

VILLAGE VOICE

Fornham All Saints Village Magazine



February - March 2024

Issue No. 245

Fornham All Saints Officials

Parish Councillors

Martin Loveridge (Chair)	07784 225375
Cathy Emerson (Vice Chair)	01284 700550
Hugo Greer-Walker	07309 045130
Don Lynch	07557 277607
Jill Mayhew	01284 723588
Mat Stewart	01284 701099
Derek Brown	07505 762267
Justin Hook (Parish Clerk)	clerk@fornhamallsaintspc.org.uk

Other Representatives

Rebecca Hopfensperger (District & County Councillor)	07876 683516
Sara Broughton (District Councillor)	07929 305787
Jo Churchill (Member of Parliament)	01284 752311

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.fornhamallsaints.suffolk.cloud

The deadline for articles for the April - May 2024 Village Voice, will be 20th March 2024.

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 Chair

Dear Parishioner, firstly I hope that you all had a good Christmas and that your New Year celebrations were up to their usual expectations despite the financial squeeze.

The lead up to Christmas was certainly fun with the quiz in the Community Centre being extremely well attended. A good night was had by all and the Rural Coffee Caravan (RCC) was the very happy beneficiary of all Enid Gathercole's hard work. Thingoe Lodge also held a quiz night, which again was enjoyed by all and provided more income to their annual donation for their chosen charity - also the RCC. Sheila Bryant deserves a special mention for all her incredible work with her crochet hook, which raised a large amount of the total annual sum.

Numerous other groups and clubs celebrated the onset of the festive season and the Parish Council enjoyed a Christmas lunch together where "shop talk" was kept to a minimum! It was also really pleasing to see the 9 Readings and 9 Carols Service so well attended.

It has been another very busy period for the PC since the last magazine and will continue to be so well into the New Year.

Of great importance, we have now chosen and appointed our new Clerk. We had 3 really strong candidates to choose from and 2 Councillors, the Locum Clerk, and I, spent an evening interviewing in the Village Hall.

However, one candidate stood out and did "tick all the boxes" and by unanimous decision was offered the role of Clerk and Proper Officer to the Fornham All Saints Parish Council. So it gives me great pleasure to welcome Justin Hook to the team as of 2nd January. He will have a thorough hand over and training period from our Locum Clerk Linda before going solo in mid February. After one year in post Justin will then take formal training to achieve his CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council

Administration). He will also continue to do the excellent job of collating, editing, and producing the Village Voice and managing the website. On that note, if you know of anyone (near or far) who wishes to advertise in the VV please give them the Editor's e-mail (fornhamvillagevoice@gmail.com) - with your help we hope to make the VV a profitable asset to the village.

The re-organisation of the allotments is another major challenge which lies ahead. The plan is to make them self-managing, with governance still being provided by the Board of Trustees (PC Councillors), and self-funding. A fruitful meeting was held on the 9th January, with good attendance by both Trustees and plot holders. It was agreed that the allotments would form a small committee headed by David Surman (thank you David!), to interface with the Board and improve communications.

It was also agreed by the vast majority that membership of the National Allotment Society would be beneficial - especially in terms of insurance. Having now obtained the overarching Governance Documents (dated 1804 and 1965!) from the Charity Commission it was agreed to review all the charity's rules and regulations.

I am delighted to announce that Derek Brown has agreed to join the Parish Council and by the time you are reading this he will have been formally inaugurated at the meeting on 16th January. So, welcome Derek and thank you for joining the team - there is lots to do and we will keep you busy!

On the volunteering front, Mat Stewart and I attended a Suffolk County Council course on how to set up traffic lights! This apparently will allow us to now run volunteering sessions in and around the village and we are in consultation with SCC to arrange the provision of necessary tools and PPE. It is hard to envisage cleaning road signs etc when the temperature outside is -3 degrees as I type, but Spring will be with us soon!



Given the huge strain that WSC budget is under, it is quite clear that we will need to pick up on some of the jobs that used to be done for us. When the

days grow longer and warmer watch out for the “Hi-Vis Army” and come and join us - dates will be promulgated in the next edition.

The PC meeting on the 16th Jan was well attended and it was especially pleasing to welcome a number of Fornham St Martin Cum Genevieve residents to the meeting. Furthermore, it was extremely beneficial to host Councillor Roger Dicker, Chair of West Suffolk Council. He took over the Chair in May last year and is keen to involve local councils in the decision making process - so a big thank you Roger for taking time out on a cold January night to come and see us in action.

And finally, to reward all of those that have stuck with me through this diatribe I am pleased to tell you that the PC, after a lot of hard work and deliberation, have managed to balance the budget to ensure that there will be no increase this year in the Fornham All Saints Parish Precept. Times are tricky at the moment for everyone and it is important that we try to make ends meet.

For more information on village business, especially planning, please refer to the PC Meeting Minutes later in the magazine - thank you.

All best wishes and a happy and dare I say a prosperous New Year to you all.

Martin Loveridge



Martin Loveridge, Parish Council Chair

P.S. We have just received the latest information regarding the West Suffolk Local Plan. This will affect all of us and it is the last stage of the plan before it is finalised and the last chance for **YOU** to make comment. See page opposite for details.

Please note that there is a drop in event at the Bury St Edmunds Apex between 10am and 3pm on Wednesday 7th February, so that you can see the plan - and make your voice heard. See you there!

Dates For Parish Council and related meetings 2024

Feb 20 Parish Council (PC)

Mar 19 PC

Apr 16 PC

May 21 PC & Annual General Meeting (TBC)

Jun 18 PC & Annual Parish Meeting (TBC)

Jul 16 PC

Aug (Nil unless planning)

Sep 17 PC

Oct 15 PC

Nov 19 PC

Dec (Nil unless planning)

All meetings will be held at 18:30 in 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.

**excludes Sundays and Bank Holidays*

THE LOCAL PLAN AFFECTS YOU...

#YourFuture #YourSay #LocalPlan

The West Suffolk Local Plan will guide where new homes can and can't be built and sets aside land to support the growth of new and existing businesses. Through its policies, the local plan will support the delivery of affordable housing, alongside homes that are more sustainable and energy efficient. The local plan policies will increase biodiversity, better protect the environment, and support people's health and wellbeing.

This final draft builds on the evidence and feedback from two previous public consultations. Now we are consulting to ensure the plan is legally compliant and sound.

View the plan and give us your feedback
westsuffolk.exhibition.app

30 January to 12 March 2024

Drop-in events

Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street
(The Studio)
Friday 2 February, 10am - 3pm

Bury St Edmunds Apex (upper floor lounge)
Wednesday 7 February, 10am - 3pm

Mildenhall Hub (Conference Room)
Saturday 10 February, 10am - 3pm

King Edward VII Memorial Hall, High Street, Newmarket (Main Hall)
Saturday 17 February, 10am - 3pm

Officers will be present at these events to help sign post and provide assistance in completing an online feedback form.

Any questions?



01284 757368



planning.policy@westsuffolk.gov.uk

SCAN ME



Introducing Your New Parish Councillor Derek Brown

I moved to Fornham All Saints from Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire soon after I had taken a job as Engineering Manager at Denny Bros on the Moreton Hall.



After several months of searching to find what I considered to be the ideal place to live, my wife and I found a house in Rectory Meadow.

This was a little over 9 years ago but I recall parking outside the village church and being impressed with the village when walking around it prior to viewing the house for the first time. We instantly knew this was the place we wanted to live as we were happy with both house and the village it stands in.

I worked at Denny Bros for 7 years before taking planned early retirement in February 2021. Having spent 43 years working in the engineering and print industries I am used to managing projects, getting tasks completed and attending planning meetings. I have come from a culture of fixing problems and working as part of a team in order to help and achieve constant improvement.

In the years since retiring, I have been busy with some family home improvement projects, pursuing hobbies including travelling overseas, watching rugby, attending the theatre and music events. I also worked as part of a team that includes the Parish Council Chairman Martin Loveridge to help set up a table tennis club in the village and I am currently Club Secretary.

Now I have some free time I volunteered and have been accepted as a Fornham All Saints Parish Councillor and I am looking forward to working with the team to help maintain and improve the village.

Derek Brown

Derek Brown



FORNHAM ALL SAINTS TABLE TENNIS CLUB

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

Now we are “home” we are 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

Facilities Update

Unsurprisingly, it has been a quiet couple of months in terms of facilities. The skate park has now had a full service and been repaired where necessary. It has also, together with the playground, passed its West Suffolk Council (WSC) risk assessment inspection with only low or very low risk observations. Work will be required, especially in the playground and I hope that that can be a project for volunteers.

The only other item of note is that 2 trees in the churchyard have been attended to and have been trimmed and had their crown raised. An overhanging branch which was effecting a neighbour was also removed.

As always, please keep an eye out and if you see anything amiss, please let me know.

Cheers,

Martin Loveridge

Martin Loveridge, Facilities

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

clerk@fornhamallsaintspc.org.uk

West Suffolk Council Areas of Priority

Strategic priorities

Over the next four years, our focus will be on delivering against our vision by taking action in the following four priority areas



Affordable, available and decent homes

- Use planning powers to significantly increase the supply of affordable housing in West Suffolk, particularly for social rent, and explore other options for increasing provision.
- Investigate options to address the specific market conditions in West Suffolk that make it challenging for local people to afford to buy or rent.
- Use the council's planning, regulatory and other powers to ensure all housing is of good quality and sustainably built and has minimal environmental impacts, including noise.
- Work with communities to ensure all housing is supported by the right infrastructure.

Environmental resilience

- Bring about environmental improvements that support progress to net zero, including by working in partnership with businesses, residents and others.
- Work together to implement actions to adapt to climate change in West Suffolk, in line with the third National Adaptation Programme.
- Promote improved public and active travel opportunities in West Suffolk and work to reduce the impact of heavy goods vehicles in communities.

Sustainable growth

- Support new and existing businesses to grow, for example, through start-up support and skills development.
- Work to ensure West Suffolk is an attractive place for businesses, in order to ensure growth is supported by employment. This will have a particular focus on attracting higher-skilled enterprises to support wage growth.
- Continue to support West Suffolk's local high streets and markets as the vibrant centres of thriving local communities
- Seek to develop infrastructure that supports growth.
- Maximising what makes us distinctive.

Thriving communities

- Ensure all West Suffolk residents are able to access appropriate services, benefits and support.
- Enable West Suffolk residents to improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing through sport, physical and cultural activities, as well as access to health services. In particular, protect and develop parks and open spaces for the benefit of both residents and visitors.
- Work with partners to prevent and reduce crime and antisocial behaviour in the district.

Cost Of Living Crisis Hitting Hard?

Many of us are finding it hard with the rising costs of fuel, bills, mortgages and food, but there is help available.

Fuel Charity Grants

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; these grants are means tested.

For an application form please email the Clerk:
clerk@fornhamallsaintspc.org.uk

Please register your interest before 1st March 2024.

Foodbanks

If you are having trouble affording food, you can contact your local food bank. They supply emergency food and support.

Our local foodbank is Gatehouse, and can be contacted on;

01284 754967 or email: info@gatehouse.org.uk

www.gatehouse.org.uk

Another great local resource is Still Good Food, based in;

Elsey's Yard, Risbygate Street, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 3AA

&

Freedom Church, Mill Road, Great Barton, IP31 2RU

email: hello@stillgoodfood.org

www.stillgoodfood.org



THE NEXT RURAL COFFEE CARAVAN,
WILL BE WEDNESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY
10.00AM - 12.00PM

THE ONE AFTER WILL BE WEDNESDAY 6TH
MARCH, 10.00AM - 12.00PM

BOTH HELD AT THINGOE LODGE

Everyone welcome for a coffee, cake and chat

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL
THERE!!

www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk

Facebook

What do you know of Facebook? Is it a type of social media that wants to know all about you, where you live, your job, your family?

Or is it a source of valuable information, somewhere you can look for support, information as to what is going on in our local town, what is happening with our local MP, what is happening in our local council. You can buy and sell items, you can look at your favourite shop, and read comments on what people have purchased.

We have our own Facebook page, where agendas, and minutes of our Parish Council meetings are posted, as well as a wealth of other local information such as bin collection dates, potential road closures, and planning information.

If you join Facebook, you don't require a photo, you can use a different name, so don't feel you are opening yourself up to the world.

Look at www.facebook.com and type in Fornham All Saints Parish Council.



Jill Mayhew, Parish Councillor

Mobile Library

Dates & Times for 2024:

February 27th
March 26th
April 23rd
May 21st
June 18th
July 16th
August 13th
September 10th
October 8th
November 5th
December 3rd

Thingoe Lodge
12:35 – 12:55pm

Parish Church
13:00 – 13:20pm

For more information, visit the Suffolk Libraries website:

www.suffolklibraries.co.uk



Tales from Thingoe Lodge

2023 was quite uneventful at Thingoe Lodge. We had our usual visit from the bee orchids in spring, they've been a regular visitor here for the past few years.

The main problem with the garden was the disintegration of the old raised flower beds, which caused us to lose a number of plants. Finally, after many requests, the debris left by the old beds was removed and we now have new ones in place, ready for this spring/summer.

The other problem in the garden was the dead tree at the front of the garden. It was quite a concern, particularly during the recent high winds. Fortunately, it has now been removed.

The charity chosen for our fund raising during the year was the Rural Coffee Caravan. They are a wonderful resource for information, particularly to the older generation. We welcome them here at the lodge during the winter months and alternate with the village hall in the summer, the first Wednesday of each month.

The funds were raised by a number of means, raffles, craft sales, donations and our autumn fete. The total raised was £1,642.88. A huge thank you to Sheila Bryant whose craft work contributed greatly to our total.

A very happy new year.

The Thingoe Folk



Fornham All Saints Open Gardens

Sunday 9th June, 2024

If you would like to show your
garden this year, please contact

Paul or Mary Purnell

01284 763701

pandmp@talktalk.net



Vacancy – Bothy Assistant
Fullers Mill Gardens, West Stow

Fullers Mill Gardens are seeking a café/shop assistant
to join their small friendly team

Wed 1-5.30pm
Fri, Sat & Sun 10am-5.30pm

The Role

Assist with the smooth running of the café/shop. Delivering excellent customer service, you will welcome visitors to the site, serve refreshments, take payments and handle cash. You'll ensure the food areas are of the highest possible level of cleanliness and hygiene, ensuring start and end of day procedures are completed

£10.42 per hour

Job description and application: www.perennial.org.uk

Fornham All Saints Parish Council

DRAFT Minutes of the Fornham All Saints Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 16th January 2024.

These draft minutes will be approved at the next meeting of the Parish Council in February.

Present:

Councillor Martin Loveridge (ML) (Chair) along with Councillors Cathy Emerson (CE) (Vice Chair), Jill Mayhew (JM), Mat Stewart (MS), Hugo Greer-Walker (HGW) and Don Lynch (DL).
Borough Councillors Sarah Broughton (SB) and Rebecca Hopfensperger (RH); Locum Clerk and Financial Officer Linda Harley (LH); newly appointed Clerk Justin Hook (JH); 12 members of the public.

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

Special welcome to Roger Dicker, Chair of West Suffolk Council.

Welcome to Justin Hook, newly appointed Parish Clerk as of 17th January 2024, following employment as Council Administrator since 2nd January 2024.

Locum Clerk Linda Harley staying on until 13th February 2024.

No apologies received.

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. Council to consider co-opting Derek Brown (DB) onto the Council and complete forms.

ML proposed co-opting Derek Brown as Parish Councillor, CE seconded, unanimous decision.

Derek Brown joined the table as Parish Councillor.

4. To approve & adopt the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 21st November 2023.

ML noted small error brought to his attention by email, section 9, subsection 6 - that fundraising was for the whole village and not the village hall.

ML proposed to accept changes to the minutes, JM seconded, unanimous decision.

5. Review of actions from previous meeting if not covered on the agenda.

ML withdrew previous comments regarding MUGA, as actually community centre issue.

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

Councillor Hopfensperger reported on the arranging of a planning meeting with WSC, seeking advice and support regarding planning issues at All Saints Hotel and the need for a master plan for the site. 3 applications and 1 appeal have recently been withdrawn. Expecting to hear news of a meeting mid to end Feb.

Application for new entrance has gone to panel and to the development control committee for review likely Feb/Mar.

A new local plan will be out for consultation at the end of Jan. The Parish Council to have a collective response and encourage all residents to have their say.

SCC budgets under scrutiny, savings to be had from museum and arts, and the movement of Records Office to Ipswich, now Western Way development not happening.

Compiègne Way is an ongoing issue. Vast amounts of water have been removed in order to access and repair the pumps. Vandalism of the tank has added to the issues. Councillors pushing for more sustainable solution and checking to see if the West Suffolk Operational Hub has in fact compounded the issues. Damaged railway bridge has been reported.

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

Councillor Sarah Broughton reiterated importance of local plan for residents and acknowledged severity of potholes through Great Barton due to increased traffic from the Compiègne Way closures.

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

- i. FSM resident raised concerns over All Saints Hotel chipping away at the golf course and valuable Lark Valley green space stating 'death by 1000 cuts.'

Suggested villagers to muster all support to push for a master plan and to question what is the developer doing for the community.

ML commented that residents are concerned about what is to come and deserve a master plan.

- ii. Resident commented on state of footpath from Pigeon Lane to Marham Park and back up to the roundabout, and the need for bushes/vegetation to be cut back.

HGW has made contact with owners but not much traction. Suggest reporting to council. ML suggested this could be part of future volunteering works.

HGW has requested skirting back work to be included in Active Travel Plan.

Action: HGW to submit a formal request for skirting back work to be completed by WSC, via the Clerk.

- iii. Resident raised concerns regarding the hedges along verge from community centre to Marham Park, regarding visibility.

ML suggested volunteering base could tackle some of these issues

- iv. FSM resident agreed joined up sentiment between villages was good. Highlighted confusion over application for new entrance to All Saints Hotel under 'land off the street,' where clearly part of main All Saints Hotel planning address - requires enforcement.

ML confirmed meeting is being arranged with WSC to alleviate anxiety and rumours.

9. Council to discuss the following planning applications:
- i. **DC/22/1887/FUL, Land off, The Street, Fornham All Saints**
Re-consultation - Create access into All Saints Golf and Country Club
Application has gone to committee which will be open to public.
Councillors concerned for; lack of lighting, the fact that the entrance position has moved, incorrect/misleading traffic count.
Action: MS & planning team to consult and resubmit PC response prior to new extension date of 21st January 2024
 - ii. **DC/23/1885/FUL, All Saints Hotel, The Street, Fornham St Genevieve**
Change of use of part of golf course for the siting of 9 caravan lodge holiday homes
Application withdrawn.
 - iii. **DC/23/2102/TCA, Cleves Cottage, 24 Hengrave Road**
a. 1 Atlas Cedar reduce lower limbs nearest to house by three metres and reduce upper branches to shape; b. 1 Silver Birch overall crown reduction by one metre to clear overhead lines; c. 1 Prunus overall crown reduction by one metre to clear overhead lines
ML proposed support of application, CE seconded, unanimous decision.
 - iv. **DC/23/2089/HH, 6 Pound Meadow**
Single Storey rear extension
ML proposed support of application, JM seconded, unanimous decision.
10. To receive reports from Councillors:
- a. **Traffic / Roads / VASs / Signs - Don Lynch and Hugo Greer-Walker**
DL - RH has ANPR figures from previous period.
Proposing new video be made to highlight traffic

issues. Increased heavy load vehicles, possibly due to Compiègne Way closures. Suggesting another lorry watch in the future.

HGW - quiet lane sign being sorted, Tut Hill gate has been mended.

Action: HGW to report fallen sign opp. Larks Gate.

b. Volunteering - Hugo Greer-Walker

ML & MS have attended SCC training course for working by the highway. Expecting volunteering to start in the spring.

HGW organising and applying for tools and kit.

DL suggested possibly using Community Service for some works.

Action: MS to investigate use of Community Service.

c. Assets Management / Allotments - Martin Loveridge

Skate park has been serviced, 1 screw missing and to be fixed

Trees in churchyard complete, neighbouring property is satisfied.

Allotments meeting held & David Surman (DS) elected Chair of the Allotment Management Committee.

ITEM BROUGHT FORWARD

13. Note report received following skate and play park inspection.

Inspection highlighted low or very low risk. Risk noted.

ITEM BROUGHT FORWARD

14. Allotments - report from initial AGM and way forward.

DS - main points from meeting were that an allotment management committee has been set up, with DS as the chair and others alongside to help. Rules and regulations to be reviewed. Rent increase accepted of £2 per annum, per quarter plot from 2025. Agreed all members to join National Allotment Society for £1 cost, plus £3 yearly. Some plot holders refused. Gathering of plot holder addresses and contact details almost complete, to improve

communications.

- d. Local Businesses & Residents/ Active Travel / De-fib- Cathy Emerson

CE de-fib all good, working with Enid Gathercole (EG) regarding de-fib at the community centre. New councillors pack first draft completed.

- e. Social Issues / Rural Coffee Caravan / Village Voice - Jill Mayhew

Most things from Thingoe Lodge meeting have been addressed. Rural Coffee Caravan all good, dates secured. Village Voice all good.

Action: DB to provide photo and bio for Village Voice.

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

Not heard anything from Marham Park. RH contacted WSC for new contact. Still considering path up Tut Hill. Replanting to be chased up. Village Hall no news. River Lark/Anglian Water - meeting has been arranged to discuss continued pollution of the Lark.

ITEM BROUGHT FORWARD

12. Community centre project brief for Parish Council

Paul Purnell (PP) proposed parking area outside gates too small and a draft plan has been drawn up to move existing fencing back and create a larger area of tarmac with space for up to 8 cars and a third bottle bank, following bottle bank relocation.

3 quotes have been submitted, £13,800 / £14,000 and £19,000 with the £14,000 quote being preferable. Timescales looking at before end of April for start of car boot sale season.

Community centre seeking permission and funding from PC. Suggestion came forward for an EV charging point. ML suggested external funding critical as this project not in the PC budget.

Action: CE to arrange a daylight visit with councillors so that PP and EG can talk through and show the proposals.

Action: PP to look at external funding - possibly RH and SB locality budgets.

15 MINUTE PAUSE TO DISCUSS ISSUES AFFECTING THE VILLAGE WITH ROGER DICKER

Meeting reconvened

11. Finance & Policy:

- a. To consider and approve payment of the following accounts and outstanding invoices:

Payee & details	Total	Power to Pay*
J Hook Newsletter compilation and editing	£250.00	1
C Mason Backdated salary payment	£280.00	2
A I Play Solution Ltd Repairs to skate park	£480.00	3
Community Workshop Ltd Printing Village Voice	£254.82	1
Linda Harley Locum Clerk and Financial Officer	£1440.00	2
Stuart Langston Arboricultural Specialist Work to Ash tree in churchyard	£450.00	4
Total Payments	£3154.82	

*Power to Pay

1 Local Government Act 1972, s.142

2 Local Government Act 1972, s.112

3 Public Health Act 1875, s.164

4 Local Government Act 1972, s.215

ML proposed to pay accounts in full as discussed, CE seconded, unanimous decision.

- b. To receive bank balances to 31st December 2024:

RBoS Current Account	£227.58
RBoS Gold Deposit Account	£28,124.30
RBoS Treasurers Account (Village Voice)	£1081.65
RBoS All Saints Charities (statement to 30/12/23)	£1838.87
RBoS All Saints Charities Instant Access Account (statement to 30/12/23)	£30.84

- c. To discuss and approve the budget for the financial year 2024-25.

The Council fully discussed all items in the 2024/25 budget taking into account the reserves.

Draft Budget 2024/25		
1	Administration	
	Clerk's salary	£9,000.00
	Clerks additional salary for CiLCA qualification	£1,095.00
	Clerk allowance for home working and own laptop use	£712.00
	Elections	£0.00
	Admin Expenses	£400.00
	FAS Website	£400.00
	ICO Membership (Data protection)	£40.00
	Insurance	£2,000.00
	Audit (internal and external)	£600.00
	Councillor Training	£712.00
	Hall hire	£0.00
	Subscription to SALC	£400.00
	Chairman's allowance	£200.00

	Village Voice expenses	£1,300.00
	Litter Picking	£200.00
	Total	£17,059.00
2	Donations under Local Government Act s.137	
	Community Centre and Village Hall	£0.00
	Donations and Grants	£2,000.00
	Total	£2,000.00
3	Asset Management	
	Skate park	£1,000.00
	Play equipment	£1,000.00
	Street Furniture (managing assets)	£500.00
	Defibrillator	£500.00
	VAS	£500.00
	Total	£3,500.00
4	Open Spaces / Planting	
	Total	£750.00
5	Churchyard	
	Grass cutting	£1,300.00
	Wall repairs/resurfacing	£0.00
	Total	£1,300.00
6	Allotments	
	Total	£500.00
	Total Expenditure	£25,109.00

ML proposed to accept the budget of £25,109.00 as detailed, CE seconded, unanimous decision.

- d. To discuss and agree the precept for the financial year 2024-25.

ML proposed to accept no changes to the precept from the previous year of £25,109.00 as detailed, CE seconded, unanimous decision.

- e. Consider ground maintenance contract for 2024-25 for the church yard.

ML proposed to accept 1 year ground maintenance contract from WSC for £1293.52 +Vat, JM seconded, DB abstained, unanimous decision.

- f. Council to appoint an internal auditor.

ML proposed the appointment of SALC as the internal auditor, CE seconded, unanimous decision.

15. Update on website management.

Village Voice to be added to website. ML & JH to have discussion re: website content. CE working on some village information to be included.

Action: DS to provide allotment update for Village Voice

Following an in depth discussion regarding who should be able to update the website the council considered that it would be much fairer if only the Clerk can make changes.

ML proposed the Clerk be the only person with access to the website, CE seconded, unanimous decision.

16. Correspondence not already covered on the agenda - Email from resident concerning website 2/12/23.

Action: ML to respond.

Meeting closed to public 20:10pm

FAS PC

**JOIN
HELP!**

VOLUNTEER

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL NEEDS

YOU

ALFRED
LEEZE

**CALL
MARTIN 07784 225375**

Community Centre Diary

Activity	Date	Times
Table Tennis Club Martin - 07784 225375	Monday nights	7:00pm to 9:00pm
Upholstery Cindy: 07969 863616	Every Monday & Wednesday	9:00am to 3:00pm
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	1:45am 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 for 4:00pm
iPad Club	Every 4th Tuesday in month	2:00pm for 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 - 4:00pm
Drumming Moira: 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

Fornham St Martin Ladies Club

October Meeting

On Wednesday 6th December we met at the West Suffolk College St. Edmund Restaurant for our annual Christmas lunch. Prepared and served by the catering students, we all enjoyed a most delicious lunch.

Novelty Ferrero Rocher hats made by Julia (we learnt how to make these at Louise's November craft session) were given to each member. A lot of happy chatter was exchanged and we enjoyed a convivial few hours. Also, a raffle was held. Thanks to Julia for all her efforts in arranging this year's festive feast.

The next meeting of the Ladies Club will be 17th January 2024 when Mark Ellis will be speaking on "Modern Day Policing"

New members are very welcome. Please contact 01284 767372 or 01284 766098 for further information.

Heather Long

Heather Long

Friends Of The Village Hall News

December started with our annual Christmas dinner. Prosecco to start followed by three courses and coffee with a mince pie. This was subsidised by the club.

Fornham Footers

November saw us in Newmarket with a walk around the town and lunch in a local pub. Some of us travelling there and back by bus.

January was our eighth year walking in Cambridge in the winter months.

This year we took the P & R bus to near the football ground, then the path by the Leper Chapel to the river, walking all the way to Magdalene Bridge, stopping off at Fort St George Inn for a very convivial lunch. The river was in full flood with the path flooded under the bridge in one place.



Please get in touch with me if you would like to be included in our walks.

I hope to include the history of our Cambridge walks in later village voices.

Next walks Fridays 2nd Feb. & 1st Mar.

Film Club

December is a no film month. In January we will be watching "Village of the Damned." Ten months after the small Californian town of Midwich was struck by a mysterious event during

which everyone in the village fell unconscious at the same time, ten local women give birth on the same day. The calm and unemotional children grow at an abnormally fast rate.

Next film nights are at 7.30pm on Tuesdays 27th Feb. & 26th Mar.

We welcome new members.

Mahjong

We meet twice a month at 9.30am on a Monday morning. Experts and beginners (tuition available) are both welcome to our meetings.

£2 table money inc. refreshments.

Next games on Mondays at 9.30am on 12th & 26th Feb. and 11th & 25th Mar.

Please contact either Lynne 766909 or Mary 763701

Traveller's Tales

There was a very disappointing turn out for our January illustrated talk. In March 2011, Howard & Lynne travelled to Syria. The war was soon to start in earnest, but the holiday was not cancelled. Krak des Chevalier's: Saladin's Castle: Ugarit, where the first alphabet was found on clay tablets; Aleppo; Hamas & Homs; Palmyra; Ma'loula, where we heard the Lord's Prayer in Aramaic, the language spoken by Jesus; Bosra and Damascus were all on the itinerary.



Krak des Chevaliers



Afamia



Aleppo

Next time at 7.30pm on Thur. 7th Mar., watch the village noticeboards to discover where we will be travelling to next.

Non-members £5 inc. refreshments.

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



Would you be interested in playing darts in the village hall? Either during the day or evening?

*Or a board games afternoon.....
scrabble, monopoly, cluedo or.....?*

*Or a knit/crochet/sew morning/
afternoon?*

As always my contact details are below.

*I always welcome new ideas for groups
connected to the "Friends"*

Please contact:

Lynne 01284 766909 or lynne.quayle99@btinternet.com

The joining fee is £5 for a half year up to the end of April to belong to the "friends" + other club subs.

Lynne Quayle

Lynne Quayle

Fornham All Saints Church News



Our first service of the year was to celebrate the arrival of the Kings. Many attended this family service, with Gail leading the proceedings and the band providing the music. Our thanks go to Skye and Oscar who were our Kings and played their part extremely well.

At the end of the service John thanked the band and presented them with gifts to show our appreciation for their time and talent. Kim and Emma were introduced to our church about 9 years ago by our Curate at that time, Rev Carl Melville. Immediately Kim and Emma along with Carl introduced a different form of worship, bringing joy and music to our services. Julie Heard joined the band with her keyboard and organ skills. Soon we had younger members joining, with Theo and Anna Keilesky adding their skills. More recently Claire and Skye have joined and it is lovely to have someone from the village playing. The band rehearse on the day before our Sunday worship and they all travel a distance to be with us. Their music really does make a difference to our worship so thank you Kim, Emma, Steve, Claire and Skye.



The Green Man

Stand in the porch you will find this face, but be careful and mind the step. The Green Man or “foliate head” has been traced back to Roman art of the first century AD but the mythical figure has been around since pagan times. They can be found carved in all sorts of places, for example, on roof bosses, corbels, capitals, fonts, screens and bench ends. If you wish to go further afield, St Marys Church, Bury St

Edmunds has a green man on the outside wall. There are suggestions as to why medieval craftsmen carved these figures, one is that the carvings represented the “Jack in the Green Figure of the May celebrations, symbolising the renewal of life in spring. If you wish to read more about the Green Man then look for a yellow booklet on the table just inside the church, where you will be able to read further.



Services in February at Fornham All Saints Church:

February 4th | 10.00am | Family Service

February 14th | 7.00pm | Ash Wednesday Service

February 18th | 10.00am | Holy Communion

March 3rd | 10.00am | Family Service

March 17th | 10.00am | Holy Communion

Judith Scott & John Grinham

Judith Scott & John Grinham, Acting Church Wardens

Fornham All Saints WI

In November Catherine Buchanan came to tell us about 20th Century Women of Bury St Edmunds.

Starting with Victorian novelist 'Ouida', born Marie Louise Ramé, who was the best selling woman novelist of her day, writing 'bodice rippers'! Born on Hospital Road, she moved to London aged 18. Despite her success, her lavish lifestyle left her penniless and she died in poverty in Italy. There is a monument to her in BSE.

Novelist Norah Lofts, grew up in BSE and trained as a teacher. She also wrote under the names of Peter Curtis and Juliet Ashley, specialising in historical fiction, some mysteries and non fiction. She lived in Northgate House on Northgate Street (there is a blue plaque outside) and became a town Councillor fighting to stop the threatened demolition of the Corn Exchange. She is buried under the name of Norah Jorish, name of her second husband.

Ella Joyce Cockram MD who did so much for the town. She was the first female doctor in the BSE, moving here in 1927 and joining Angel Hill Surgery. She set up the first blood bank and was a diabetes specialist. There is a ward named after in West Suffolk Hospital and a plaque in the Cathedral.

Artist Rose Mead was born in Hatter Street and was exhibited at the Royal Academy. She studied at Lincoln School of Art and enjoyed painting portraits and landscapes. She designed costumes and postcards for the 1907 Pageant. There is a blue plaque outside her studio in Crown Street.

Eva Wolleston Green was the first female mayor and first female magistrate of BSE. She moved to BSE when she married and they lived in what is now the Farmers' Club.

Winifred Challis was one of the 500 WW2 civilian diarists who kept a detailed diary on what it was really like to live in wartime Suffolk for the social research organisation. Her thorough

commentaries of every day experiences and the feelings and attitudes of those around her have been published. She lived on Guildhall Street and eventually retired in Newmarket.

Catherine asked us, what was our past President ATA pilot Eleanor Wadsworth who delivered war planes during WW2, really like! Those of us who had known Eleanor for some years gave her our thoughts. Eleanor flew many types of aircraft, her favourite was the Spitfire which she flew over 130 times. She was one of the first women in UK to be trained as an architect, and whilst working as an architectural assistant for the Air Transport Auxiliary she answered a call for untrained pilots. Eleanor worked for Greene King after the war and was 103 when she died.

All amazing inspirational ladies!

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 tittle 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 2024.

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!

Community Council Committee

Minutes for Community Council Committee Meeting –
Tuesday 28th November 2023 at 6.30pm

Attendees:

Enid Gathercole (EG) (Chair), Virginia Comely (VC) (Secretary),
Alwyn Evans (AE) (Treasurer), Daphne Wilding (DW), Paul
Purnell (PP), Kyra Turner (KT) (Committee Members), Chris
Caborn (Bowls club representative)

1. Apologies for Absence
Robin Southgate (Bowls Club Representative) and Jane
Land (JL) (Committee Member)
2. Review Minutes of last Meeting – 3 October 23
 - a. Minutes were reviewed and agreed.
3. Hall Booking Update – EG
 - a. Bookings going well. Enquiries still going well with the
hall being booked with the regular clubs and parties at
the weekends.
4. Treasurer Update – AE
 - a. Total income 30.09.22 to 30.09.23 – £19645.49
Expenses £11417.06 = £8751.93 Net Income.
 - b. Regarding payment for extending the parking area -
once approved - 32 days notice will need to be given
on the savings account to release funds. Final approval
for the work to commence needs to be given by Parish
Council and the Community Council will be asked to
contribute towards this.
 - c. Agreement has finally been made with the hirer of the
portacabin - £1500 up to 30 May 23. Paying £1000 per
annum. AE gone back go quarterly billing and £300 per
quarter - £1200 per annum. 20% increase. AE reported
£3 per hour electricity cost. There is a spare meter so
we can see what is being used by the portacabin and
reassess.

- d. Cheque from Art Club still to be sorted ACTION: AE
NOW SORTED
 - e. Zurich insurance claim regarding damaged door .
Three quotes have been obtained and it was agreed to repair the door rather than replace. Maximum Vision will be come and repair the door at a price of £631.00. Committee agreed to this expenditure and order will be placed by VC.
 - f. Card Reader – need reader and mobile phone to activate. AE has contacted SumUp & Lloyds. Lloyds want to interview us to get a reader, so agreed to go with SumUp as easier to organise. Mainly used for car boot sales. £29 for a card reader and they take 1.69% of every transaction. No minimum fee. Committee agreed to AE obtaining card reader.
 - g. AE has emailed regarding the electric charging points but not had any responses. AE advised that there is a new release of funding for electric charging points – Levi funded phase two plug in socket. (Installed in Risby). Plug IN Suffolk. It is hoped this will tie in with work on revamping of the car parking. A question was raised as to who owns the land. It is understood that it belongs to the Charities along with the allotments and the farmed land next to the allotments. EG will look into the Archives to find out who built the Community Centre and if there is anything on the land registry.
ACTION: EG
 - h. Meter Readings – needs to do a reading and then will do an analysis and report back next time – ONGOING
 - i. Defibrillator – money was being set aside for this. EG to investigate this. ONGOING
5. Hall & Ground Maintenance/Future Facilities
- a. Maintenance is up to date.
 - b. Extending the Car parking area – PP has obtained 3 quotes – all 3 subletting some of the work. The Committee agreed to go with the one that PP approves once agreement received from the Parish

Council. Grants will also be sourced to pay for some of the costs.

- c. Painting of the hall is still ongoing. Having trouble getting hold of existing painter so we are going to find someone else to finish off the job. ACTION: EG
 - d. Main Door to hall needs repairing. See Item 4e above. ONGOING
 - e. A request has been made for two goalposts. Keen to leave at one at the moment to stop too many footballers coming onto the field. EG to contact Five Acres to see if any stray balls are still heading in their way. ACTION: EG
 - f. Future Facilities – Extension work to the building, CAD drawings now done. Now got black on white drawings. Submitted a pre application for a meeting with the planning office. £247 including VAT. Committee agreed to expenditure. PP will pay direct and claim back. ACTION: PP
 - g. EG will order new tables. ACTION: EG – Ongoing
 - h. Cooker has now been replaced and installed. COMPLETED
6. Bottle Bank Recycling – EG has contacted the bottle bank company and they agree to moving as it would make it easier for them to empty. These will be relocated once new parking area is completed. ONGOING
7. Any Other Business
- a. Car boots – It was decided to carry on with car boots for another year. VC to find out when Great Barton are holding their car boots – is this every month. ACTION: VC
 - b. Extension Work for Community Centre – It was agreed that once the initial planning meeting had been held and future extension work is agreed viable, an article will be put in the Village Magazine asking for thoughts and ideas for the future of the hall. Users of the Community Centre will also be asked for their opinions on the plans.

- c. £576.60 has been received for recycling payment (April 23 to Sept 23) from the bottle bank.
 - d. A plumber is required to repair the ladies toilet.
ACTION; EG/PP
 - e. Electrician needs to be asked to check the automatic lights in main lobby as these do not seem to stay on as long as they used to.
8. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 30th January 24 at 6.30pm.



Coming
Back Soon



CAR BOOT SALES

Boot sale season starts again soon!
Sunday 27th April, 7am - 12noon

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Future Dates: 26th May | 30th June
28th July | 25th August | 29th September

Community Centre Quiz Night

On December 1st, in the community centre I organised a Christmas Quiz. We had the quiz last year, which was excellent, but this year it was even better as it did not happen on the same day as a cup final football match, (will not do that again).

The centre was set up firstly with large tables, then because of the amount of tables needed we had to change to smaller tables. Centre all set ready to go, and our excellent Quiz Master, Mark Ellis all set up ready to go, we awaited the teams to start coming in. Teams arriving, boiler on ready for coffee or tea and cake, the evening got started. We had no more than 4 to a team, to keep it fair and square.

Ten different quiz questions, with a very interesting points system. Lots of banter from the teams to our Quiz Master, but Mark can hold his own.

It really was a fun evening, we also had a bucket raffle which raised £107, which went to who was on a table of 4, Mr & Mrs Derek Brown, and Mr & Mrs Loveridge and they decided to give the money back to me to give to the charity which was the Rural Coffee Caravan.

So a cheque for £252 was presented to the Charity at their next meeting, which they were very pleased to receive.

We hope to have a summer quiz and another one nearer Christmas, so watch this space.

Many thanks to all who supported us.

Enid

Enid Gathercole

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Caroline Jack tel: 07528927572 / 01284-725594

email: caroijack@gmail.com



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Local Services & Useful Contacts

Organisation	Details	Phone No.	Comments
Church	All Saints Parish Church www.northburchurches.org.uk	07990 834078 01284 760679	John Grinham Judith Scott
Cemetery	FAS Cemetery Trustees	01284 705029	P Elmes
Councils	St. Edmundsbury Borough Council www.westsuffolk.gov.uk	01284 763233	
	Suffolk County Council www.suffolk.gov.uk	0345 606 6067	
	Parish Council www.fornhamallsaints.suffolk.cloud		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.suffolkvillagehalls.co.uk	01284 767688	
	FAS Village Hall lynne.quayle99@btinternet.com	01284 766909	
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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Samaritans	Bury St Edmunds Samaritans www.samaritans.org	01284 750000 116 123	Local Rate Free
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