

Fenny Compton Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting Of Fenny Compton Parish Council Held at Fenny Compton Village Hall, Fenny Compton on Monday 20 April 2026 At 7.45pm

PRESENT: Parish Councillors: Jon Dutton in the chair, Emma Briscoe, David Johnson, Samantha Parkes and Martin Birch

IN ATTENDANCE: District Councillor Nathalie Gist; County Councillor Christopher Kettle; Parish Clerk Janette Wolf and two members of the public

2026_04_01: Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Roly Whear and were **accepted**

2026_04_02: Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 16 March 2026 (already circulated) were considered and the minutes were **agreed** (Proposed by Councillor Martin Birch and seconded by Councillor Emma Briscoe).

2026_04_03: Declarations of Interest

David Johnson declared an interest in the Bowls Club and the correspondence relating to the wildflower meadow. Martin Birch declared an interest in the Merrie Men.

2026_04_04: Requests for Dispensation

None received

2026_04_05: Open Forum

There was extended discussion on the Bowls Club which led on from recommendations from last year's meeting. Two options are available: to refurbish or replace the existing structure. This has become necessary because of the building's asbestos roof and its general appearance which has led to complaints.

Refurbishment is only possible if the structure of the building is sound. A plan was therefore proposed to investigate this, and to undertake a number of running repairs over the next three years including guttering, downpipes, cladding and a new fire exit. The key issue would be when to replace the roof.

Costings for this approach amount to around £20-25k and would extend the life of the building by 20 years.

The price to rebuild from scratch would be in the region of £75-100k based on the most recent quote from Henley Garden Buildings.

The club recommendation is to carry out Mill Lane work and investigate the underlying structure of building which would cost about £500 this year.

If no action is taken, the building risks further deterioration. The meeting discussed who should assess the structure and whether a structural engineer was needed. It was felt that a professional would be wise. The issue of removing asbestos would also require specialist input.

The meeting discussed where funding might be available especially as the national Bowls Club were not inclined to give grants.

First step is to refer back to what the council did with the sports pavilion redevelopment. **Action:** Chair to report.

County Councillor Christopher Kettle joined the meeting at 7.42pm

2026_04_06: Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

- I. Streetlighting: Cllr Birch has submitted a new itemised inventory of street lights. It shows 3 Meadow Way misnumbering and permanent leaning on several street lights. **Action:** Clerk to raise with Streetwise.
- II. Clerk replacement: We have had one application from someone in the village. A meeting has been arranged. A meeting has also taken place with a potential locum who is available and appears suitable. This is a

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temporary solution only as it will be expensive.

- III. Dog fouling signs. Environmental protection officer Phil Rafferty has offered to hand deliver the signs.
Action: Clerk to arrange a handover with Cllr Johnson.
- IV. Agar and finance. We have started this annual process with our internal auditor and have been through bank accounts and spreadsheets. Some new requirements particularly those concerning an IT policy and gov.uk email addresses. JD proposed the IT policy and DJ seconded it.
- V. The meeting discussed the historic reasons for not using gov.uk addresses but as there is now a requirement for this, the parish council will have to conform. Although there may still be a couple of legacy gov.uk addresses Stratford will charge £5 per address to create new ones. Parish Online is a software provider for parish councils. It will deliver a website and gov.uk addresses for around £300 a year which is more or less the same as Stratford charge. We are currently waiting for Stratford to give us a new proposal for importing all existing email addresses to gov.uk ones.

2026_04_07: District Councillor and County Councillor Reports

For extended reports please see Appendix C and D.

The district councillor said that Stratford upon Avon is no 1 for recycling in England. Parking at The Merrie Lion at weekends is an issue. Although double yellow lines have been requested, no one will police this. Speeding in the village continues to cause concern.

Cllr Kettle has chased Charlie Jones the infrastructure planning officer but has yet to hear back on the subject of quarry vehicles. Cllr Johnson volunteered to count all vehicles going in and out of the quarry for a day but only on condition that there was an intention to act on information. Cllr Kettle said it would take two people working in partnership to count lorries coming into fenny and then seeing how many of these actually turned into the quarry.

2026_04_08: Correspondence

Correspondence has been shared separately prior to the meeting.

- Email regarding an overflowing manhole cover from Brian Peers which is damaging a wall. Clerk to forward to Cllr Kettle. This problem has been raised before.
- A resident has raised concerns regarding some of the trees in the nature area by Squire Place. **Action:** Clerk to arrange for tree surgeon Andrew Saunders to go and examine.
- Request to remove wildflower meadow and have a traditional lawn on Fieldgate Lane. Residents have complained that this looks a mess. Although steps have been taken over the past few years to improve its appearance this has not worked. We said last year we would give it one more year. Since then, there has been a petition of 24 signatures complaining. Emma Wilkinson originally planted the meadow and said that it would take five years to mature but that time has elapsed. It was decided that we should talk to Emma to see if there were any other remedies she could suggest, such as mowing half and leaving half wild. **Actions:** JD to meet EW to consider possible options to address residents' concerns; Cllr Johnson to feed back to residents.
- A resident emailed about broken latches on the playing field gates. JD has been trying to source more robust latches but we do not know whether they will fit. There was a suggestion to make the gates more springloaded so they don't keep bouncing but it was decided that as we needed Cllr Whear's expertise for this, we could not decide next steps at this meeting.
- A resident wants to hire the sports pavilion for a birthday party. Similar requests have been turned down because of potential disruption to residents and possible damage. There would also be the issue of who would clean up afterwards and look after safety and security. The village hall was already an alternative

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venue. One solution would be to take a large security deposit to cover cleaning or damage. Although there's nothing to stop people using the playing field to put a marquee on it, the pavilion was not built for the purpose of entertaining large numbers. The request has to be declined.

- Message has been received from Susanne Brand about Kate's memorial bench and where it could go. The people who paid for the bench did not realise there are restrictions on where it can be placed. Locations next to a road will need permission from the County Council and requesting a review for that costs £1,000. There were other suggestions including the sports field, the wildflower meadow or the burial ground. The latter might be a good solution because a bench there has recently collapsed, freeing up space. The original suggestion was to put the bench opposite the doctors but that would definitely need CC clearance as it's next to the road.

2026_04_09: Planning

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

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Consultation Expiry Date</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Proposal</u>
26/00605/FUL	29/04/26	Land at Avon Hill Quarries, Avon Dassett CV47 2AA	Construction of five new build holiday lets. No objection on the condition that appropriate transport plans are in place and enforced
26/00239/FUL	28/04/26	10 Northend Road Fenny Compton CV47 2YZ	Single storey rear extension with two storey side extension and entrance canopy. No objection
26/00606/TREE		3 Squire Place, Fenny Compton CV47 2YL	Application to fell tree has been withdrawn

26/00321/COUQ **refused** because the work already done had not been previously approved.

26/00510/TREE **approved with conditions**

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

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Decision Date</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Proposal</u>
26/00827/FUL		Pending	15 Northend Road, Fenny Compton CV47 26Z	Single storey front extension, single storey side extension to form garage and relocate oil tank
26/00492/PIP	7 May 2026		Land of South Station Road Fenny Compton	Permission in principle for nine dwellings from Fenway Group

2026_04_10: Financial Administration

The banking anomaly that came to light last month has been resolved. Although the Lloyds account still says on the first page that one person can authorise payments this has now been fixed and two signatories are definitely needed to approve payment.

- (i) (Councillors noted the bank balances and bank reconciliations (**Appendix A and B**) and agreed them. (Proposed by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr Birch)

Signed _____ Chair May 2026

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2026_04_10 Finance

(i) Payments:

APR_26_1 Janette Wolf (Apr Salary) (373.48)
APR_26_2 HMRC (Clerk's Income Tax & NI) (67.76)
APR_26_3_DD Valda Energy (streetlights) (177.64)
APR_26_4_DD E.On Next (pavilion electric) (18.39)
APR_26_5 Bowling Club (green bin) (50.00)
APR_26_6 Henley Garden Buildings (pavilion repairs) (532.80)
APR_26_7 Reimburse Jon Dutton (noticeboard keys) (27.00)
APR_26_8 SDC (website hosting) (£331.98)

(1,579.05)

Total Balances carried forward £24,149.91

Waterplus has been taking extra money out of our account. They have changed the Direct Debit without asking. We now have to sign a new form. But there are still issues about how many signatures are needed.

2026_04_11: Updates

- (i) Play area/sports pavilion: Alan Payne has been given details about raising an invoice. Nets start in May. Publicise on facebook page next month. Container is still there and needs to be moved.
- (ii) Village planters: we now have a number of possible models to consider. There is a risk that they will be stolen. It was suggested that a zinc water trough would be a cheap alternative. **Action:** Clerk to investigate.
- (iii) Trees: We are not obliged to replace the tree on Cotters Croft that is due to be felled. We are currently waiting for confirmation on whether the quotes include poisoning the stump.
- (iv) The streetlights report is on and a number of lights have significantly increased their lean.

2026_04_12: Items to Publicise

Clerk's job; annual meeting. Wildflower meadow; plan for bowls club.

2026_04_13: Future Discussion

New defibrillator packs.

2026_04_14: Date of next meeting

The next meeting is the Annual Meeting and Ordinary Meeting scheduled for Monday 18 May 2026

MEETING CLOSED 21.09pm.

Signed _____ Chair May 2026

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Appendix A

March 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		28,383.94
Unallocated Reserves		- 8,979.88
Total Balances (See Bank Reconciliation)		<u>25,728.96</u>
Within the following accounts:		
Current Account		1,409.52
Deposit Account 1		2,625.50
Deposit Account 2		1,146.78
12 Month Partial Withdrawal		10,005.00
1 Month Partial Withdrawal		10,542.16
Total Balances (See Bank Reconciliation)		<u>25,728.96</u>
Less Payments (See agenda item 10)		
APR_26_1	Janette Wolf (Apr Salary)	(373.48)
APR_26_2	HMRC (Clerk's Income Tax & NI)	(67.76)
APR_26_3_DD	Valda Energy (streetlights)	(177.64)
APR_26_4_DD	E.On Next (pavilion electric)	(18.39)
APR_26_5	Bowling Club (green bin)	(50.00)
APR_26_6	Henley Garden Buildings (pavilion repairs)	(532.80)
APR_26_7	Reimburse Jon Dutton (noticeboard keys)	(27.00)
APR_26_8	SDC (website hosting)	(331.98)
		(1,579.05)
Total Balances carried forward		<u>24,149.91</u>

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March Financial Administration

Appendix B

March Bank Reconciliation

Bank Balances	£
Current Account	1,409.52
Deposit Account 1	2,625.50
Deposit Account 2	1,146.78
12 Month Partial Withdrawal	10,005.00
1 Month Partial Withdrawal	10,542.16
Total Bank	<u>25,728.96</u>
Cash Book Balance b/f	25,462.43
Less payments between meetings:	
Water Plus DD taken in March	-51.93
Add receipts since last meeting:	
Bank Interest	18.46
Cemetery fees	300.00
Total Cash Book	<u>25,728.96</u>

Appendix C – County Councillor’s Report

At the most recent full Council meeting, the key items on the agenda were the acceptance of the Public Health annual report 2025-6 and the local health and well-being strategy 26-21.

The cross party Group Climate Change report, focusing on Natural Capital, Biodiversity and Waste and Recycling was submitted to Cabinet.

The Council approved the addition of £2.1m to the capital programme to deliver a scheme at The Pears Centre to improve accommodation for children and families. It will be funded from the Capital Investment Fund.

A vote of no confidence in Cllr Finch, The Green Party, was not successful.

HS2

Concerns have been raised about the impact of works on existing residents and business communities. The new Chief Executive has pledged that the planning of works must take into account the impact on communities at an early stage which has met with some success.

Schools

Primary school admission offer day was Thursday 16 April. This year, there were 6,535 Warwickshire

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children who applied for a reception place by the application deadline of 15 January. Of these, 88% have been given a place at their first-choice school. A further 9% have been given a place at either their second or third choice, meaning 97% have been given a place at one of their top three preferred schools. There were also 1,321 Warwickshire children who applied for a Year 3 place at a Junior school. Of these, 99% were given their first-choice school.

Warwickshire Pension Fund

The Border to Coast Pension Pool (“B2C”) of which the Warwickshire LGPS is a member, has, following the Government’s “Fit for the Future” consultation, taken on a further seven local authorities from one of the two pools closed by the Government as part of that consultation.

This takes the assets under management by B2C to over £100 billion representing the pensions of some two million LGPS members, and makes B2C the largest pension pool in the UK. I chair the B2C Joint Committee of local authority member representatives, appointed to scrutinise the financial performance of the fund.

County Councillor Christopher Kettle

Appendix D - District Councillor’s report

Nigel Rocke has retired from being a district councillor. The rules are such that when a district councillor resigns they cease to be a councillor with immediate effect. Therefore I am presently the sole district councillor for the whole ward. There will be a by-election for Nigel’s vacated seat on Thursday 7 May.

Stratford on Avon District Number One in England for Recycling

Stratford-on-Avon District had the highest household recycling rate in England in 2024/2025, according to figures published by Defra. With a 63.9% household recycling rate, Stratford-on-Avon District Council has jumped up two places in the league table after seeing a 2.9% increase from the previous year. Congratulations to everyone for this District-wide effort and success!

Health Screening Events – Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Stratford-on-Avon District Council launched the first of its 2026 health screening events on Saturday 21 March, coinciding with National Screening Day (NSD) during Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

Events closer to residents in our area will be taking place as follows:

- Saturday 18th April Lighthorne Heath Village Hall, Upper Lighthorne, Valiant Close, CV33 9UF
- Saturday 9th May Graham Adams Centre, Saint James Road, Southam, CV47 0LY
- Saturday 30th May Wellesbourne Village Hall, The School House, School Road, Wellesbourne, CV35 9NH

Tests are available at a discounted rate of £14 each, supported by District Council funding,

- PSA (Prostate Screening) for men over 40
- Diabetes screening for men and women aged 18+
- Cholesterol checks for men and women aged 18+

Appointments must be booked in advance at: <https://sdc.mypsatests.org.uk/> or call 01926

Signed _____ Chair May 2026

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419959 or email info@myhealthtests.org.uk

The 2025 screening programme demonstrated the significant value of proactive, community-based health checks. Across seven events, 1,137 tests were completed.

Operation Recall – Livestock worrying

This is the time of year when livestock worrying becomes a particular concern in our rural Areas, as pregnant ewes and lambs are particularly vulnerable. Please could I remind all dog owners to keep their dog on a lead when livestock is present and please pick up after your dog, as dog faeces can contain parasites which can be fatal to ewes and lambs. If you have livestock and would like a Dog on Lead sign, please email: ruralcrimeteam@warwickshire.police.uk

Community Safety – Speeding

I am aware that speeding continues to be a concern - I raise it regularly with Southam when I meet with them and also the Police and Crime Commissioner at meetings of the Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel. Residents can report concerns direct at: <https://warksspeedconcerns.org/>. You can also search for previous outcomes by road name. If a location is over twelve months old, it can be resubmitted to the Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership for consideration.

SDC refreshed website

No doubt you will all be thrilled to learn that SDC has refreshed its website Please do have a look at it and let us know what you think.

natalie.gist@stratford-dc.gov.uk