

Fenny Compton Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Fenny Compton Parish Council Held at Fenny Compton Village Hall, Fenny Compton on Monday 19 January 2026 at 7.45pm

PRESENT: Parish councillors: Jon Dutton in the chair, Samantha Parkes, and Emma Briscoe

IN ATTENDANCE: Parish clerk Janette Wolf; county councillors Natalie Gist and Christopher Kettle; Tamsyn Pegler (see note **2026_01_05: Open Forum** below).

2026_01_01: Apologies

Apologies were received from David Johnson, Roly Whear and Martin Birch and were **accepted**.

2026_01_02: Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 15 December 2025 (already circulated) were considered and the **minutes were agreed** (proposed by Councillor Briscoe and seconded by Councillor Parkes).

2026_01_03: Declarations of Interest

None received.

2026_01_04: Requests for Dispensation

None received.

2026_01_05: Open Forum

Councillors welcomed **Tamsyn Pegler** to the meeting and discussed her application to join the Parish Council. Although it was agreed that this would proceed to the next stage, Ms Pegler subsequently decided not to pursue this application.

Councillor Kettle arrived at 20.10

In her capacity as resident of Compton Lock Ms Pegler raised the issue of street lighting and speeding both of which she believes are dangerous. She said Orbit had told her that the plans specified that lighting and extended pavement would be put in place. The chair explained the road is owned by the County Council and is not a parish responsibility. A traffic survey to measure speeds showed no evidence of excessive speeding. Councillor Kettle added that changing a speed limit was not just a matter of new signage it had to go through a legal process involving public consultation, police, AA etc. Councillor Kettle did obtain funding for extending the pavement but there is nothing for lighting. Councillor Dutton said the County Council are unlikely to see this as a priority as the data we have doesn't support it and there isn't a high volume of traffic.

2026_01_06: Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

1. The **budget** of £22,700 was **agreed**. Councillor Parkes proposed, seconded by Councillor Briscoe.
2. Quotes for repainting noticeboards. Not yet available.
3. Lorry routes for quarry vehicles: Councillor Kettle explained that this is a county planning matter not a district one. The main difficulty is out of the four access points, only two are viable: Farnborough or Fenny Compton. Neither option is palatable for inhabitants.
Councillor Dutton commented that the majority of journeys are taking full lorries of earth to the quarry not out of it and Councillor Kettle said this does not require a permit. A planning application is only required for the renovation which has not yet begun and the developers are not actually breaching any regulation. Councillor Kettle agreed to find out how long the transportation of soil will continue. He also warned that if we do get a Construction Management Plan we may end up with Fenny Compton being a preferred route. Councillor Gist says the developers have been open and welcoming if people want to go and inspect the works.

2026_01_07: District Councillor and County Councillor Reports

Councillor Kettle said he is awaiting a reply from the chief executive regarding HS2 progress. The mud around the railway bridge was discussed, in particular whether removing it constituted interference with the footings.

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2026_01_08: Correspondence

Clerk to note these items must be listed in future.

1. The meeting discussed a request by a resident to have a permanent memorial for her mother who died 20 years ago. She favoured a plaque in the churchyard but we have no remit here. Councillors commented further that the area we do own has no scope for accommodating plaques. It was agreed that the clerk would identify an appropriate contact at the Church to whom this request can be forwarded.

2026_01_09: Planning

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

Reference	Consultation Expiry Date	Address	Proposal
26/00007/TREE	28/01/26	Blacksmith's Cottage, High Street, Fenny Compton CV47 2XT	T1 horse chestnut – pollard back to previous pollard points, to a finished height of 3 metres. No representation; subsequently withdrawn
25/02385/FUL		Mill Hill Barn, The Slade, Fenny Compton CV47 2YB	Revised plans incorporating an amended entrance porch design

- (ii) The following decision has been received since the last meeting:

Consultation date	Address	Decision
01/26	Kits Close, Avon Dassett Road, Fenny Compton CV47 2XX	T1 silver birch fell; T2 silver birch lateral reduction 1m west and east subject to the following conditions: completed within two years of

2026_01_10: Financial Administration

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

FEB_26_1_DD	Yu Energy (Street Lighting)
FEB_26_2_DD	WaterPlus (Sports Pavillion Water)
FEB_26_3_DD	eon (Sports Pavilion Electricity)
FEB_26_4 & 5	Clerk Salary and National Insurance
FEB_26_6	Lydia Cox - RFO cover
FEB_26_7	Bank fees

Current Account

- (ii) Councillors noted the bank balances and bank reconciliations (Appendix A and B) and agreed them.
- (iii) Street lighting electricity contract. The agreed switch to Valda Energy has taken place and a direct debit has been signed. Councillor Dutton asked to minute that we are re-approving the direct debit.
- (iv) Councillors approved the budget.

2026_01_11: Updates

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- (i) Play Area/ Sports Field – A meeting with Roger Middleton, chairman of the football club colts has taken place. The maintenance agreement between the Parish Council (which owns the building) and the football club (which is a sole user) is not precise. It has been the case that the club have taken on responsibility for internal wear and tear with the Parish Council taking care of the external structure. Recently the verandah has been damaged and there is now dispute over who should pay. Clerk to contact Henley Buildings to inspect.
- (ii) Posts on Facebook show ill-feeling about dog walking on the playing field. Not picking up dog waste is a criminal offence and action can be taken but as no one is monitoring this, it remains unchecked. We understand that the football club find it necessary to inspect the pitches before playing. Ms Pegler asked about additional signage which would show that the Parish Council was attempting to solve the problem.
- (iii) Flood Prevention – Councillor Whear had mentioned in absentia that the rediscovered pipe is working at Station Road, he has also volunteered to do a flooding risk assessment. Councillor Kettle is still checking Ridgeway and looking at options.
- (iv) Trees: nothing mentioned.
- (v) Highways: potholes were raised, Manor Court in particular and by the Co Op.
- (vi) Bowls club: nothing to report.
- (vii) Village planters: no updates.

Items to publicise: Councillor Dutton will post on Facebook: dog fouling on the playing field; near misses or bad driving; approving budget.

2026_01_13: Future Discussion: street lights; risk assessments; salt bins on Compton locks. On the latter point Councillor Kettle said that the County Council cannot put salt bins on private estates of which Compton Locks is one. We have no authority and no remit. The Parish Council discussed whether it was feasible to put one on the main road close by. Ms Pegler who lives in Compton Locks and pays them a service charge will raise this matter with them.

2026_01_14: Date of next meeting

The next meeting is the Ordinary Meeting scheduled for Monday 16 February 2026 at 7.45pm.

MEETING CLOSED 21.15

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Appendix A

December 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	1,499.58	
Allocated Reserves		6,324.90
PC Balance - Budgeted expenses remaining		9,902.92
Unallocated Reserves		13,016.19
Total Balances (See Bank Reconciliation)		<u>29,244.01</u>
Within the following accounts:		
Current Account		4,974.13
Deposit Account 1		2,621.96
Deposit Account 2		1,145.24
12 Month Partial Withdrawal		10,005.00
1 Month Partial Withdrawal		10,497.68
Total Balances (See Bank Reconciliation)		<u>29,244.01</u>
Less Payments (See agenda item 10)		
JAN_26_1_DD Yu Energy (Street Lighting)	(327.57)	
JAN_26_2_DD WaterPlus (Sports Pavillion Water)	0.00	
JAN_26_3_DD eon (Sports Pavilion Electricity)	(34.82)	
JAN_26_4 Clerk Salary and National Insurance	(441.24)	
JAN_26_5 Lydia Cox - RFO cover	(37.05)	
JAN_26_6 Bank fees	(4.25)	
JAN_26_7 Andrew Saunders (Tree surgeon)	(650.00)	
JAN_26_8 Rimburse R Whear (Sports pavilion expenses)	(255.75)	
Current Account		(1,750.68)
Total Balances carried forward		<u>27,493.33</u>

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Appendix B

December Bank Reconciliation

Bank Balances	£
Current Account	4,974.13
Deposit Account 1	2,621.96
Deposit Account 2	1,145.24
12 Month Partial Withdrawal	10,005.00
1 Month Partial Withdrawal	10,497.68
Total Bank	<u>29,244.01</u>
Cash Book Balance b/f	28,690.40
Add receipts since last meeting:	
SDC precept	328.66
Bank Interest	24.20
Cemetery income	205.00
Bank charges	(4.25)
Total Cash Book	<u>29,244.01</u>

Appendix B

December Bank Reconciliation

Bank Balances	£
Current Account	4,974.13
Deposit Account 1	2,621.96
Deposit Account 2	1,145.24
12 Month Partial Withdrawal	10,005.00
1 Month Partial Withdrawal	10,497.68
Total Bank	<u>29,244.01</u>
Cash Book Balance b/f	28,690.40
Add receipts since last meeting:	
SDC precept	328.66
Bank Interest	24.20
Cemetery income	205.00
Bank charges	(4.25)
Total Cash Book	<u>29,244.01</u>

Appendix C

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was held on 14 January 2026.

The meeting considered the proposed changes to the Council's Housing Allocations Scheme and sought approval to conduct a public consultation on these. Members were advised of an amendment to paragraph 4.2 of the report, in that the consultation was due to last six weeks, rather than four.

During the ensuing discussion, an amendment to Section 6.20 'Additional Preference – Community Contribution' was

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proposed by Councillor Whalley-Hoggins and seconded by Councillor Alcock: recognising that affordable housing is key for roles such as key workers. This includes roles in the education, health, medical, utilities, food and social care sectors. It does not include senior manager or support roles which are not front line. Any role which attracts a salary of £35,000 or more will not meet this definition. Due to the importance of tourism and agriculture in the District, the Council will also include those working in front line tourism, hospitality and agricultural services within Stratford-on-Avon.

It was subsequently agreed by the Committee that this amendment would be recommended to The Cabinet at its meeting scheduled to be held on 19 January 2026.

The Deputy Chief Executive presented gave an update on the options for producing renewable electricity from the Council's estate. Members were advised that although monies had been set aside in the previous year's budget for a feasibility for a hydropower scheme in Stratford-upon-Avon, a scheme providing solar carports had been found to be a more suitable option due to less associated risk. It was proposed that £600,000 from the Council's climate change reserve be used to fund the project, alongside the reallocation of the £1.2 million previously allocated for the hydropower scheme.

Copies of the relevant reports are available from Democratic Services (tel: 01789 260245; email committeemanagers@stratforddc.gov.uk).

Appendix C – District Councillor Report

The response to the freezing weather conditions was discussed, particularly gritting. This was an issue when snow arrived earlier than had been forecast in early January.

Private estates, with unadopted roads, are not included in gritting routes where responsibility for the roads remains with developers or their management companies. The Parish Council therefore needs to consider writing to the developer of Ropeway on Bishops Hill on behalf of residents to consider how they will address the issue of their icy roads.

The overall highways response to the storm involved a significant mobilisation of staff and resources. Additional day crews were deployed to manage severe conditions.

The meeting began:

- Receiving and noting the Auditors report for the year ended 31 March 2025;
- The approval of annual accounts for the Council and Pension Fund;
- The adoption of capital expenditure plans of approx. £40million for the expansion of three schools funded by developer contributions;
- The adoption of £2.1 million highway improvement scheme again funded by developer contributions;
- Adopted the Youth Justice plan for 25/26; and
- Approved the Annual Governance Statement for 24/25.

The meeting then moved onto the more controversial notices of motion proposed by opposition groups as follows:

- Joint Motion: School Road Safety
- Conservative Motion: Protecting Children's Access to Education by Opposing any Extension to Statutory/Walking Distance
- Liberal Democrat Motion: Tackling Child Poverty Across Warwickshire

The motions were all passed by Council requiring the administration to respond directly or with reports being prepared on the issues raised for Scrutiny Committees.

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Budget 26/27

The County Council awaits Reform's budget proposals for the year 26/27.

The SEND overspend continues to cause concern, with the cumulative overspend expected to reach £150 million by the end of this financial year.

Specialist Resourced Provision at Nursery Hill Primary (X and Facebook)

Nursery Hill Primary School in Nuneaton opened The Lodge, a new Specialist Resourced Provision designed to support children with communication and interaction needs.

Voice of Warwickshire Panel (X and Facebook)

The County Council is inviting residents aged 18+ to join its Voice of Warwickshire panel.

Warwickshire takes action to boost jobs (X and Facebook)

A major plan to help more people into work and support businesses to grow has been approved.

Parking text scam (X and Facebook)

Residents have been warned a phishing scam in which SMS text messages are being sent to residents across the county, posing as Penalty Charge Notice payment requests.

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