are lactose intolerant and should not be given bread or mealworms. Hedgehogs hibernate where their breathing slows to one breath every few minutes and should always be left alone, especially if disturbed with their babies, as they may eat the babies if scared.

It is advisable to never handle a hedgehog without gloves as there are diseases and external parasites present. If you find an injured hedgehog please call the Hedgehog Hospital or a vet who would contact for you. Please be careful using mowers and strimmers to avoid injuries.

Fornham Garden Club meets the second Tuesday of each month at Fornham All Saints Community Centre from 7pm for 7.30.

For more information please contact Chairman Ian Robertson on either 07876 644611 or ijfrob@gmail.com



Insulation Offer for Suffolk Homes

50% off eco-friendly insulation for Suffolk residents



Anyone in Suffolk can receive a 50% discount off their purchase of 200mm or 370mm wide insulation rolls (up to £200) with free delivery, from High Loft, the UK's leading eco loft insulation brand.

Go to www.bit.ly/suffolkloft and fill in the short form to receive your personalised link to order, or call High Loft's insulation experts on 01706 248203. The offer is open to anyone in Suffolk and will close once the allocated funding has been spent.

According to The Energy Saving Trust, an uninsulated home loses a quarter of its heat through its roof. For the second year in a row, help to afford eco-friendly loft insulation is now available.

The Suffolk Climate Change Partnership (Suffolk County Council, Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils, East Suffolk Council, Ipswich Borough Council and West Suffolk Council) has teamed up with High Loft to help Suffolk residents make their homes warmer and save money on their energy bills.

High Loft also offers Klarna as a payment option, allowing you to spread the cost of your insulation purchase.

To find out more visit www.greensuffolk.org/at-home/funding.

Fornham St Martin Ladies Club

The Fornham Ladies Group met on 15th January 2025 at the FSM village Hall.

The speaker for this month was Robin Howe, previously a magistrate in Suffolk for 30 years leaving the bench in 2017. Robin has over 30 years' experience working for the local authority and 10 years for Community Mental Health Services. Robin always had an interest in the criminal justice system and was asked to provide four references and undertake a detailed recruitment process which took 18 months in order to become a magistrate. The role is voluntary with no remuneration apart from expenses.

When Robin was appointed there were a number of Courts throughout Suffolk these have now closed and Ipswich is the only one left in operation. Magistrates Courts deal with all criminal cases in the first instance unless the defendant elects for Crown Court or the bench deems that they are unable to serve a high enough sentence for the crime committed. Ninety percent of all criminal cases are heard in a magistrate's court and Robin has sat in a number of courts for example Family Court, Appeals Court and Traffic Offences. The bench consists of three members who are assisted by a legal advisor. Sentencing can be delayed if waiting for probation reports. In order to convict, the bench must be sure the defendant is guilty beyond reasonable doubt. In the majority of cases the defender pleads guilty. The sentence is discounted for a timely plea and the need for witnesses is not required. Bail can be one of the most challenging decisions and the bench must give a reason if they deny bail for example will the defendant return to court, commit further offences or interfere with witnesses. Magistrates Courts can grant search warrants and the extension of custody time when requested by the Police. Waiting times currently for a case to come to Court is 2028 due to a lack of Courts and Judges.

In Robin's experience the use of Community payback is a success and often offenders end up doing more work than is needed and engage well with it. When setting a fine for an offender you need to be mindful, does that person have the ability to pay the fine? England currently jails more people pro-rata than other countries in Europe.

It was a very interesting talk with several funny anecdotes included and a lively discussion. Robin was thanked for giving the talk.

Gill Allen

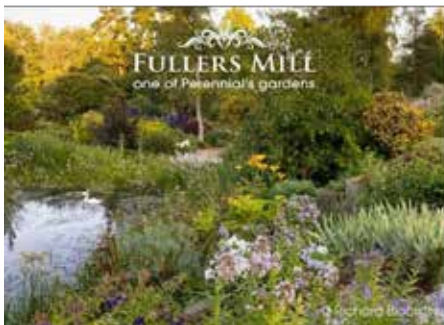
Gill Allen

We'd love to hear from you!

Would you like to publish a piece in the Village Voice?
A poem, a short story, an article on something you find interesting or a hobby you enjoy doing, a community event or project, a recipe?

Please contact the Editor:

villagevoice@fornhamallsaintsparish.gov.uk



Café Assistant Vacancy (Part time)

To assist with the smooth running of our Café / Gift shop and entrance at our beautiful show gardens at Fullers Mill. This is a customer facing role, undertaking tasks, including: Visitor admission, serving refreshments, using POS tills, handling cash, replenishing stock and assisting volunteers.

Weds / Fri / Sat & Sun

Hours – 10am-5.30pm

April - October

For full job description and an application form please email:
fullersmillgarden@perennial.org.uk or call 01284 728888

Fornham All Saints Church News

At the end of November, the church had been decorated with a lovely tree and various Christmas sparkles. It was decked out ready for the many services which took place over the Christmas period.

Christingle This was the first of our Christmas festivities which took place on December 1st when Rev'd Andy Miller took the service. Members of the congregation were invited to build their Christingles during the service. This involved starting with the orange and then picking up various fruits round the church. Some couldn't resist eating the odd sweet! The meaning of the Christingle was explained. The collection taken during this service went to The Children's Society.

Wedding On 14th December the church was decorated with beautiful flowers for the wedding of Alice and Ross. The service had been planned thoroughly with every detail covered. The church was filled with the four grooms men, six bridesmaids and many hats and high heels! The singing went well with the help of a string quartet. Altogether a joyous occasion led by Rev'd Ali. We wish Alice and Ross a happy life together.

Nine Lessons and Carols The Rev'd Andy conducted our Carol Service. As well as the carols there were nine readings, the readers were; Linda, Elizabeth, Enid, Scarlet, Justin, Jonathan, John and Rev Ali and the ninth was read by Rev'd Andy. Refreshments were offered after the service and many stayed to enjoy mulled wine and other delicious bites. A further offering was made to The Children's Society which resulted in total £266.00 being raised.



Funeral On Wednesday 18th December the funeral took place of (John) Malcolm Ransome. Family and friends came to celebrate his life. Malcolm was a local man and at one stage he and his family lived in the village. Our thoughts and prayers go to Malcolm's family.

Bethlehem Midnight Mass At 9.30 pm on the 24th December, when in Bethlehem it was midnight, people poured into the church, to partake in the Christmas communion. The candles were lit and the decorations shone out which added to the atmosphere of the night before Christmas. Rev Andy took the service and Sarah Gull preached. It was good to see young and old visitors at this important service. We would like to thank all those who attended any of the services and also to all who helped to get the church ready and for doing the many jobs that needed doing.

Epiphany Gail Bate took our Family Service on the coldest morning of the year with snow lying on the ground. A small congregation enjoyed the singing led by our band with Kim, Emma and Steve providing the music. Gail explained the meaning of Epiphany with a small, rehearsed procession of the gifts being brought by Wise Men to the Holy Babe lying in the manger following a wandering star. Despite one or two Wise Men taking time to find the crib, the talk was appreciated. After the service the band were thanked for their support throughout the past year and were presented with small gifts.

A Sad Notice It was announced at the Family Service the sad death of Reverend Colin Everett. He was the Rector for both the Fornham churches and Timworth Church from the mid-1980s to 1992. His cremation service will be held in Pembrokeshire where he and Christine moved to in their retirement. Later in March his ashes will be buried, details to be finalised.

Looking Ahead... The Parish Council have been keeping the PCC informed of changes in the care of the churchyard. The

care of the churchyard, including the wall has been maintained by the Parish Council and the church are very appreciative for the work they carry out.

Towards the end of last year, the PCC learnt of the Quinquennial inspection of the church building carried out by the architect Philip Orchard of Whitworth. We were pleased there was nothing too drastic that needs to be completed immediately and Lee Hurrell has accepted the work to be carried out over the next couple of years.

The PCC realise there is a clear need for new members required to join the church council. If you are possibly interested in joining this group, please do have a chat with Judith or John to find out more. Likewise, we have a need for more village involvement in the opening and closing of the church, if you can help with the occasional week to unlock and lock up the church, please do get in touch.

.....and Thank You To the many who assist the smooth running of the church. Particularly the cleaners who keep the church cleaned and prepared for each service and who occasionally notice parts of the church that need care! Thank you, Doris and Alick Mapson, for a kind donation to the church. Alick was pleased to explain that once he had an empty bottle of whisky and he kept the bottle upstairs and if he had small change, he put the coins in the bottle! So, towards the end of November, Alick was delighted to pass the bottle to go towards the church building. The coins were quite a weight and totalled £40. Thank you both for the thought and your kind donation over many years!

Thank you again to Gail who again stepped in to cover a big gap with the production of the Lark Valley Magazine. And now a thank you to Justin Hook who as Clerk to the FAS Parish Council is involved with the churchyard maintenance and has taken up the editing and production of the Lark Valley Magazine as well as the Village Voice. Thank you, Justin! Justin also read a lesson at the Carol Service.

And finally, a big thank you to Andy, Ali, with recent support in recent weeks from Scarlett and Sarah, for all the work they do for the organisation of the churches of Lark Valley and North Bury Churches.

We wish you all a peaceful and healthy 2025!

John Grinham & Judith Scott

John Grinham & Judith Scott

Fornham All Saints Church 101 Club Winners

	1st	2nd	3rd
December	J Grinham	D Mapston	J Woolley
January	S Elmes	C Caborn	S Collins

Cost

OF

Living

SUPPORT







infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/CostOfLiving 

Fornham All Saints WI

We were privileged to hold our December meeting in the beautiful home of Wendy Cardy. Our bring-and-share Christmas buffet lunch was an absolute feast and we celebrated with a tipples of our own choice. After a wonderful afternoon of chatting and catching up with one another, we happily went home with a gift from Secret Santa.

For January's meeting we celebrated the New Year with a delicious lunch at the Three Kings, where we were looked after very well. A really splendid way to start 2025.



Our meetings will commence again from February, in the village hall at 2.00 pm on the second Tuesday of the month.

Do come, visitors will receive a very warm welcome!

Please call or text Elizabeth for further information 07311 281775

Elizabeth Gingell

Elizabeth Gingell, Fornham All Saints WI President

FORNHAM ALL SAINTS TABLE TENNIS CLUB

We play on Monday nights, 7-9pm in the community centre.

We are always looking to grow our membership. The club is run on a “for fun” basis and welcomes all levels of play.

For more information please contact either:

Martin 07784 225375 or Derek 07505 762267

West Suffolk Planning Policy Consultations

West Suffolk Local Plan (Regulation 24) 2024 - Examination in public

We are invited to participate in the West Suffolk Local Plan (Regulation 24) 2024 - Examination in public consultation by the consultation manager, West Suffolk Planning Policy (West Suffolk Council).

This consultation is open from 24th May 2024 at 11:00 to 3rd March 2025 at 23:59.

**For further information, or to participate and have your day
in this consultation, visit the website below**

www.westsuffolk.inconsult.uk/WSLPexamination

Suffolk Highways Online Reporting Tool:

<https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk>

The Highways Reporting Tool allows you to report a new defect and monitor the status of existing reports, such as;

- blocked drains
- cycle lane / tracks & public right of way issues
- damaged drain/manhole cover
- vegetation and mud on the road
- flooding on a road or pavement
- missing/damaged barriers or guardrails
- missing/damaged or obscured signs
- missing/ faded road markings
- **potholes & pavement defects**
- trees/hedges affecting the highways or footways

Do not report a highways problem online if:

- it poses an immediate danger to public safety
instead **call 0345 606 6171**
- it's on a trunk road in Suffolk
instead **call the National Highways Information Line on 0300 123 5000**



Initial Planning Meeting
Saturday 8th February, 10am, Village Hall
For a **VILLAGE EVENT** in the summer.

What type of event?

Open Gardens didn't appeal last year.

Fete?

Picnic on the green?

Garage sales?

Do you have any ideas to make this celebration special
for all ages?

Please come, everyone, young, old or in between!

YOU

are needed to participate,
plan and bring this event to fruition.

Contact lynne.quayle99@btinternet.com 01284 766909



If NOT enough people come and support this, it
will NOT happen!

A successful event depends on all ages
participating at every stage.

Friends Of The Village Hall News

Christmas Meal

All those who came enjoyed their meal, fish or meat pate, turkey, ham, quiches, salads, sausage rolls followed by lemon tart then a choice of salted caramel or apple tart, followed by coffee/tea, mince pie and chocolate mint. All for £6 - a bargain! We also had a raffle which made the meal a small profit and put money back into club funds.

Fornham Footers

In December many people were busy so the walk was cancelled. January was our 9th trip to Cambridge. Where we visited 9 sites on the "Dinky Door Walk" finding our way there by clues and "whattthreeewords."

We always welcome new walkers, our walks are usually between 3 and 5 miles long on a circular route. Please get in touch if you would like to join the walking group, details below.

Next walks Fridays 7th Feb. and 7th Mar.



Mahjong

We meet twice a month at 9.30am on a Monday morning, there is always plenty of chat and laughter. Malcolm did well at our last meeting, he won with the highest score of the morning, also the quarterly winner with the highest score accumulated over the last three months.

£2.50 table money inc. refreshments.

Next games Mondays at 9.30am on 10th & 24th Feb. and 10th & 24th Mar.

Please contact either Lynne 766909 or Mary 763701

Film Club

WE NEED MORE FILM CLUB MEMBERS! Please contact Lynne for details, Only £20 for 10 films from May, now half a year's subs (£8) for the last 3 films this subs year. The chance to see your choice if it's voted on by the members in the next voting in April. The films are shown on a large screen with stereo sound. The licence we hold means that we cannot advertise future films or charge per film, you must be a club member.



December was a no film month, January we watched "The Coal Miner's Daughter."

This film is a 1980 American biographical musical film directed by Michael Apted and written by Tom Rickman. It follows the story of country music singer Loretta Lynn from her early teen years in a poor family and getting married at 15, to her rise as one of the most influential country musicians. Starring Sissy Spacek as Lynn. Tommy Lee Jones, Beverly

D'Angelo and Levon Helm are featured in supporting roles. Ernest Tubb, Roy Acuff, and Minnie Pearl make cameo appearances as themselves.

Next film nights are at 7.30pm on Tues. 25th Feb. and 25th Mar.

Traveller's Tales

There was a full hall on Thursday 16th Jan at 7.30pm, when Peter and Claire gave us an illustrated talk on their "Cycling trip from Calais to Annecy" with many friends starting and also joining at different points along the way. It was a trip of over 600 miles taken over 10 days. Stopping off in Arras, Chateau Thierry





and Dijon to name a few, they were very lucky that the weather was kind to them on most days but snow and rain did make an appearance before they got to their destination. They

stayed in Annecy in the foothills of the French Alps, before journeying home by various means but not cycling! They will be attempting another cycle trip this year from Annecy to the Mediterranean and invited members at the meeting to join them. Hopefully, they will make a return visit next year to the hall to let us know how it went.

Our next meeting Thurs. 13th Mar. at 7.30pm, when we will be travelling to Uzbekistan in the Middle East.

Do you have any interesting holidays which you would like to share with the group?

Board & Card Games

Everybody who comes enjoys these afternoons, so much so that we now meet twice a month but only once during the summer months. We have been learning how to play Canasta and continue to enjoy playing “sevens”. Each meeting the players decide which game, new or old that they would like to play. £2.50 table money inc. refreshments.

Our next Wed. afternoons from 2 pm till 4pm will be on 5th & 19th Feb. and 5th & 19th Mar.

Fornham Hackers!

Everyone practising for a repeat match in the Spring!

Visit our web page

<https://fornhamallsaintsparish.gov.uk/organisations/friends-of-the-village-hall>

I always welcome new ideas for groups connected to the “Friends.” Please contact;

Lynne Quayle

01284 766909

lynne.quayle99@btinternet.com

The joining fee is £5 for a half year up to May to belong to the “Friends” + other club subs.

Our new subscription year starts in May and is £10.

Is your group represented in the Village Voice?

We want to know what’s happening in the village, so if you want your group or organisation to be featured in this magazine, then please get in touch with the Editor for more information:

villagevoice@fornhamallsaintsparish.gov.uk

Community Council Committee

Minutes for Community Council Committee Meeting – Tuesday 7th January 2025 at 6pm

Attendees:

Enid Gathercole (EG) (Chair), Virginia Comely (VC) (Secretary),
Alwyn Evans (AE) (Treasurer)

Committee Members: Paul Purnell (PP)

Derek Brown (DB) (Parish Council Representative), Chris
Caborn (Bowls Club Representative)

1. Apologies for Absence
Daphne Wilding, Kyra Turner
2. Review Minutes of last Meeting – 26 November 2024
 - a. Minutes reviewed. All agreed.
3. Hall Booking Update – EG updated on hall bookings.
 - a. Bookings – bit slow at the moment. The Christmas Day booking took place but sadly the Boxing Day and New Years Eve bookings were cancelled. Bookings are traditionally slow at this time of year.
4. Treasurer Update – AE
 - a. Total in account £51,419.86 compared to £51,652.87 this time last year. Earning less interest due to interest rates coming down.
 - b. Profit and Loss – Total Gross Profit = £19,645 Total Expenses = (£11,417). Net Income = £8,228.
5. Hall & Ground Maintenance/Future Facilities
 - a. Gatepost – There is a big split in one of the new gateposts. PP has contacted contractor who supplied the gatepost. Gate is now sagging. Contractor has adjusted the gate but not sorted the split post. A new post has been requested. Contractor will come and assess. ACTION: PP – Still ongoing.
 - b. Sewerage – Septic tank still needs to be emptied. Need a replacement cover for drain – ACTION: PP. EG

will arrange for tank to be emptied. ONGOING. EG still trying to contact Andy's Jet Wash.

- c. Corner covers for walls have been temporarily repaired. Not going to fix at the moment due to new build.
- d. Main Door – PP and DB will repair the cracked door. DB will bring plates to repair the door. Door has now been fixed. Thanks to DB for repairing this.
COMPLETED
- e. Emergency light needs fixing - ?needs new strip bulb.
ACTION:PP

- 6. Refurbished building – PP has advised AFP to go ahead. A meeting will be arranged in the New Year. PP to chase AFP to arrange the meeting. ACTION: PP Structural side of things is AFP domain. Once we know this then a Quantity Surveyor will be appointed. Structural and Architectural drawings are then quoted to give approximate figure for the whole project. Once this approximate figure is known then a contingency figure is added to including moving portacabin. Once guestimate is obtained then funding can be sought, but can also start looking for a contractors and obtain quotes. Once Engineers drawings for structural side are received, then planning permission can be applied for (approximately 2 months down the line). The new build project requires a Project Manager – AFP have recommended another architect who may be able to assist. It was agreed to get further down the line of project, before we look seriously for a Project Manager. Professional Indemnity insurance will be needed. Village Hall could act as temporary hall for some of the regular hall hirers.
- 7. Plug in Suffolk (Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Points)– AE contacted Plug In Suffolk, there is not a chance of getting the higher volt but could possibly get 11kw chargers. DC is about £30000 to install, the others are cheaper (2k). DB recommended a company called Osprey – who supply faster charging systems. Means going off in a different tangent and Community Centre would have to

pay for installation. DB will look into this, would mean Community Centre would keep all the money raised as paid for the installation. 30 minute top up is good business. Suffolk CC emailed PC today saying there may be other places in the village that may be interested. ACTION: Ongoing at the moment while we explore other avenues.

8. Any Other Business –

- a. DB – Defibrillator – what is happening to the installation at the Community Council. Training needs to be arranged – St Johns would possibly do the training for a donation. ACTION: EG.
- b. Land registry – still ongoing. PC still looking into this.
- c. Emergency plan – EG will pass on her folder to DB.
- d. Water board have advised of a leak. On checking the meter readings it does not show any leaks as some days show a zero usage. ACTION: AE to keep an eye on water bills.
- e. EG has been approached by a mobile fish and chip van who is asking if the village would be interested in them coming and parking at the Community Centre on a Tuesday. The Committee agreed to trial and see if viable. Wants to do a Tuesday night. – 5pm to 8pm. Waiting for further details
- f. Car Boots – After discussion it was agreed to continue with the car boot sales on the last Sunday of the month from April to September but will start at 8am rather than 7am.
- g. A discussion was held regarding employing a cleaner for a couple of hours a week on top of the volunteers who clean at the moment. ACTION: EG.

9. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 4 March 2025 at 6.00pm at the Community Centre.

Community Centre Diary

Activity	Date	Times
Upholstery Cindy: 07969 863616	Every Monday	9:00am to 3:00pm
Table Tennis Club Martin - 07784 225375	Monday nights	7:00pm to 9:00pm
Pilates Sarah: 07791 330924	Every Tuesday	10:00am to 11:00am
Art Club 01284 767339	Every 2nd Tuesday in month Every 4th Saturday in month	1:45pm to 4:45pm 10:00am to 4:00pm
Garden Club Ian: 07876 644611	Every 2nd Tuesday in month	7:00pm for 7:30pm start
Computer Club	Every 3rd Tuesday in month	2:00pm to 4:00pm
iPad Club	Every 4th Tuesday in month	2:00pm to 4:00pm
Bowls Chris: 01284 703024	Every Wednesday	7:00pm to 9:00pm
Exercise Caroline: 07528 927572	Every Thursday	9:30am to 11:00am
Stars Stitch & Textile Teresa: 07946 523282	Every 1st and 3rd Thursday in month	10:00am to 4:00pm
Drumming Moir: 07949 253917	Thursday nights	7:00pm to 8:30pm
Out of the Fold (Textiles) Tereasa: 07968 312680	Every 2nd and 4th Friday in month	contact for times

Community Centre Christmas Quiz



I would like to thank all of the people who joined us at the Community Centre on 6th December for the quiz. We had a very enjoyable evening, thanks to our Quiz Master Mark, who is excellent at putting quizzes together, and making them enjoyable. The quiz is an annual event, where I hope Mark will continue to be our Quiz Master.

The Jokers always seem to be a problem, but we got there in the end. There were 11 tables of four people, 10 rounds of very different subjects, a half time interval and raffle, and we managed to raise £272 which will go towards the refurbishment of the community Centre, which plans are in progress.

Thanks to those who helped set up the centre and clear up at the end, but special thanks to Mark our Quiz Master who always manages to make the evening very enjoyable.

Enid

Enid Gathercole

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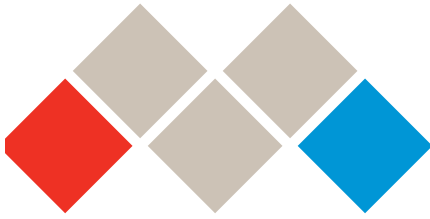
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Cemetery	FAS Cemetery Trustees	01284 705029	P Elmes
Councils	West Suffolk Council www.westsuffolk.gov.uk	01284 763233	
	Suffolk County Council www.suffolk.gov.uk	0345 606 6067	
	Parish Council www.fornhamallsaintsparish.gov.uk		Justin Hook
Electricity	UK Power Networks www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk	0800 3163 105	Report Outages
EMERGENCY	Ambulance / Fire / Police	999	
Gas	British Gas www.britishgas.co.uk	0800 111 999	Report Leaks
Halls	FAS Community Centre www.yourhall.co.uk/hall/fornham	01284 767688	
	FAS Village Hall paulpurnell44@talktalk.net	01284 763701	
Medical	West Suffolk Hospital www.wsh.nhs.uk	01284 713000	
	NHS Non-Emergency	111	
Police	Non-Emergency www.suffolk.police.uk	101	
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