

Approved Minutes from AGM and Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 21st May 2024, 18:00, Fornham All Saints Community Centre

Present:

Cllr Martin Loveridge (ML) (Chair), Cllr Cathy Emerson (CE) (Vice Chair) and Cllrs Jill Mayhew (JM), Mat Stewart (MS), Don Lynch (DL) Derek Brown (DB) and David Surman (DS).

County Cllr Beccy Hopfensperger (BH), Borough Cllr Sarah Broughton (SB), Clerk Justin Hook (JH) and 32 members of the public.

Agenda Items

1. Council to elect Chairman
ML nominated as Chairman, ML accepted, no other nominations.
ML proposed to be re-elected as Chair, CE seconded, unanimous decision.
2. Council to elect Vice-Chairman
CE nominated as Vice-Chairman, CE accepted, no other nominations.
ML proposed to re-elect CE as Vice Chair, JM seconded, unanimous decision.
3. Signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Register of Interests
ML and CE signed Declarations of Acceptance.
4. Council to appoint Responsible Financial Officer
ML proposed to appoint the Clerk, Justin Hook as Responsible Financial Officer, CE seconded, unanimous decision.
5. Chairman's welcome, opening remarks and to receive apologies for absence
Apologies received from Sarah Broughton who will be joining later.
ML welcomed villagers and five members of the team from All Saints Hotel (AS).
ML thanked former Cllr Hugo Greer-Walker for his outstanding efforts and wished him well. New Cllr to join the team at the June meeting to complete the team of 8 Cllrs.
6. (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.**
7. To receive planning update from David Harris (DH) and team at AS
ML gave brief background on AS plans to become the first 5* hotel in Suffolk. There are numerous planning applications and enforcements currently in progress, and following a meeting held on 19th April between both Parish Councils and the AS team, a Master Plan has been proposed.
DH thanked ML for inviting the AS team and confirmed his intentions to give both parishes insight into the present and future plans for the AS site, through the provision of a Master Plan. In the 8 years of ownership, much work has been done to improve what was a very neglected operation. There are now 15 new lodges and a new bedroom wing, which allows AS to partner with the CLAAS Academy. AS currently employ 120 local people.
The individual applications come from the AS team, reflecting the needs of each department, not top-down from DH.
DH suggested that applications are often not fully understood, or misconstrued, leading to unwanted delays.
8. Public open session up to 30 minutes - questions and issues on matters arising from the agenda and from the village
ML Question: Is the Master Plan definitive?
DH - It provides a picture of where AS is at the moment, and it would be unwise to state 'that's it.' The Master Plan provides a present picture, with nothing new on the

horizon.

Resident 1 Question: The Mildenhall Road maintenance entrance is now being used for lodges, will the B1106 entrance be the same and result in lodges down the back of Pigeon Lane?

DH reiterated the need for maintenance entrance and that restrictions would be included for maintenance vehicles only, and that any future needs / changes would have to go through due planning process.

Resident questioned 11 years of not needing such an entrance.

DH blamed excessive rain and fall out from Marham Park drainage failures, and is happy to show anybody concerned how wet the course is.

Resident questioned was it DH's plan to put lodges down the back of Pigeon Lane?

DH acknowledged previous planning applications and that AS responded to village concerns and reduced overall qty. from 70 to just 15 lodges. DH stated none of the changes made to the AS site negatively affect residents, citing bar and restaurant improvements etc. as being positive.

ML surmised that extra traffic will affect the village.

Josh Harris, Head of Planning at AS asked if there were figures and %'s for traffic?

CE - yes.

ACTION: CE to share traffic data with AS/Josh Harris.

ML stated that minutes from the April meeting with AS suggested a full highways survey, however no action was attributed or taken.

DH suggested it was for the Parish Council to request highways survey if one was required.

BH corrected this stating the applicant (AS) is responsible for an independent traffic survey not the consultees (Parish Council).

Resident 2 Question: If flooding from Marham Park is an issue, what flooding prevention is being taken into consideration with current and future plans?

DH - there are plans to increase drainage and feed that into the river.

DH also stated Marham Park, David Lloyd and 20,000 new homes in Bury have potential to impact traffic in village, making AS a small issue in comparison.

MS Question: Back to flooding, has AS spoken to the Environment Agency (EA) re: effectiveness or ineffectiveness of the hydro brakes and drainage lagoon at marham park?

DH - yes, AS has been corresponding with EA.

ACTION: DH to share reports from EA.

Resident 3 Question: What is the need for the new entrance and which parts of the golf course is it required for?

DH - following the planting of the trees along the B1106, there is a need for access to maintain. The course is 80% floodplain which makes it difficult to get the maintenance vehicles to all areas.

CE - is there a need to mow if the course is flooded?

Hannah Cuthbertson, Sales Director at AS stated there is a need for ongoing course maintenance and access irrespective of flooding.

DH concluded there is a programme for future drainage improvement to the course.

DB Question: What's the frequency that the entrance will be used?

DH - 3-4 times a week.

BH Question: Regarding the Master Plan - it provides a good opportunity for residents to see the phased approach of the future planned developments, pods, tennis courts etc. - perhaps AS could provide rough timescales?

DH - all in the Master Plan.

ML - Master Plan will be going into next issue of the Village Voice.

Village event suggested to show Master Plan.

ACTION: AS to consider event request.

Resident 4 Question: Is the Mildenhall Road entrance still used for maintenance?

Answer was unclear.

ACTION: JH to seek further clarification from AS.

Resident 5 Question: How are residents to believe the plan based on past promises?

Concerns over inflated/ambiguous figures reported in press.

DH - happy to go through finances with anybody concerned.

ML Question: Would you provide written confirmation that no more lodges would be built on the golf course?

DH - not a question that can be answered. At present time only pods are planned in a location near to the hotel as per Master Plan, but there are no plans in the foreseeable future to build any further lodges.

ML concluded that any further questions for the Parish Council or AS ought be directed via email to the Clerk: clerk@fornhamallsaintspc.org.uk

SHORT BREAK FOR ATTENDEES TO LEAVE

9. To approve & adopt the minutes from the Council meeting held on the 16th April 2024

ML proposed to approve the minutes, CE seconded, unanimous decision.

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

BH encouraged people to use online reporting tool for highways issues, with help from the Clerk if required. She would then follow up and escalate any issues with a valid reference number. 0345 123 5000 for highways emergencies.

Generally roads not good due to wet weather and 158% increase in potholes. New contractor in place since November, investing in new machinery - Elastomast, cuts out larger areas and creates proper seals for larger patches and Dragon Patcher for increased efficiency and speed with auto-bond component.

BH pushing for better first fixes, and 'all done together' policy rather than multiple return site visits.

Verge cutting expected w/c 24th June, weed treatment expected w/c 8th July with Council reintroducing glyphosate only where safe and appropriate and on a limited basis.

Speeding: BH met with Tim Passmore, Crime Commissioner to talk about rural speeding and to push to lower criteria for enforcement action in rural areas, with a view to implement a rural speeding policy.

ACTION: CE to share VAS data with BH.

BH encouraged by new push for volunteering in the village and happy to help with Locality Budget for litter picking tools.

Thingoe Lodge quarterly meetings with Havebury and tenants proving helpful.

Replacement road signs in progress with help from Locality Budget.

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

West Suffolk Council (WSC) Locality Budget available for community groups.

Anybody wishing to apply, make contact through the Clerk who will pass to BH and SB.

Dispersal Order in place for boy racers congregating by the Community Hub and drag racing the bypass. Police acted quickly and observing situation esp. Bank Holiday weekend.

Compiegne Way - following Section 9 Notice, waiting on all parties involved for list of appropriate actions. No resource to raise road, but business case ready in case of government funding opportunities.

12. To receive reports from Councillors:

- a. Traffic / roads / VASs / signs - DL
Volume, weight and speed still a concern. Need to chase meeting with ticket issuing office, BH chasing.
DL not chasing highways support as believes video ought be first solution.
 - b. Volunteering - ML
Now have secure storage for tools, litter picking tools to be funded by BH, application for tools ongoing due to question re: training.
ML wanted to publicly thank all those volunteering in the village already - after hearing of more people silently serving the village.
 - c. Facilities / assets management / Community Centre - DB
Extended car park - barriers removed today, bottle banks soon to take up new position which will make entrance clearer and tidier.
Swings require some simple maintenance, but no safety concerns.
 - d. Local businesses & residents / Active Travel / de-fib'- CE
CE thanked BH and SB for their help with Thingoe Lodge and giving a voice to the residents.
Defib good, ongoing talks with Community Centre for new one on site.
Active Travel forum on 23rd May. No Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan in place. If WSC set one up, it could make current Active Travel plan redundant.
 - e. Social issues / Rural Coffee Caravan / Village Voice - JM
Echo CE's comments re: Thingoe Lodge.
Village Voice - will meet with Justin to review next issue.
Fit Villages - only 5 responses and already over 18 activities available in village so it has been decided not to go ahead.
 - f. Marham Park / Village Hall / Anglian Water (Lark) - MS
No tree replanting done. Council won't adopt until completed.
Chasing re: footpath on Tut Hill.
Still awaiting spill data from Anglian Water. Meeting with Environmental Director September 5th for ongoing communications. Not much happening on restoration until river quality improved.
 - g. Allotments - DS
Kids trespassing from playing field - need to block off in top corner.
2 currently on waiting list.
13. To receive Clerks report
Lloyds shares cashed and cheque banked - £84.26.
Redundant bank account closed and transferred to current account - £31.06.
Precept monies received and bank balances looking healthy.
Two outstanding invoices for allotments chased.
RC Browne & Son invoice has been settled.
14. Council to discuss the following planning applications:
- i. **DC/24/0360/HH *UPDATED***
44 Pigeon Lane Fornham All Saints IP28 6JP
 - a. single storey front extension
 - b. two storey side extension following demolition of existing porch
 - c. two storey rear extension following demolition of existing rear conservatory
 Planning team have visited site and have no concern. Neighbour also in support.
ML proposed to approve changes, CE seconded, unanimous decision.

ii. **DC/24/0586/FUL**

Car Park Heath Farm Business Centre Tut Hill Fornham All Saints Suffolk

Planning application - a. use of existing car park as driver training facility b. retention of temporary storage containers as classroom and storage area

Planning team visited site and agreed site entrance & exit an issue. Concerns over short visibility splays, gravel surface and having to cross double white centre lines for access. Highways report not received yet, so difficult to make full decision.

ML proposed to object on basis of entrance safety concerns and review of existing and new ISO containers - clarification required. JM seconded, unanimous decision.

The following items were brought forward

iv. **DC/24/0174/FUL *UPDATED***

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

Retention of outdoor gymnasium including open sided exercise shelter, moveable exercise equipment and equipment storage container

Based on suggestions from appeal being adhered to, i.e. silent disco style headsets, increased fencing (installed), change of noisy equipment and change of hours, and correct enforcement and policing of constraints, the council suggest no further comment.

JM proposed to respond to changes with no comment, DB seconded, 4 in favour, 1 abstained, proposal carried.

v. **DC/24/0156/FUL *UPDATED***

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

Planning application - a. two open canopy porches over existing entrances to front elevation b. render to front elevation with lettering signage c. statue to front elevation

Lighting element of application has been reviewed.

ML proposed to support application, DB seconded, unanimous decision.

The following items regarding maintenance entrance were reviewed together

Cllrs still showed concerns re: highways and safety and the genuineness of need for access.

iii. **DC/24/0433/FUL *UPDATED***

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

Planning application - create a maintenance access into All Saints Golf and Country Club off The Street, Fornham St. Genevieve

ML proposed to object on basis of highways concerns not being fully addressed and need, CE seconded, unanimous decision.

vi. **AP/24/0023/STAND **APPEAL****

Land Off The Street Fornham All Saints Suffolk

Planning application - create access into All Saints Golf and Country Club

ML proposed to object the appeal and write to appeal office, citing the 12:2 decision at the DCC meeting, CE seconded, unanimous decision.

SHORT BREAK FOR ATTENDEES TO LEAVE

15. Finance update

- i. ML proposed to approve the payment of all accounts and outstanding invoices as detailed, CE seconded, unanimous decision.

Payee & details	Total	Power to Pay*
J Hook, Clerks salary, April	£577.73	1

J Hook, Clerks expenses, April	£45.80	3
M Loveridge, Chairs expenses, 15/3 - 16/4	£30.70	3
Community Workshop, Village Voice printing	£307.63	7
Wave, allotment water bill (Jan 24 - Apr 24)	£20.73	9
WI, S137 grant	£250.00	2
Total Payments	£1232.59	

- ii. Council noted bank balances correct to 30 April (unless stated otherwise)

Current	£274.25
Savings	£50,428.74
Village Voice	£795.76
Charities	£2,304.57

- iii. ML proposed to approve bank reconciliation for April 2024, CE seconded, unanimous.

16. End of year and audit

- i. SALC are unable to complete the internal audit
Council to approve appointment of independent auditor Vicky Waples to complete the audit for equivalent fee
- ii. Council to approve AGAR Section 1
- iii. Council to approve AGAR Section 2
- iv. Council to approve 2023-24 bank reconciliation
- v. Council to approve variances

ML proposed to approve Vicky Waples' appointment to carry out internal audit, CE seconded, unanimous decision.

ML proposed to approve AGAR sections 1 and 2, the 2023-24 bank reconciliation and explanation of variances, CE seconded, unanimous decision.

17. Skate & play park inspections

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

18. Section S137 grants (£1750 left in budget)

Council to discuss request from Computer Club to help funding ongoing equipment updates

ML proposed to postpone the decision pending further detail.

ACTION: JH to request.

Following cancellation of Open Gardens it has been suggested to hold a "Party on the Green." Council to discuss S137 donation towards costs

ML attending planning meeting Sat 1st June.

ML proposed an S137 grant of up to £200, JM seconded, unanimous decision.

19. Community Centre update

DB awaiting a response re: the soil from the car park works that has been banked along the top of the field without permission.

Council to ensure that futures scopes of works and contracts are reviewed fully before works start.

Council to have representative on the Community Council Committee.

ACTION: DB to liaise with Community Centre.

20. Correspondence

- i. Email received re: Councils lack of action re: All Saints Hotel planning matters. JH responded.
- ii. Email received re: Councils over-reaction to All Saints Hotel planning matters. JH responded.

iii. Email complaint received from resident re: lack of notice and noise from works to Community Centre car park. JH responded and forwarded to Community Centre. ML since discussed with both parties relating to AS concerns. Community Centre speaking to complainant.

ACTION: DB to confirm complete.

21. Date of next meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th June 2024, commencing at 18:00 in the Community Centre, followed by the Parish Council Meeting at 18:30.

Meeting closed to the public 19:29

..... Sign & date

..... Print name

Chairman

Signed as confirmation that they are a true record.