Fenny Compton Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting Of Fenny Compton Parish Council Held at Fenny Compton Village Hall, Fenny Compton on Monday 21 September 2026 At 7.45pm

PRESENT: Parish Councillors: Jon Dutton in the chair, Cllr Roly Whear and Cllr Martin Birch

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor Kettle, District Councillor Natalie Gist and Clerk Summia Khan.

2026_09_01: Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Emma Briscoe, Cllr Samantha Parkes, Cllr David Johnson were **accepted**

2026_09_02: Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 20 July (already circulated) were considered and the minutes were agreed (Accepted by Cllr Whear and Cllr Birch)

2026_09_03: Declarations of Interest

Cllr Dutton declared an interest in relation to the tree application

2026_09_04: Requests for Dispensation

None received

2026_09_05: Open Forum

A resident raised concerns about overgrown hedges and vegetation, restricted visibility, road and footpath conditions, the A423, Wormleighton Junction, Wharf Bridge, increased HGV traffic, street lighting and a recent leaking water main.

The Council agreed to investigate the issues raised and establish responsibility, referring relevant highway matters to Warwickshire County Council. The Council will also clarify responsibility for hedge cutting and consider a coordinated approach to managing overgrown vegetation.

The resident was thanked for attending and bringing these matters to the Council's attention.

Matters Arising – Previous Minutes

2026_09_06: District Councillor and County Councillor -Reports

District Councillor Natalie Gist provided an update on matters relating to the District Council, including the future review of the Neighbourhood Development Plan in light of changes to national planning policy. The Council discussed whether a full review or a more limited update would be appropriate and agreed that further information should be obtained regarding the current requirements and process. The possibility of obtaining specialist planning advice and any available funding to support this work was also discussed. An update was provided on the outstanding issue of grit bins at Compton Locks, with Cllr Gist confirming that the matter had been raised with the new neighbourhood manager and development team. The council also discussed reports of proposed tree planting at Compton Locks and agreed that clarification was required regarding permissions consultation, maintenance responsibilities and future costs. District Cllr Gist also provided an update on the former Methodist Chapel on the High Street.

The Council also discussed funding available to town and parish councils, including potential funding associated with Neighbourhood Development Plans, noting that any funding would need to be considered alongside the work required and a costed action plan. In relation to anti-social behaviour, the Council noted that reported incidents appeared to have reduced significantly and no further action was considered necessary at this time. It was agreed that the Parish Council would continue to pursue clarification on the Neighbourhood Development Plan review, available funding, grit bins and tree planting at Compton Locks.

County Cllr Kettle Report:

County Councillor Kettle presented and discussed the County Council report at the Parish Council meeting. The discussion covered roadside hedge cutting and maintenance, particularly along the A423 and roads and junctions leading into the village. Cllr Kettle agreed that responsibility for individual hedges should be established, as most appear to be the responsibility of landowners, with relevant landowners to be contacted where maintenance is required. Network Rail will also be contacted where vegetation issues relate to railway land. Cllr Kettle reported that the footpath extension works are due to commence on 20 October, following intervention with the Head of Highways after the work had not been scheduled by the Minor Works Team.

The County Council's own team will undertake the works, which are expected to extend further into the village than originally planned. The possibility of extending the works further while the team is on site was discussed, together with whether any additional work would be funded by the County Council or require a local contribution. Temporary traffic lights and a temporary highway obstruction will be required, and the timing of the works in relation to school half-term was noted.

Cllr Kettle also discussed the County Council's approach to the cumulative impact of housing developments, particularly on education and transport infrastructure. Proposed developments across neighbouring villages were discussed, including approximately 1,459 dwellings which could generate around 1,078 additional mainstream school pupils. Concerns were raised regarding existing school capacity and the ability to accommodate pupils generated by further developments, including additional applications in Southam. It was reported that the County Council is moving away from considering major applications entirely in isolation and now recognises that, where development generates sufficient demand, standard education contributions and school transport payments may not provide an adequate solution. Where a new school is required, developers will be expected to contribute collectively towards its provision with the location determined through the planning process.

2026_09_07: Correspondence

Bowls Club

The Council considered an enquiry from the Bowls Club regarding the use of its building for a meeting.
The request could not be accommodated. The Bowls Club had previously been advised that the Parish Council could potentially assist with identifying an alternative venue, such as Fenny Compton Village Hall.
No further response had been received.

Churchyard

The Council discussed concerns previously raised regarding the condition of the churchyard.
It was noted that the condition of the churchyard had improved in some areas but remained unsatisfactory in others.
The Council had investigated whether financial support might be appropriate. It was subsequently established that the principal issue appeared to relate to the arrangements for carrying out the maintenance rather than a lack of funding.
The current maintenance arrangements involve a contractor and subcontractor, and concerns had arisen regarding the standard and consistency of the work.
The churchwardens had been provided with the Parish Council's grant application form should they wish to seek financial assistance.
No further application had been received at the time of the meeting.
The Council agreed to continue monitoring the condition of the churchyard.

2026_09_08: Planning

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

Reference	Proposal	Address	Proposed Response
26/01905/FUL	Construction of a first-floor bedroom and bathrooms	7 High Street Fenny Compton Southam CV47 2XT	No representation The Council further notes that other external works have taken place at the former Methodist Chapel on the high street for which no planning application has been received by the Parish Council. The property is understood to be the house with rubble outside, works

			appear to have ceased but the rubble has not yet been removed.
26/02181/TREE	T1 - oak - Fell.	Harefield House High Street Fenny Compton Southam CV47 2YG	Council not quorate due to declare conflict of interest, no objection received prior to the meeting- default position. No representation
26/01994/VARY	Variation of conditions no. 2 and no. 3 of planning permission reference 26/00827/FUL dated 19 May 2026 to allow revised plans and a change in external materials from render to brickwork. Original description of the development: Single storey front extension to enlarge living room and provide porch, single storey side extension to form garage, and relocation of oil tank.	15 Northend Road Fenny Compton Southam CV47 2YZ	No representation

The Council also discussed the protection of historic hedgerows nothing that several local hedgerows appear on historic maps dating back to the 1890s and may qualify for protection. It was agreed that the Parish Council should take a proactive and consistent approach by reviewing historic evidence, identifying potentially protected hedgerows and incorporating appropriate protection requirements into response to current and future planning applications.

2026_09_09: Financial Administration

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

Action: For Clerk Summia to review the reconciliation process with Cllr Birch

2026_09_10 Finance

Grasscutting	FMF Contractors Ltd	513.00
Clerks Salary	Summia monthly salary	438.99
Clerks Salary	Warks LGPS	88.93
Clerks Salary	HMRC	3.16
Streetlighting Electricity	Valda Energy	146.59
Playing Field Electricity	e.on	14.49
DD	Water Plus	11.37
Clerk Training	WALC	48.00

2026_09_11: Updates

The Parish Council discussed the installation and maintenance of village planters and benches, including two proposed memorial benches at Rural Road and near the doctor's surgery. It was agreed that the proposal regarding village planters was accepted. Members agreed to confirm the approved contractor requirements, the proposed locations and whether the existing bench near the surgery requires repair or replacement. The Village Hall will also be contacted regarding the proposed bench arrangements.

Councillors were requested to support the Clerk by suggesting alternative contractors.

Outstanding actions, including liaison with neighbouring Parish Councils, play equipment, the annual playground inspection and tree inspections, will continue to be progressed. Members also discussed publicity for the managed nature areas, website updates and village improvement projects, with final checks to be completed before publication. Future matters will be revisited as further information becomes available.

Footpaths
The Council noted changes to the footpaths arrangements at Warwickshire County Council.
Two members of the County Council's footpaths team had reportedly left their positions, but a replacement had since been appointed.
An outstanding meeting was expected to take place with the new officer.

Notice board
The Council confirmed its previous decision to:

- Repaint the notice board
- Consider removing the upper section
- Consider whether improved backing should be installed and review whether any additional improvements identified during the works should be undertaken.

The first stage would be to arrange repainting and investigate the possibility of lowering the relevant notice boards.
The Council discussed the difficulty in finding contractors willing to undertake relatively small jobs.
Members agreed to continue seeking suitable contractors and to investigate whether local individuals or businesses might be able to assist.

Bench
The Council discussed repairs to a parish bench.
It was noted that measurements had previously been taken but that progress had been limited in obtaining someone to undertake the work.
Members agreed to continue pursuing possible contractors, including local contacts.

Drainage and BT Chamber
The meeting returned to the recurring water issue near the BT chamber. Cllr Whear explained the situation, noting that water has been running down the road for several years, particularly during wet weather. As the road rises towards the hill, water can be heard running through or around the BT infrastructure.
It was noted that significant quantities of water run down the road and collect around the chamber. The issue appears to occur during periods of wet weather rather than being caused by a constant spring.
Cllr Whear asked County Cllr Kettle to investigate the source and route of the water and to liaise with the relevant authorities and service providers regarding the impact on the BT chamber.
Action: County Cllr Kettle to investigate the drainage issue and liaise with BT and the relevant local authority/service. The Parish Council will provide photographs or other evidence where required.

Play Area / Sports Pavilion

The Parish Council discussed the forthcoming inspection of the play area, which is scheduled to take place in September or at the beginning of October.

Cllr Whear discussed the current inspection record and reported that a shackle is missing from one of the pieces of play equipment. A temporary replacement has been fitted to ensure the equipment remains safe. A new replacement shackle will be ordered from Wicksteed.

Cllr Whear also reported that he has followed up with HAGS regarding the inspection of the zip wire and is awaiting a response.

Trees:

A resident (online) raised the issue of tree planting, which was discussed by the Parish Council. It appears that residents may have been given permission to plant trees on a particular area of grass; however, there is some uncertainty regarding the exact terms of the permission and whether the Parish Council should have been consulted. Members discussed who would be responsible for maintaining the trees in the future, particularly if significant expenditure is required. If the land forms part of the development, responsibility may ultimately rest with Orbit. The Parish Council agreed that it should not take on any ongoing maintenance liability without clarification and that further information should be obtained before any commitment is made.

Street lights:

The meeting discussed whether additional street lighting would be required in connection with the new/widened footpath on Station Road. Members queried whether the extended section of footpath would have associated lighting. It was noted that there are already some street lights in the area, although their spacing may be greater than on other sections of the road. The potential lighting requirements will depend on the relevant lighting standards and the design of the new footpath. Members agreed that the Parish Council should obtain further information and, if appropriate, a quotation for any additional lighting.
Action: The Clerk to obtain a quotation for an additional street light and establish whether any further lights are required along the new/widened section of footpath on Station Road.

Bowling Club Repair/Upgrade:

No updates were discussed at the meeting regarding the Bowling Club repair/upgrade.

Village Planters:

Cllr Dutton discussed his proposal for the installation of village planters. He outlined the proposed budget, including the anticipated costs, and provided details on the proposed timescale for the project. It was agreed that the proposal was accepted.

Managed for Nature Areas

Cllr Dutton confirmed that an anew webpage has been launched to share information and updates on the managed for Nature Area at The Bear and Ragged Staff and Fieldgate Lane. The page will be developed and expanded over time in response to feedback from residents, who are encouraged to share their views and suggestion.

2026_07_12: Items to Publicise

Cllr Dutton confirmed that he would share the following key information with the public:

- The next section of the Compton Locks footpath will be widened in October.
- A webpage has been launched providing information about the Managed for Nature area.
- Information regarding the village planters will also be shared.
- The date of the next meeting will be publicised.

2026_07_13: Future Discussion

No updates

2026_07_14: Date of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for **19 October**.
MEETING CLOSED 21.25pm.

Appendix A

September Financial Administration

Balances: (See attached bank reconciliation)			**£**
Traffic Management		2,135.82	
Flood Relief Grant		803.56	
Allotments		1,000.00	
Defibrilator		885.94	
Cotters Croft		1,499.58	
Allocated Reserves			**6,324.90**
PC Balance - Budgeted expenses remaining			**12,923.63**
Unallocatted Reserves			**2,369.36**
Total			**21,617.89**
Within the following accounts:			
Current Account			177.21
Deposit Account 1			629.34
Deposit Account 2			183.59
12 Month Partial Withdrawal			10,005.00
1 Month Partial Withdrawal			10,622.75
Total Balances (See Bank Reconciliation)			**21,617.89**
Less Payments (See agenda item 10)			
SEP_26_1	FMF Contractors (Grasscutting)	(513.00)	
SEP_26_2	Summia monthly salary	(438.99)	
SEP_26_3	Warks LGPS	(88.93)	
SEP_26_4	HMRC	(3.16)	
SEP_26_5_DD	Valda Energy	(146.59)	
SEP_26_6_DD	e.on	(14.49)	
SEP_26_7_DD	Water Plus	(11.37)	
SEP_26_8	WALC	(48.00)	
Current Account			**(1,264.53)**
Total Balances carried forward			**20,353.36**

Appendix B

September Bank Reconciliation

Bank Balances	**£**	
Current Account	10,261.10	
Deposit Account 1	629.69	
Deposit Account 2	183.76	
12 Month Partial Withdrawal	10,005.00	
1 Month Partial Withdrawal	10,640.56	
Total Bank		**31,720.11**
Cash Book Balance b/f	20,353.36	
Subtract payments made since last meeting		
Bank charges	(4.25)	
WaterPlus	(8.70)	
Add payments approved but not yet cleared		
WaterPlus	11.37	
Add receipts since last meeting:		
Second precept payment	11,350.00	
Bank Interest	18.33	
Total Cash Book		**31,720.11**

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BUDGET REPORT 2026/2027

		2026/27				Comments
Receipts		**Budget**	**Receipts to date**		**Receipts o/s**	
	Precept	22,700.00	22,700.00		-	
	Parks	305.00	-		305.00	
	Bank Interest	550.00	339.57		210.43	
	Grant		-		-	
	VAT Reclaim	4,000.00	-		4,000.00	
	Cemetery Income		-		-	
	Transfer to Reserves		-		-	
	Other		75.00	-	75.00	
	TOTAL INCOME	**27,555.00**	23,114.57		**4,440.43**	
Payments						
Regular Costs				**Payments to dat**	**Available Budget**	
	Streetlighting Electricity	2,200.00		995.15	1,204.85	
	Clerks Salary	7,085.96		3,825.28	3,260.69	
	Administration	150.00		6.00	144.00	
	Grasscutting	4,989.60		6,767.40	- 1,777.80	
	Playing Field Maintenance	5,142.60		618.69	4,523.91	
	Playing Field Water	300.00		163.54	136.46	
	Playing Field Electricity	250.00		106.95	143.05	
	Bins	592.27		50.00	542.27	
	Room Hire	200.00		220.00	- 20.00	
	Sundry Items	50.00		-	50.00	
	Clerk set up costs	-		747.44	- 747.44	
	Landscape Maintenance	1,330.80		636.00	694.80	
	Sub-Total	**22,291.24**	-	14,136.45	**8,154.79**	
Contingencies and repairs						
	Tree works	1,000.00		925.00	75.00	
	Streetlighting Maintenance	1,000.00		-	1,000.00	
	Bowls Pavilion	1,000.00		-	1,000.00	
	Sports Pavilion	250.00		532.80	- 282.80	
	Noticeboards			27.00	- 27.00	
	Play Area	400.00		795.00	- 395.00	
	Sub-Total	**3,650.00**	-	2,279.80	**1,370.20**	
Fees and Charges						
	Insurance	1,600.00		1,704.03	- 104.03	
	Bank Fees	51.00		25.92	25.08	
	Auditors Fees	750.00		853.50	- 103.50	
	Subscriptions	575.00		554.00	21.00	
	Election Costs	-		-	-	
	Land Registry Fees			-	-	
	Website	350.00		331.98	18.02	
	Sub-Total	**3,326.00**	-	3,469.43	**- 143.43**	

Donations to village organisations						
	Village Donations	700.00		795.00	(95.00)	
	Sub-Total	700.00		795.00	**95.00**	
					-	
					-	
	TOTAL PAYMENTS	**29,967.24**	-	**20,680.68**	**9,286.56**	
	REVENUE SURPLUS	**2,412.24**			**2,433.89**	
Allocated Reserves						
	Defibrillator	885.94		0.00	885.94	
	Flood Alleviation	803.56		-	803.56	
	Traffic Management	2,135.82		-	2,135.82	
	Allotments	1,000.00		-	1,000.00	
	Cotters Croft	1,499.58		0.00	1,499.58	This figure to be updated after the meeting
	TOTAL ALLOCATED RESERVES	**6,324.90**	-	-	**6,324.90**	
	Unallocated Reserves	19,404.06		1,088.63	18,315.43	
	RESERVES	**25,728.96**		**1,088.63**	**24,640.33**	
					-	
Total Allocated Revenue and Reserves		**23,316.72**			**27,074.22**	
	VAT to claim		918.55	-	918.55	
	Check					

Deposit Account (Allocated Reserves)	2,625.50
12 Month Partial Withdrawal	10,005.00
32 Day Notice (Unallocated Reserves)	10,542.16
Deposit Account (Unallocated Reserves	1,146.78
Current Account	1,409.52
	25,728.96
Check	0.00