

Draft Minutes from Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 18th March, 2025, 18:30, Fornham All Saints Community Centre

These draft minutes will be approved at the Parish Council Meeting on 15th April, 2025.

Present:

**Cllr Richard Nicholls (RN) (Chair), Cllrs Mat Stewart (MS) and David Surman (DS).
Clerk Justin Hook (JH), 2 representatives from All Saints Resort (AS) and 8 members of the public.**

Agenda Items

1. Council to elect Chairman

Cllrs Nicholls was nominated for the role of Chairman. No other nominations received.

Council resolved to elect Cllr Nicholls as Chairman.

2. Council to elect Vice Chairman

Cllr Brown has shown an interest in being elected as Vice Chair, but in his absence Council will postpone election of Vice Chair to the April meeting.

3. Signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office and issue of Register of Interests

The new Chairman and the Clerk signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

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

The Chairman welcomed all attendees to the meeting. Apologies for absence received and accepted from Cllr Brown, Cllr Lynch, County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger and District Cllr Sarah Broughton.

5. (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.**

6. To approve & adopt the minutes from the Council meeting held on 18th February 2025

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

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

None received.

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

None received.

The Clerk noted his disappointment that neither Cllr Hopfensperger nor Cllr Broughton had responded to requests for updates or a report for the meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to try and arrange a meeting with both to discuss.

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

i. Resident raised the question of a VE Day 80 celebration on The Green.

This item is to be covered later in the agenda under item 19.

ii. Resident raised concerns regarding the state of grounds following on from the installation of fibre throughout the village. In particular an area in Pound Meadow and the section of The Green from the bus stop to the church. Both have had the grass dug up and not replaced satisfactorily, with stones on the surface and no grass seed. Concerns that mowers will flick up the stones and cause injury to people or damage to property.

Council also highlighted issues with uneven, poorly fitted manholes and the addition of a service box in the pavement at the end of The Green.

ACTION: Clerk to speak to City Fibre to understand process for complaints.

ACTION: Clerk to include article in Village Voice asking residents to report any issues that they notice to the Clerk.

The area outside of the cemetery was also highlighted and parts of Chestnut Close.

- iii. Stuart Turner from the Health Hub at All Saints Resort shared that following previous discussions and the PC meeting in Fornham St Martin / St Genevieve, they had resubmitted plans for the proposed pickleball and tennis courts, removing the pickleball element and taking into consideration other comments and suggestions that had been made.

This item is to be covered later in the agenda under item 12i.

10. To receive reports from Councillors:

- a. Traffic / Roads / VASs / Road Signs - Don Lynch
Plan in place to install new VAS equipment by the end of April. Nothing further to report.
- b. Volunteering - Derek Brown
Scheduled to start again April. Nothing further to report.
- c. Facilities / Assets Management / Community Centre / EV - Derek Brown
Nothing to report.
- d. Local Businesses & Residents / Lark Valley - Richard Nicholls
Repair works to the Lark Valley Path were scheduled before Christmas and now planned for March. It seems that work has begun downstream of Duck Sluice Farm and the Fornham section looking likely to begin next week.
- e. Social Issues / Village Voice - Clerk
Clerk has made contact with Thingoe Lodge, introducing himself in case any issues arise, now that former Cllr Mayhew is no longer the point of contact. Village Voice advertising monies mostly collected, 3 new full page ads acquired. A suggestion was made to speak to the new pub owners as a potential advertiser.
- f. Marham Park / Highways / Village Hall / Anglian Water (Lark) - Mat Stewart
Ongoing parking issues at David Lloyd, but roads still unadopted so little can be actioned. Technically Marham Park is not under the FAS remit, but there is still monies in the development pot to complete a section of path from the top of Tut Hill to the country park. Cllr Stewart still applying pressure to get that in place. Anglian Water spillages data for 2024 appears muddled and not complete.
ACTION: MS to challenge the data.
- g. Allotments / Emergency Plan - David Surman
Recent issue with a plot holder having a fire, but otherwise all good.
Contact made with previous compiler of the emergency plan.

11. To receive Clerks report

Banking update: Lloyds application was refused at the last minute as completed online (as advised) and not in paper form.

ACTION: Clerk to resubmit again in the future.

12. Planning:

Council to discuss the following applications;

- i. **DC/24/0538/FUL **RECONSULT****

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

Planning application - two pickleball courts and two tennis courts

Council resolved to wait until updated plans become available.

- ii. **DC/25/0249/FUL **previous DC/24/0586/FUL withdrawn****

Car Park Heath Farm Business Centre Tut Hill Fornham All Saints

Planning application - a. change of use of existing parking area to driver training area b. temporary containers for use as classroom and storage area

Council resolved a vote of No Comment, on the basis that previous safety concerns seems to have been addressed. However Council to advise planners of the concerns raised by other businesses on site - noise, lighting, parking in the lay-by, unsightly portaloo, odours, cars dumped on site, potential storage of hazardous materials.

iii. **DC/25/0399/TCA**

Windy Ridge Aldridge Lane Fornham All Saints Suffolk

Trees in a conservation area notification - one Field maple (T1 on plan) reduce overall crown by up to 2.5 meters

Council resolved a vote of No Comment.

13. Finance update

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

Payee & details	Total
J Hook, Clerks salary, February (inc. Fuel Charity Hours Aug 24 - Feb 25) (£411.84 to be recovered from Charity)	£1107.09
Nest, Clerks pension, February	£40.48
J Hook, Clerks expenses	£21.98
Elan City, battery for VAS	£109.99
Total Payments	£1,279.54

ii. **Council noted bank balances correct to 28th February.**

Current	£223.68
Savings	£38,089.09
Total Bank Balance	£38,312.77

iii. **Council resolved to approve bank reconciliation for February 2025.**

14. Skate & play park inspections

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

15. Overgrown pavements

Clerk updated that the contractor had been appointed and the necessary forms for Highways approval had been completed and sent to the contractor.

ACTION: Clerk to follow up.

16. Grass cutting

WSC have quoted £165.73 per cut. The Clerk has received a second quote of £125 per cut (plus £25 for the area at the top of Pigeon Lane) and a third quote from RG Landscapes (recommended by All Saints Resort) of £80 per cut.

Council resolved to appoint RG Landscapes to cut the grass in the churchyard.

The Clerk noted that some residents had taken to tidying the pavements outside their own properties, in particular Golton Cottages and Gaughton House.

It was suggested to make a comment of thanks in the Village Voice.

It was also suggested to celebrate and thank some of the other new ventures in the village; the new owners of the Three Kings for the works to improve the front garden area, making it much safer and more pleasant to sit at, and the new mobile fish & chip van at the community centre.

17. Devolution Consultation

Council to consider what is required in terms of it's involvement or response.

The Chairman and Clerk are to attend the SALC West Suffolk Forum on Devolution on the 25th March, and will report back following this.

18. Local Plan Consultation

Cllrs to individually review paperwork to determine if any changes impact Fornham All

Saints and report back any findings.

19. Community event

Council originally suggested that the event be held at the community centre for health and safety reasons. The planning meeting was poorly attended and the original organiser stepped down. A new group of residents propose an event to be held on The Green with a picnic, and music, potentially a beacon, to celebrate VE Day 80 on Monday 5th May.

Council still remain concerned that The Green is not the safest place in the village to hold an event and that just because it happened many times in the past, doesn't alleviate current concerns.

Organisers stated it would be covered under the village halls insurance policy.

Council requested organisers to create a full management plan, with detailed proposal, itinerary, and risk assessments, for consideration by Council at the April meeting.

20. Donations to community groups - S137 monies

Council to discuss requests for donation from WI and St Edmundsbury Newstalk.

Clerk advised that of the £2000 budget for donations in 2024/25, only £250 had been gifted so far to the WI. Council to consider WI request in the new 2025/26 financial year.

Council opted not to donate to St Edmundsbury Newstalk, but did favour the ideas of SARS (Suffolk Accident Rescue Service) and the Air Ambulance charities.

ACTION: Clerk to investigate.

Resident asked if funding might be available or the Bury Water Meadows Group for litter picking equipment and a trolley. Resident was asked to submit a request to the Clerk for consideration by Council.

21. VAS locations in the village

Council to determine where the officially licensed VAS sites are in the village and best use of equipment

ACTION: Clerk to investigate.

Council to consider applying to make the Larks Gate VAS an officially licensed site

ACTION: Chairman and Clerk to go through paperwork and apply.

22. Correspondence

i. Resident email re: VE day celebrations

Covered under item 19.

ii. Business correspondence re: rider training facility

Covered under item 12ii.

23. Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on April 15th 2025, commencing 18:30 at the Community Centre

Meeting closed 19:50

..... Sign & date

..... Print name

Chairman

Signed as confirmation that they are a true record.