

Draft Minutes from Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 15th April, 2025, 18:30, Fornham All Saints Community Centre

These draft minutes will be approved at the Parish Council Meeting on 20th May, 2025.

Present:

Cllr Richard Nicholls (RN) (Chair), Cllr Derek Brown (DB) (Vice Chair), Cllr David Surman (DS), County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger (RH) and Borough Cllr Sarah Broughton (SB). Clerk Justin Hook (JH), 1 representative from All Saints Resort (AS) and 6 members of the public.

Agenda Items

1. Council to elect Vice Chair

Cllr Brown was nominated for the role of Vice Chair. No other nominations received.

Council resolved to elect Cllr Brown as Vice Chair.

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

The Vice Chair and the Clerk signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

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

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting. Apologies received from Cllr Stewart and Cllr Lynch.

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

5. (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 March 2025

The Clerk advised one minor change to the venue of the last meeting.

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

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

Interim cases have been put forward to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR - part of the devolution process). Borough councils prefer a 3 unitary council options: east, west and greater Ipswich, but the boundaries are wide and not yet finalised. SCC put forward one unitary council for the whole of Suffolk to make the most of cost savings and the streamlining of resources and services.

In terms of social care provision, multiple councils will likely result in a 'postcode lottery' for care services and fewer cost savings.

Full business cases to be submitted in September with expected decision from government in December.

Parish councils will be given opportunities to respond via consultation and RH will keep the Clerk informed.

Marham Park updates: Allotments area and sports pitch still awaiting transfer. Failed trees - a decision is being made whether to have them replaced before transfer or if the parks team will take on post transfer, for a fee. Some surfaces have failed - developer to complete remedials to highways and drainage before transfer. Parking at David Lloyd - a traffic regulation is being looked at to allow enforcement of cars parked along the road outside.

FAS double mini roundabouts - Andy Moore (SCC) did review and all appears safe. Andy to make contact with Clerk direct for site visit.

Safety nets on golf course - FSMSG PC requested a H&S risk assessment, which planning are awaiting further information on, hence delays, but it will go to delegation panel.

Road signs (speed roundels) - expected end April.

Chair asked who has the final say on devolution - RH advised government make the decision based on the submitted business plans.

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

SB confirmed nothing further to add.

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

Residents from along the back of Chestnut Close advised they had met regarding the Moseleys Farm planning application. They agreed in principle, and thought that the cemetery

provision was good. They had concerns over potential light pollution from external lighting on the new buildings, suggesting directional or down lighting preferential. They also asked for consideration again, to the proposed path linking FAS to Hengrave. RH suggested talking to David Hudson from Flempton cum Hengrave PC for more detail on the path.

Peter Elms from the Cemetery Trust was available to answer any questions and confirmed the cemetery was available to all those in the historic parish boundary as of 1899, which included as far down as the Mildenhall Road estate.

The Clerk asked about old documents that stated the PC were responsible for appointing trustees of the Cemetery Trust. This was overturned by a new charity document in 1999.

Phil McGahan presented to council about the East Anglian Air Ambulance. They cover Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambs and Beds by day plus Essex, Herts and Greater London by night. Most places in the region are accessible in just 25 minutes, and the team offer clinical interventions and even minor surgeries. There were 2,900 taskings in 2024 and over 41,000 since launch in 2000. Each mission costs in the region of £4,250, plus equipment costs and running costs are in the region of £19 million a year, which is all charity funded, with no funding from the government. They currently run two air ambulance helicopters and 2 critical care cars.

THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS BROUGHT FORWARD

19. Community event

Council to discuss request from the village hall asking for permission to host a VE 80 Day celebration on The Green, Monday 5th May.

The event team had provided better detail of the event, including part of an insurance document.

Council advised that they still thought that the community centre would be a better venue and showed concerns over the planned safety fencing. Organisers have requested cones from Highways for the event. Council asked them to notify the Police also.

The Clerk asked for the organisers to forward a copy of their full insurance policy document and requested organisers to speak to their insurers, requesting email confirmation that they would be happy to insure this specific event on The Green. This confirmation email is to be forwarded to the Clerk.

Based on the above, Council resolved to allow the event to take place on The Green.

THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS BROUGHT FORWARD

20. Donations to community groups - S137 monies

Village hall representative Paul, confirmed further detail had been supplied as requested.

Council asked about frequency of hire - there were circa 250 hires in 2024.

The hall is not listed, but was originally a reading room for the Hengrave Estate. Council commended Paul for his hard work and dedication on the upkeep of the building, but showed concern for what will be next and how much more money would be required to keep an old building going. Paul confirmed little major work is left to complete after much of the major jobs being taken care of.

Council resolved to come back to this later in the meeting.

10. To receive reports from Councillors:

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

Council showed concern that this might be too complicated to complete and asked the Clerk to get prices to have installed professionally.

ACTION: Clerk to investigate what is required and obtain quotes.

b. Volunteering - Scheduled to start again 17th April - Derek Brown

Volunteering lead Martin, advised that a date had been sent to the volunteer group who were going to concentrate on the bus stop planting (with a plan for more perennial planting) and tidying pavements around the village green area. Martin thanked those in the village who were taking responsibility for their own frontages. The Clerk is compiling a list of jobs to be considered for suitability by the volunteer group.

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

Nothing to report.

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

Lark Valley Path improvements completed.

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

Nothing to report.

f. Allotments / Emergency Plan - David Surman

Nothing to report. DS signed up to complete First Responder training.

g. Village Voice - Clerk

Some advertising payments outstanding, but at year end, the increased advertising income has more than covered the printing costs.

Some complaints received that the magazine is going out later than planned events, also that content is too PC heavy. No comments received directly by the editor. Clerk to include something in next issue.

11. To receive Clerks report

a. Anglian Water leak

Now fixed.

b. B1106 hedges

Initial works completed by the resident, which has improved things greatly. SCC confirmed further work scheduled for September, due to nesting birds.

c. Double mini roundabouts - crossing safety

RH advised SCC has attended and believe it to be safe. SCC contact to reach out to Clerk for site visit.

d. City Fibre - damages to village

Clerk has met with City Fibre team and highlighted worst areas. Damages noted and plans made to make good with topsoil and seed. Damaged Open Reach cover reported to Open Reach for repair.

e. VAS locations & new pole

Clerk spoke to Highways who were unable to identify official VAS sites. RH sending Clerk direct contact to speak to.

f. Churchyard grass cutting

RG Landscapes instructed and cutting schedule advised.

g. First Responders

Clerk has been speaking with First Responders team to identify if there are any in the village and how to go about training / advertising this resource.

h. Speed roundels

RH advised end of April.

i. Funding for community centre project

RH provided WSC funding contact, which the Clerk has forwarded to both the village hall and community centre.

j. Marham Park trees and S106 monies

RH still chasing.

12. Planning:

Council to discuss the following applications;

i. **DC/24/0538/FUL **AMENDED****

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

Description amended to replace proposed pickleball courts with an additional tennis court (resulting in three tennis courts in total). Amended plans to illustrate change received 11 March 2025 and updated noise report submitted 24 March 2025.

Council resolved a vote of 'no comment' on this application.

ii. **DC/25/0136/HH**

10 Pigeon Lane Fornham All Saints Suffolk IP28 6JP

Householder planning application - a. single storey rear extension b. detached garage (following demolition of existing garage)

Council resolved to approve this application.

iii. **DC/25/0438/HYB**

Moseleys Farm The Green Fornham All Saints Suffolk IP28 6JY

Hybrid planning application - a. full application - two commercial units and extension to cemetery b. outline application (means of access to be considered) - residential development

Council resolved to approve this application, noting residents concerns over light pollution and the ongoing consideration of a path linking FAS to Hengrave.

iv. **DC/25/0601/TCA**

9 Chestnut Close Fornham All Saints Suffolk IP28 6LH

Trees in a conservation area notification - one Fir (T1 on plan) fell; three Silver Birch (T2, T3, T4 on plan), one Sycamore (T5 on plan), one Acacia (T6 on plan) lower crown by 50 percent

Council resolved a vote of 'no comment' on this application.

13. Finance update

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

Payee & details	Total
J Hook, Clerks salary, March	£715.74
Nest, Clerks pension, March	£11.66
Community Workshop - Village Voice printing	£315.01
SALC - subscription 2025/26	£326.27
SALC - payroll services, to 31st March	£57.60
Suffolk Cloud - website & hosting 2025/26	£120.00
Total Payments	£1,546.28

ii. **Council noted bank balances correct to 31st March.**

Current	£267.98
Savings	£37,701.40
Total Bank Balance	£37,969.38

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

iv. End of year finance update

The Clerk presented the end of year finances, noting where there were any major differences between budget and actual income or expenditure. In summary, finances are healthy with a total income of £33,842.68 and a total expenditure of £24,002.36. The Village Voice advertising was more than covering the printing costs and that there was still an outstanding £4.5k payment to be made for yet to be completed pavement works.

Council resolved to approve the end of year figures, the Chair and Clerk signed them.

Council resolved to place £1000.00 in a new reserve for future play park upgrades.

v. Council to review Direct Debits and Standing Orders and confirm if still valid.

This item was moved to the May agenda.

14. Skate & play park inspections

Council noted from report that remedial work required, but all low to very low risk. DB advised that the remedial works completed so far were quite in-depth and time consuming.

Council resolved to pay an approved contractor to complete future works.

Action: DB to investigate and obtain quotes.

15. Overgrown pavements

Clerk has submitted necessary forms to Community Self Help team at SCC who have since asked for sight of the contractors' qualifications in order to work on the highways. Clerk has obtained and submitted this information and awaiting a decision. Contractor is aware.

16. Devolution Consultation

The consultation period for establishing a Suffolk & Norfolk mayor is now closed.

RH updated Council under agenda item 7 regarding the implications of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and how they will be able to respond.

17. Local Plan Consultation

The consultation is now closed.

18. Speeding in the village

Council discussed the issue of speeding in the village, and reviewed potential involvement from the Police, Highways, Suffolk Roadsafes etc.

Action: Clerk to investigate what actions can be taken / help is available and then the chair to write a letter / email.

THIS FOLLOWING ITEM WAS COVERED EARLIER IN THE MEETING.

19. Community event

20. Donations to community groups - S137 monies

Council to discuss requests for donation from WI towards them acquiring speakers, and from the village hall towards flooring repairs and external insulation to the toilet area.

Council to discuss donations to East Anglian Air Ambulance and Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS) charities.

The Clerk read a brief report from SARS on their work as their representative was unable to attend. The Clerk also advised that of last years budget of £2000 for donations, only £250 was gifted, to the WI.

Council resolved to offer grants of £250.00 each to the WI, the East Anglian Air Ambulance and SARS.

Council showed concern over the continued running and maintenance costs of the village hall. The insulation was non-essential and could be funded by other 'green' grants (examples of which the Clerk would send to Paul). However repairing the floor was deemed to be essential.

Council resolved to offer a grant of £2000.00 to the village hall to cover the cost of the floor repairs.

21. Correspondence

i. Resident email re: City Fibre damages in the village

Item covered under earlier under item 11d.

ii. Resident correspondence regarding damage to the bin by the Pound Meadow bus stop

The Clerk had taken pictures and completed an incident for with WSC.

iii. Advertiser correspondence to withdraw advert and request for refund, or for space to be gifted to another organisation

Council resolved to partially refund the advertiser £60.00.

22. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and will be held on May 20th commencing 18:30 at the Community Centre.

Meeting closed 21:03

..... Sign & date

..... Print name

Chairman

Signed as confirmation that they are a true record.