

Draft Minutes from Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 17th September 2024, 18:30, Fornham All Saints Community Centre

These draft minutes will be approved at the Parish Council Meeting on 15th October.

Present:

Cllr Martin Loveridge (ML) (Chair) and Cllrs Jill Mayhew (JM), Mat Stewart (MS), Don Lynch (DL), David Surman (DS) and Richard Nicholls (RN).

County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger (RH), Clerk Justin Hook (JH), and 8 members of the public.

Agenda Items

- Chairman's welcome, opening remarks and to receive apologies for absence
ML welcomed and thanked everybody for their attendance.
ML publicly thanked Cllr Cathy Emerson for her hard work, dedication and support, in her four years as Councillor and 12 months as Vice Chair. It was also noted that her husband had also been a great help and support along the way, and they were both wished all the best.
Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Derek Brown and District Cllr Sarah Broughton.
- (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.**
- To approve & adopt the minutes from the Council meeting held on the 16th July 2024 and the extraordinary meeting held on the 13th August 2024
Council resolved to approve two sets of minutes, with the amendment to July's minutes as identified.
- To receive County Councillor's report from Cllr. Rebecca Hopfensperger
RH advised the £500 million devolution deal for Suffolk is no longer happening and that government is looking for 'super' devolution deals, maybe Suffolk & Norfolk or the whole of East Anglia. More talks to follow.
RH confirmed it is unknown the effect this will have on the West Suffolk Hospital plans.
New, simpler domestic recycling programme to come into play in 2026 as part of national standardisation. To include glass and food waste, but black bin possibly only collected on a 3 weekly schedule. £5.5million cost to WSC to upgrade transfer stations.
ML questioned financial loss for communities with bottle banks. RH is raising this concern.
- To receive Borough Councillor's reports from Cllr. Sarah Broughton and Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger
Nothing further to report.
- Public open session up to 15 minutes - questions and issues on matters arising from the agenda and from the village
Resident raised concerns over state of footpath at bottom of Pigeon Lane - overgrown hedges and brambles need cutting back.
SCC responsibility.
Action: Clerk to raise on portal and advise RH, who will then follow up.
- Danger of golf balls to Pigeon Lane and B1106
Council to discuss follow up to concerns over planning for safety nets
ML showed full bucket of golf balls from just one resident's garden. 2 resident emails were read.

Residents spoke of wayward golf balls causing damage to conservatories, double glazed windows, double glazed doors, roof tiles, greenhouses, cars and solar panels. In the past, a child has sustained injuries from a stray golf ball hitting her leg and a residents cat was killed instantly after a stray golf ball hit it in the head.

Questions/points raised:

- When does it become a Health & Safety issue? / Who is responsible for the golf balls? Are the balls marked? / Do the golfers have insurance? / Little or no recourse from players, even if you do manage to catch them / Has it affected residents abilities to get insurance? / Has anybody had an insurance payout? / Has course layout changed? / Do the nets reflect these changes? / Ball technology has changed - balls being hit further/higher/harder / Do the residents agree with the idea of netting? / Has a golf specialist been consulted over what measures are required?

The Council agreed that any measures to limit stray golf balls, were better than nothing.

THE NEXT ITEMS WAS BROUGHT FORWARD

10. Planning:

iii. 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

Council resolved to SUPPORT this application, but do not consider these nets to be adequate to ensure safety of all residents of Pigeon Lane.

8. To receive reports from Councillors:

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

Nothing to report, VAS covered under item 17.

b. Volunteering - Martin Loveridge

Village green is looking good, flag pole now white, volunteer group enjoying working together and it seems to be encouraging others to take more pride in their own parts of the village.

RH passed on thanks from FMSG parish for the works to clear the path at their end of the village.

c. Facilities / Assets Management / Community Centre - Martin Loveridge

No major issues

Asset register to be updated with volunteering tools.

Community centre EV charging project has progressed to the next level and further meeting on 1st October.

No further plans on community centre building as yet.

Some minor play park requirements, to be covered under item 12.

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

Lark Valley path has now been cut.

e. Social Issues / Village Voice - Jill Mayhew

All good, great feedback on the Village Voice.

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

Anglian Water 5 year plan includes £9billion for improvements, so should see better water quality at treatment works and Pigeon Lane site.

g. Allotments - David Surman

Nothing major to report.

9. To receive Clerks report

Nothing to report that isn't included in agenda.

10. Planning:

- i. Council to receive any updates relating to previous planning matters;
Driver Training Facility / Outdoor Gym at DCC / Entrance on B1106
Highways have produced a report on driver training centre which is not favourable. Outdoor gym has been approved at DCC. Entrance from B1106 still with planning inspectorate.
- ii. **DC/24/1091/FUL**
All Saints Hotel The Street Fornham St Genevieve Suffolk IP28 6JQ
Planning application - parking area for 15no. cars
Council resolved to SUPPORT this application.
- iii. **COVERED PREVIOUSLY IN MEETING**
- iv. **DC/24/1242/TCA**
1 Golton Cottages The Street Fornham All Saints Suffolk IP28 6JN
Trees in a conservation area notification - one Cherry (T1 on plan) reduce overall height by up to four meters
Council resolved to SUPPORT this application.
- v. **DC/24/1135/FUL**
Pumping Station Pigeon Lane Fornham All Saints Suffolk
Planning application - construction and operation of a micro energy storage site
Council resolved to SUPPORT this application.

11. Finance update

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

Payee & details	Total
J Hook, Clerks salary, July	£557.73
Nest, Clerks pension, July	£9.75
J Hook, Clerks salary, August (inc. Fuel Charity hours)	£783.07
Nest, Clerks pension, August	£30.51
Community Workshop, Village Voice printing	£273.65
D Brown, Cllr expenses, tool shed	£42.20
ICO, data protection fee	£35.00
SALC, Clerk training	£72.00
SALC, payroll services	£82.80
SALC, annual subscription	£326.30
M Loveridge, Chairs expenses, volunteering & tools	£88.09
Total Payments	£2301.10

- ii. Council noted bank balances correct to 31st August (unless stated otherwise)

Current	£287.99
Savings	£49,469.40
Total Bank Balance	£49,757.39

- iii. **Council resolved to approve bank reconciliation for July-August 2024.**
- iv. Banking update: RBS not currently offering bankline for dual authorisation
Council to consider switching current account to Unity Trust Bank, with an instant access savings account running alongside, with higher interest rates than RBS
Council resolved to switch banking to Unity Trust Bank.
- v. Council to consider plans to transfer £25k to fixed 6 month savings account for increased return. This would leave £10k in the reserves pot and circa £15k to

cover running costs, which so far have been £4.5k for 4 months

Council agreed to put this project on hold whilst banking supplier is changed.

12. Skate & play park inspections

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

Two items need replacement - seat on see-saw and snowboard on the trail. DB has had a quote from WSC preferred supplier, Wicksteed for £416.20 to supply parts. DB competent to fit.

Council resolved for parts to be purchased and DB to fit.

13. Lark Valley Path

Council to discuss paying for an extra cut of the Lark Valley Path between Sheepwash Bridge and Hengrave. Cost £200

Potential meeting with RoW Officer and other local Parish Councils to discuss joined up efforts

RN confirmed path has now been cut and that 1.5m is good but not always possible where river bank and fence restrict path width.

Falling fencing is causing some problems, path is also eroding in places.

Council agreed path is valuable asset for the village and to review extra cuts in spring 2025.

Action: Clerk and RN to liaise re: identifying land owner and reaching out for fences to be restored/removed.

14. Other updates

i. Road sign refurbishment

RH ordering in person this month and her contact Andy will fit.

ii. Facilities map / grass cutting

Resident reporting another area in Dairy Drive to confirm responsibility of.

Action: Clerk to investigate.

Potential fly tipping at end of Pound Meadow.

Action: MS to have a word with neighbours.

iii. Community Centre EV charging contract

Ongoing.

iv. Village emergency plan

DS/JM to create working party to review. BH advised to seek WSC help/guidance.

v. Overgrown pavements

A1101 ongoing issue, B1106 been cut by David Harris.

Clerk has been in touch with SCC who have advised permissions likely available for Council to have their own chosen contractor carry out works in the village.

Action: Clerk to investigate.

vi. Craft & Connect

Not going to proceed.

vii. Party on The Green

Event was cancelled.

viii. Petanque

Clerk followed up, no response from resident.

15. Parish Council Minutes

Council to consider no longer posting minutes to village noticeboards, instead having a website address and QR code, linking to the online minutes

Council resolved that full minutes need not be placed on the notice boards, as available online and printed in the Village Voice.

16. Village Voice - Adobe InDesign Software

Council to discuss Clerks request for £21.98 per issue (6 per annum) to cover cost of publishing software (previously self-funded). FSMMSG to share cost by covering the other 6 months

Council resolved to pay the Clerk £21.98 per issue (x6), towards cost of publishing software.

17. Updating VAS Equipment

Council to discuss potential third VAS unit by Larks Gate and consider if existing VAS units could be upgraded to solar power. Cost of new solar powered unit £2580, delivered

Quote received for £1006.15 for solar powered upgrades to 2 existing units.

Council resolved to purchase a new solar powered VAS unit for Larks Gate and arrange for 2 x solar powered upgrades to the existing units.

RH agreed to cover the cost of these items under her's and Cllr Broughton's locality budgets.

Action: Clerk to send details and quotations to RH for funding.

18. Insurance

Council to review insurance renewal quote from AJG for £1607.59 to ensure correct level of cover

Highlighted missing skate park, previous claim, incorrect population - awaiting revised quote, but locked in to three year term. Cover £182k, asset register £142k

Action: Clerk to ensure that community centre has its own insurance and whether they insure the play park & skate park.

Council resolved that it had reviewed the updated insurance quotation against the asset register and that it was happy to renew.

19. .gov.uk domain and emails

Council to discuss moving to a .gov.uk domain name with associated email addresses for all Councillors. Costs (incorporating governments £100 funding):

£10 for domain registration for 3 years and circa. £25 per month for up to 50 email addresses. New website circa £750

Council resolved to move to a .gov.uk domain with associated email addresses.

20. Correspondence

i. Resident email: Moseleys field

Clerk advised it was an archaeological dig and to revert to Local Plan.

ii. Resident email: suggestion for defib training for villagers

Council agreed this would be a good idea once the defib at the community centre is purchased.

JM advised previous training has been provided by HeartBeat.

Action: DB to liaise with community centre re: defib, and Council to investigate training once that has been sorted.

JM advised postcode on current defib illegible.

Action: JM to speak to Enid Gathercole to address.

iii. Resident email: orchard pruning and harvesting

RN advised waiting for WSC to mow the orchard, at which point the trees are more accessible, however there does not appear to be much fruit.

RH advised trees were heritage varieties and meant to be 'wild' hence no pruning.

iv. Resident email: follow up to rent review and rent increase for Fuel Charity field
To cover in Trustees meeting.

v. Resident email: dogs fouling on the allotments

To cover in Trustees meeting.

21. Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th October 2024, commencing at 18:30 in the Community Centre

At the end of the meeting the Chairman announced that sadly he would be resigning as Chairman and Councillor due to increasing family commitments. He will continue to carry out his duties until the next meeting on the 15th of October.

Meeting closed 20:10

..... Sign & date

..... Print name

Chairman

Signed as confirmation that they are a true record.