

Draft Minutes from Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 17th June, 2025, 18:30, Fornham All Saints Community Centre

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

Present:

Cllr Richard Nicholls (RN) (Chair), Cllr Derek Brown (DB) (Vice Chair), Cllr Mat Stewart (MS), County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger (RH).

Clerk Justin Hook (JH), 1 representative from All Saints Resort (ASR). No members of the public present.

Agenda Items

1. Chair's welcome, opening remarks and to receive apologies for absence
The chair welcomed those in attendance. Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Lynch, Cllr Surman and Borough Cllr Broughton.
2. (i) To receive members Declarations of Interests - none received.
3. (ii) Council to consider any new written requests for dispensation and/or requests which have been received - none received.
4. To approve & adopt the minutes from the Council Meeting & AGM held on 20th May 2025
Council noted that the incorrect meeting date had been amended and resolved to adopt the minutes, the Chair signed them.
5. To receive County Councillor's report from Cllr. Rebecca Hopfensperger
RH reiterated points made at the Annual Parish Meeting, advising that there is a new residents survey from SCC regarding Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), open until the end of August. It's important for Parish Councils to be heard, as they form the grass roots of local government. LGR could mean more powers for parish councils.
Action: Clerk to share survey link with Cllrs and place in village newsletter.
Similar questionnaire also available from WSC.
Action: RH to find and share.
Speed roundels expected to be actioned w/c 23rd June.
ASR safety nets had been chased, now approved.
6. To receive Borough Councillor's reports from Cllr. Sarah Broughton and Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger
Nothing further to report.
7. Public open session up to 15 minutes - questions and issues on matters arising from the agenda and from the village
Hannah Cuthbertson from ASR apologised for any upset that may have been caused by the burning of vegetation on site. They are in the process of removing diseased willows, to stop the spread of the airborne disease. Contractors have been advised to cease burning and are looking at other options for safe disposal.
DB raised the issue with ASR of the regrowth in the ditch along the B1106. Clerk confirmed technically it's not ASR's land or remit, and that there had been mixed feelings following the last cut. Some agreed it looked good, others were upset. ASR confirmed they were happy with the result but had received some backlash.
Council agreed to discuss further whether a collaborative approach with ASR to keep the ditch clear might be possible.
Action: Clerk to investigate and add to July agenda.
8. To receive reports from Councillors:
 - a. Traffic / Roads / VASs / Road Signs - Don Lynch
Clerk advised that the two solar units had been installed on existing VAS units, the new solar VAS unit had been installed by Larks gate and the old smaller unit had been moved to the community centre location. All working as planned.
Clerk reported some top level stats:
Larks Gate (since installation 21/5/25)
Incoming: highest recorded speed: 64mph, compliance to 30mph limit: 85%
Outgoing: highest recorded speed: 67mph, compliance to 30mph limit: 72%
Pigeon Lane (2025 so far)
Incoming: highest recorded speed: 53mph, compliance to 30mph limit: 97%

Outgoing: highest recorded speed: 57mph, compliance to 30mph limit: 95%
Village Green (2025 so far)

Incoming: highest recorded speed: 65mph, compliance to 30mph limit: 94%

Outgoing: highest recorded speed: 68mph, compliance to 30mph limit: 90%

Action: Clerk to send to Community Policing Team and continue to monitor and report.

MS asked if the Tut Hill gate was opened for access during the lorry flip on Marham Park. Nobody was certain. RH advised the emergency services have keys but unaware length of time of incident, before gate opening is triggered.

b. Volunteering - Derek Brown

Lots done - covered by report at earlier APM.

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

Not much to report. EV looking likely too expensive for community centre.

Some works to be done to review asset register and complete asset risk assessment with Clerk.

Action: Clerk to send details.

d. Local Businesses & Residents / Lark Valley - Richard Nicholls

Difference of opinion on whether the LVP has been cut sufficiently. Clerk has contacted James Pickerin, RoW Officer to arrange extra cutting, James put him in touch with their contact to organise quotes. Ongoing.

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

Struggling with no direct contact/representative after Countrywide buy out. Seemingly little urgency for site to be adopted and issues ironed out. RH to continue to chase.

Co-op have purchased site for a new convenience store.

Anglian Water are under serious pressure to improve practice, little extra the PC can do.

f. Allotments / Emergency Plan - David Surman

Clerk reports all plots let, no issues, 2 or 3 on waiting list.

g. Village Voice - Clerk

All running smoothly - apologies for lateness of June July issue, Editor was behind, distribution team was then away, then the printer had issues with machine, but out now.

9. To receive Clerks report

Double mini roundabouts - crossing safety

Direct contact sent to SCC, nothing heard back. Ongoing.

a. City Fibre - damages to village

Clerk to check Chestnut Close damage. Ongoing

b. First Responders

No First Responders in the village, but Bury group needs volunteers. Clerk to request information for piece in the VV. Item closed.

c. Speed roundels

Expected w/c 23rd June. Ongoing.

d. Marham Park trees and S106 monies

Ongoing as per item 8e.

e. Damaged bin, Pound Meadow

WSC still refusing liability, although have offered to install a new bigger bin in what they deem a more suitable place.

Council resolved to accept this proposal.

f. Policies & procedures

Documents ready to go through and adopt at July meeting.

g. Lark Valley Path entrance/Sheepwash Bridge

Covered under item 15.

Clerk gave update on the motorbike situation, with other Parish Councils joining forces to arrange a meeting with SCC, Police and local MP's to see what action can be taken to reduce speeding and noise disturbance.

Clerk also advised that he had been taken on temporarily as a Locum Clerk for Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve, and that it had come up at their recent meeting, the idea of potentially combining the three Fornham's to create one combined Parish Council, for greater impact, increase efficiency etc.

RH advised that she had begun research and that a referendum would not be required, but at

least 7.5% of the combined population would need to write in support.

Action: Clerk to investigate further, and add to July agenda to discuss further.

10. Planning:

i. **DC/25/0925/FUL**

Land At Mere Lane Fornham All Saints Suffolk

Planning application - change of use of agricultural land to form dog walking and exercising paddock

Council resolved to record a vote of NO COMMENT on this application.

ii. **DC/25/0942/TPO**

Heath Farm Business Centre Tut Hill Fornham All Saints Suffolk IP28 6LG

TPO 298 (2000) tree preservation order - two poplar (T1 and T2 on plan, T15 and T16 on order) reduce height by three metres and width by two metres

Council resolved to record a vote of NO COMMENT, supporting the decision of the Tree Officer on this application.

iii. **Rider training facility on Tut Hill has been rejected, but reportedly still in use**

Council resolved to alert WSC Enforcement Team.

11. Finance update

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

Payee & details	Total
J Hook, Clerks salary, May	£847.53
Nest, Clerks pension, May	£21.27
J Hook, Clerks expenses	£97.13
Vicky Waples, Internal Audit	£274.40
ICO, data protection fee	£47.00
M Loveridge, volunteer group planting	£114.05
M Purnell, volunteer group planting	£34.00
Community Centre, leaflet distribution for VV advertiser	£30.00
Bury Water Meadows Group, S137 donation	£250
Total Payments	£1,658.38

ii. **Council noted payments received to 31st May.**

From & details	Total
RBS, bank interest	£56.98
VV advertising	£183.00
Total Monies Received	£239.98

iii. **Council noted bank balances to 31st May.**

Current	£249.31
Savings	£57,963.26
Total Bank Balance	£58,212.57

iv. **Council resolved to approve bank reconciliation for May 2025.**

12. End of year finance & audit

i. **Council reviewed the Internal Audit Report and Clerks report of audit, resolving to adopt both documents.**

ii. **Council resolved to confirm the effectiveness of the Internal Audit.**

iii. **Council resolved to appoint Vicky Waples as the Internal Auditor for 2025/26 period.**

13. Skate & play park inspections

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

DB highlighted that disappointingly, the latest report did not actually pick up on the recent improvements made.

Report shows 40% wear on the shackles and chains on the swings.

Action: DB to get quotes to have replaced.

14. Play park gate replacement

Council to discuss proposal to upgrade gate to play area, cost circa. £1,000

The gate to the play park closes too quickly. DB suggested replacing with proper hydraulic metal gate as seen in other play parks. Gate circa £1,000 without installation.

Clerk advised 3 quotes required, ideally.

Action: Clerk and DB to get quotes to present at July meeting.

15. Overgrown pavements

Contractor has been approved by SCC so works can finally begin. Clerk is to meet with contractor to recap the work and expectations after the length of time since initial quote.

SCC have confirmed that now a contractor is approved, they don't need to approve future works if Council use same contractor.

Clerk to discuss with contractor, list of other jobs in the village, to include; clearing/cleaning road signs esp. coming into village, dropped kerb detritus, top of Pigeon Lane bushes and kerbside, Larks Gate to Sheepwash Bridge growth, Sheepwash Bridge tidy, pinch points tidy, double mini's and island tidy.

16. Bus stop improvements

Council agreed to submit request for funding to improve village bus stops, especially opposite the village green bus shelter and opposite the community centre. Ideas include improved signage, road signage and increased paving opp. community centre.

Action: Clerk to investigate and complete forms.

17. Speeding in the village

Covered earlier under item 8a.

18. Replacement of old VAS unit at the Community Centre

Council to discuss replacing the old unit with a more up to date solar powered version, cost circa. £2,500

Unit does appear to be working well, but reliant upon battery changes.

Action: Clerk to investigate solar option.

Clerk still investigating repairs to existing unit brackets vs cost of new units.

19. Correspondence

i. Residents email to AW re: leak outside community centre

AW have responded and water has been stopped. Repair works still to be carried out.

20. Date of next meeting

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

Meeting closed 19:36

..... Sign & date

..... Print name

Chairman

Signed as confirmation that they are a true record.