

Fenny Compton Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting Of Fenny Compton Parish Council Held at Fenny Compton Village Hall, Fenny Compton on Monday 20th October 2025 At 7.45pm

PRESENT: Parish Councillors: Samantha Parkes in the Chair, David Johnson, Roly Whear, Emma Briscoe and Martin Birch

IN ATTENDANCE: Parish Clerk Lydia Cox and District Councillor Natalie Gist

2025_10_01: Apologies

Apologies were received from Parish Councillor Jon Dutton and County Councillor Christopher Kettle and were **accepted**.

2025_10_02: Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 15th September 2025 (already circulated) were considered and the minutes were **agreed** (Proposed by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Briscoe)

2025_10_03: Declarations of Interest

Councillor Whear declared an interest in Aqueous and therefore any flooding discussions

Councillor Johnson declared an interest in any discussion regarding the Bowls Club

2025_10_04: Requests for Dispensation

None received

2025_10_05: Open Forum

There were two members of the public in attendance

One resident was in attendance to present a proposal for the new noticeboard. Councillors agreed to investigate further. Councillor Whear to investigate options including costs and labour

A representative of the footpath group was in attendance to discuss the footpath beside Grants Close. It is proposed to build a new chicane to make the footpath clearer (it is at a crossroads of a Bridleway and footpath). Marker discs will be included with wider access. Councillors were happy for the footpath group to go ahead

Residents left at 19.53

2025_10_06: Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

- (i) Railway Bridge: Debris under bridge still hasn't been cleared and redirection of water running off the bridge hasn't been investigated – This will be raised again with Councillor Kettle

The Traffic management survey failed again so is being redone

2025_10_07: District Councillor and County Councillor Reports

Councillor Gist submitted a report which can be found in Appendix C

Highlighted the Community grant fund – this could potentially be used at the Bowls Club for fire safety and roof repair work

Councillor Kettle submitted a report which can be found in Appendix D

2025_10_08: Correspondence

The following correspondence was received prior to the meeting:

- (i) Resident's correspondence
 - a. Resident asked for agreement to remove slab footpath from outside Mill House and turf

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Councillors agreed

- b. New footpath chicane at Grants Close

Covered in open forum

- (ii) Extraordinary Parish Forum meeting

An Extraordinary Parish Forum meeting will be held on 6 November 2025 at 6pm, regarding Local Government Reorganisation

Parishes are entitled to send nominated representatives of their Council to the meeting

- (iii) Vacancy for a Parish Council Representative on Audit and Standards Committee

A candidate must be a member of a Town/Parish Council, but not, in addition, a member of the District Council

2025_10_09: Planning

- (i) The following applications have been received for consideration since the last meeting:

Reference	Consultation Expiry Date	Address	Proposal
25/02312/TREE	27 Oct 2025	Trotties Cottage, Dog Lane, Fenny Compton, CV47 2YD	T1 damson (believe Merryweather) - Fell
25/02346/TREE	22 Oct 2025	Land In Verge, High Street, Fenny Compton	T1 pine - Fell (leaning over pedestrian entrance of school)

Councillors discussed 25/02312/TREE and are minded to object, as no reason was given to fell the tree – Clerk will request more information

25/02346/TREE was discussed and agreed to submit 'no representation'

- (ii) The following decisions have been received since the last meeting:

Reference	Decision Date	Status	Address	Proposal
25/01687/FUL	18 Sep 2025	Permission Granted	The Grange, The Slade, Fenny Compton, CV47 2YB	Loft conversion of space above kitchen to the west elevation

2025_10_10: Financial Administration

- (i) Councillors **approved** the following payments (Proposed by Councillor Whear and seconded by Councillor Birch):

OCT_25_1	Lydia Cox (Oct Salary and expenses)	✓	(448.16)
OCT_25_2	WCC (Pension contribution Oct)	✓	(125.68)
OCT_25_3	National Insurance		(8.59)
OCT_25_4_DD	Yu Energy (Street Lighting)		(215.60)
OCT_25_5_DD	WaterPlus (Sports Pavillion Water)		(21.64)
OCT_25_6_DD	eon (Sports Pavilion Electricity)		(10.69)
OCT_25_7	Michael Mann (Playing field)		(309.60)
OCT_25_8	Michael Mann (Village grass cut)		(788.40)
OCT_25_9	Andrew Saunders (Tree work)		(150.00)

Current Account

(2,078.36)

Signed _____ Chair November 2025

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- (ii) Councillors noted the bank balances and bank reconciliations (Appendix A & B) and agreed them.

2025_10_11: Updates

- (i) Play Area/ Sports Field –
Container move – Councillor Birch to chase
Pavilion repairs – Colts to complete
Car park – weed killer spraying complete
- (ii) Flood Prevention – Station Road works ongoing. Councillor Whear hasn't yet heard back after writing letter to WCC regarding Ridgeway work
- (iii) Trees – Purchase stakes and ties, etc
- (iv) Highways – No updates
- (v) Bowls club upgrade – No updates
- (vi) Village planters – No updates
- (vii) Clerk role advertisement – Applicants will be interviewed next week

2025_10_12: Items to Publicise

- (i) Thank you to resident for planter on Northend Road
- (ii) Bus shelter – please only leave books and leave tidy
- (iii) Station Road works ongoing - drainage to prevent flooding

2025_10_13: Future Discussion

Budget

2025_10_14: Date of next meeting

The next meeting is the Ordinary Meeting scheduled for Monday 17th November 2025

MEETING CLOSED 20.35

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Appendix A

September Financial Administration

Balances: (See attached bank reconciliation)		£
Traffic Management	2,135.82	
Flood Relief Grant	803.56	
Allotments	1,000.00	
Defibrillator	885.94	
Cotters Croft	1,649.58	
Allocated Reserves		6,474.90
PC Balance - Budgeted expenses remaining		16,489.50
Unallocatted Reserves		11,596.08
Total Balances (See Bank Reconciliation)		34,560.48
Within the following accounts:		
Current Account		11,223.52
Deposit Account 1		2,618.04
Deposit Accopunt 2		271.66
12 Month Partial Withdrawal		10,005.00
1 Month Partial Withdrawal		10,442.26
Total Balances (See Bank Reconciliation)		34,560.48
Less Payments (See agenda item 10)		
OCT_25_1 Lydia Cox (Oct Salary and expenses)	✓ (448.16)	
OCT_25_2 WCC (Pension contribution Oct)	✓ (125.68)	
OCT_25_3 National Insurance	(8.59)	
OCT_25_4_DD Yu Energy (Street Lighting)	(215.60)	
OCT_25_5_DD WaterPlus (Sports Pavillion Water)	(21.64)	
OCT_25_6_DD eon (Sports Pavilion Electricity)	(10.69)	
OCT_25_7 Michael Mann (Playing field)	(309.60)	
OCT_25_8 Michael Mann (Village grass cut)	(788.40)	
OCT_25_9 Andrew Saunders (Tree work)	(150.00)	
Current Account		(2,078.36)
Total Balances carried forward		32,482.12

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Appendix B

September Bank Reconciliation

Bank Balances	£
Current Account	11,223.52
Deposit Account 1	2,618.04
Deposit Account 2	271.66
12 Month Partial Withdrawal	10,005.00
1 Month Partial Withdrawal	10,442.26
Total Bank	<u>34,560.48</u>
Cash Book Balance b/f	23,507.32
Less late payments:	
R Whear - basketball nets	25.98
Needs investigating	6.62
Add receipts since last meeting:	
Second precept payment	11,000.00
Bank Interest	20.56
Total Cash Book	<u>34,560.48</u>

Appendix C – District Councillor Report

Planning

The loss of the five-year housing land supply following a recent appeal judgement requires a strategic response from Stratford to close a 'gap' in planning permission for housing. The cause of the is the change in government rules on the national planning framework. More than 60% of councils find themselves in this situation although, not all are under the same pressure from developers. The 'gap' is a technical minimum of 2285 homes but in reality taking account of timing: (build rate, marketing, sales, occupancy etc) in order to regain a five-year supply, permissions for 3500-4000 homes may need to be issued.

There are some applications in the pipeline (totalling probably a few hundred around Southam). Presently the district council is looking at a methodology to review all the reserved sites that have been identified in the past. This does not necessarily mean they would gain permission, but they have to be considered/reconsidered. Locally these are:

Land East of Butt Hill Napton (6), Land South of Byfield Road Priors Marston (10), Land North of Bishops Hill Bishops Itchington (80), Land East of Southam Bypass (80-120).

Under application/Appeal are: Napton Brickworks (100), Land adjacent to Napton Crossroads (13).

Cabinet agreed an action plan to bring the housing land supply back up to five years agreed on Monday 6 October 2025. A link to the report in the Cabinet papers is here: [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for The Cabinet, 06/10/2025 10:00](#) on page 83.

Local Government Reorganisation

Following a [joint engagement exercise](#) asking residents across Warwickshire to share their views on the biggest shake

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up of local government since the 1970s, 73% of residents expressed their preference for two unitary Councils compared with just 22% for one large Council covering all of Warwickshire.

Between 7 August and 14 September 2025, over 2,300 people provided feedback that will help to inform how councils are structured and residents access services from April 2028, when the Government's requirement for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) takes effect.

Under Government plans for Local Government Reorganisation, Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Rugby Borough Council, North Warwickshire Borough Council, Warwick District Council and Warwickshire County Council will be abolished on 1 April 2028. They will be replaced by either one single unitary council for Warwickshire or two unitary councils - one for the North and one for the South - with each authority responsible for all services for its part of the county.

A final detailed report will be published towards the end of October, which will also provide feedback from focus groups and interviews with key stakeholders.

Survey feedback, analysis and other relevant information will be taken into account before the councils formally submit their final reorganisation proposals to the Government by 28 November 2025. Following this, the Government will consult on the proposed plans before making a final decision in 2026. If approved, the new unitary authorities are expected to be in place by 2028

Community Grant 2025

On Monday 6 October, the Cabinet at SDC approved a £350,000 Community Grant scheme for town and parish councils and other properly constituted community groups to apply for grants to enhance community assets. The objectives and criteria are set out from page 144 of the Cabinet papers. There will be grant applicant briefing sessions from mid-November. The report is contained at page 143 of the Cabinet papers. Link for your ease of reference herewith: [Agenda for The Cabinet on Monday, 6th October, 2025, 10.00 a.m. | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

Community Safety

Nigel and Natalie met with Southam SNT a couple of weeks ago to discuss community safety issues across the ward. We would encourage residents to *report all issues* to the Police on 101 or direct on their website on the attached link: [Report a crime | Warwickshire Police](#) - this information will help the Police direct resources.

Finally, a number of recent vehicle thefts have shown that a large percentage have involved cars that were actually unlocked. Please make sure your car is locked when unattended.

Warm Homes

As the cooler months come in we are pleased to announce a funding scheme available to residents to help keep homes warm and reduce the cost of energy bills.

The Warm Homes Local Grant (WHLG) is primarily funded by Stratford-on-Avon District Council but complemented by funding from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The scheme will build on the success of the Home Upgrade Grant 2 scheme which saw 98 properties occupied by lower income households upgraded. The WHLG funding aims to improve the warmth and comfort of more of the worst performing homes across the District, whilst also reducing energy bills, carbon emissions and levels of fuel poverty.

If you are eligible for the WHLG scheme, an assessor will visit your home to determine the best energy efficiency measures, which could be various types of insulation or clean heating sources. Any approved measures will be installed completely free of charge.

You could be eligible if you are a homeowner or a private rented tenant, and if you:

- Have a home [Energy Performance Certificate](#) (EPC) of D, E, F or G
- Have a combined annual household income under £36,000 (savings are not assessed) or receive means-tested benefits

Other eligibility criteria could be available, please contact Act on Energy.

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The District Council is working with partners E.ON and Act on Energy to deliver WHLG and you can apply for the funding via the E.ON website: [Grant Finder | Check Your Eligibility for Home Efficiency Grants](#).
If you would like to know more about home energy improvement options or other funding schemes, you can visit the District Council's website: [Energy & Warmth | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#).
You can contact Act on Energy directly via phone 0800 988 2881 or email advice@actonenergy.org.uk.

Silver Award from Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has been awarded a Silver Award from the Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS).

The prestigious award recognises employers who have actively demonstrated support for the Armed Forces community by implementing policies to help them.

To achieve the Silver award, organisations must proactively demonstrate that the Armed Forces community is not unfairly disadvantaged as part of their recruitment policies.

They must also actively ensure their workforce is aware of their positive policies towards the defence community and understand issues for reservists, veterans, cadet force adult volunteers, and spouses and partners of those serving in the Armed Forces.

Natalie Gist
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Appendix D – County Councillor Report

Council issues

Cllr Finch held a press conference about the future direction of the Council. The Reform minority administration intends to focus on:

SEND, potholes and safety.

A number of resolutions were passed relating to concerns about SEND provision and the need to approach the Government urgent action to resolve the issue of the growing Statutory override, the cumulative excess of expenditure on SEND provision by WCC vv Government Grants to fund that expenditure.

The County is not allowed by law to fund the excess of expenditure from Council Taxes, hence the development of the Statutory Override facility

HS2

I have met with the Area Director of EKFB last week to discuss the "Lessons Learnt" from the recent road closures on the A423 and the impact on Ladbroke, specifically and other nearby villages. The lessons learnt regrettably are a repeat of the issues we seem to have had with BBV in the north of my Division. In this case we had far more proactive support from HS2 itself.

The closure caused significant traffic issues for Ladbroke and villages north and south.

I have been working with both County officers and Sir Jeremy Wright for over six weeks to get a more rational road closure but EKFB did not seem concerned about the impact of its closure on the local road network and residents.

The first few days of the closure demonstrated that EKFB's analysis was materially incorrect with the village of Ladbroke in grid lock as HGV tried to use the "rat run" through the village, along with a number of HS2 vehicles not using the signed diversion

A simple solution of extending the road closure, with local access permitted, to include the access to Ladbroke would make a significant improvement but EKFB refused to consider this proposal which they have been forced by

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circumstances to accept.

Highways

As part of the Authorities ongoing commitment to improving safety around schools, parking restrictions will be actively enforced from this September 2025.

Uniformed officers will be patrolling designated school sites to monitor compliance, engage with drivers, and raise awareness about the importance of safe and legal parking near schools.

The Devolution Whitepaper

The financial cost of the alternatives, a one authority County or two authority County are significant. The financial evaluation indicates that overall, a single unitary offers a significantly more compelling financial case than a two unitary model, with increased net benefits over time, lower transition costs, a shorter payback period and a model which will maximise the financial resilience and sustainability of Warwickshire's future local government system. Critically, modelling shows a structural deficit in a future north Warwickshire unitary as a result of disaggregation, and a corresponding surplus in South Warwickshire.

There is a division between the different parties on this, but it is clear that the most cost effective solution is to maintain one authority across the County rather than two. Clearly the logistics of creating two Councils and two teams to split and cover the services provided across the county will be very challenging.

Budget 26/27

We will shortly be beginning the budgeting process for 2026/27. Whilst the 2025/26 budget is only showing a minor overspend in the annual forecast to date, there are significant overspends in social care and education, which are being offset by savings within the Council. The SEND overspend continues to cause concern, with the cumulative overspend, which is "sort of" funded by a government policy "the statutory override", expected to reach £150 million by the end of this financial year.

For clarification, Councils are not allowed to spend Council tax revenues on main or High Needs education which is funded by a central Government Grant, the "DSG". However, as WCC must meet the need of its residents, an annual overspend is now inevitable whilst we await the Government's decision about future SEND funding.

Division issues

The on and off road closures in Fenny Compton by Severn Trent to resolve the burst pipe in Memorial Road was unacceptable and WCC is considering raising a fixed penalty notice for the earlier unauthorised road closures. When it became apparent to WCC officers that the leak was not a risk of creating a sink hole in the road, sand was being washed out, Jeff Hobday insisted that the job needed to be done ASAP but at the weekend.

The two potholes on Ufton Hill have been marked and will be repaired. Both were reported separately and will be repaired separately. This is unavoidable.

Concerns have been raised about the use of Hambridge, near Knightcote by overweight vehicles, and as a result, an inspection has revealed some structural damage.

A new 4 tonne weight limit is being considered along with road narrowings to prevent HGVs or large agricultural vehicles using it.

I am funding the replacement of the road signs on the Gaydon Road by Chemiculture and Dudge Hill Cottages, which have been repeatedly damaged, one has disappeared, over the years.

I am also funding the replacement of the pavement surface in front of the Fish and Chip shop, from the Greaves Club as far as the school, as this has deteriorated significantly. This will be being done in the February Half term.

Flooding

The problems impacting the Willow Grove area continues to be on WCC's agenda, The issue with the two culverts have

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now being resolved, but WCC have committed to checking the Marton Road farm culvert to ensure it is serviceable. It must be noted that this is beyond WCC's statutory responsibilities.

The requirement for any further action will be considered after that survey.

Work commenced on improving road side gulleys and drainage on the north west of Station Road, Fenny Compton and the two culverts crossing the road are being replaced. The FRM team are still looking at what the landowner may need to undertake on the roadside ditch on the south east side.

Drainage

I have requested and am still waiting for the schedule of when drains were cleared across my Division.