

Forncett Parish Council  
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council  
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 9 June 2016 at 7.30pm.

In Attendance: Cllr B Frith (Chairman) Cllr B Humphreys, Cllr A Coleman, Cllr G Barnes, Cllr D Welsby, Cllr G Gale

Parish Clerk Anne Rayner  
County Councillor Bev Spratt (joined the meeting at 7.50pm approx.)  
3 members of the public

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – None received
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to declare
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (19 May 2016)** – The minutes were approved without alteration and signed as correct by the Chairman.
4. **To consider matters arising from the minutes (for information only)** – Brian reported that the new notices showing guidelines for the noticeboards would soon be displayed.
5. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public, including reports from District and County Councillors** – Nothing to report
6. **To consider planning applications, including:**
  - a) **To hear information regarding the Laynes Farm planning appeal** – Brian reported that he attended the Laynes Farm planning appeal on 25 May. Attendees included the planning inspector, the planning officer, a representative from Highways, the Parish Council Chairman and some members of the public. Brian reported that it was a fair process, with everyone being given an opportunity to speak. The meeting commenced at 10 am and was completed by midday, with a site visit taking place at 1pm. The outcome will probably be known within 2 – 3 months.
  - b) **To hear information regarding Hope Valley** – As agreed at the last meeting, the parish council objected to this planning application. It was noted that there was no comment from Highways showing in the documents in relation to the latest planning application.
7. **To hear of planning decisions:**
  - a) 2016 / 0751 Randalls Farm, Wash Lane – single storey extension – Approved
  - b) 2016 / 0896 & 0898 The Granary, Northfield Rd – proposed extensions etc – Refused
8. **To undertake the review due of policies: Asset Register, Financial Regulations & General Risk Management** – These documents and policies were due for a periodic review. The asset register was amended throughout the year and was checked by the internal auditor as part of the internal audit. This was approved and it was resolved that no further updates were needed to the other two policies.

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- 9. To consider co-option of a Councillor** – Sarah Allen was present at the meeting and indicated her interest in the current Councillor vacancy. Sarah gave a brief summary of why she is interested in the role and Councillors unanimously agreed to the co-option of Sarah to Forncett Parish Council.

County Councillor Spratt joined the meeting and the Chairman gave him an opportunity to give his report. Councillor Spratt reported that it now seemed unlikely that Cambridge would be joining Norfolk and Suffolk in a devolution agreement. The current proposal would have to be agreed by the seven district councils in Norfolk and five in Suffolk and a final decision will be made by 4 July. The pot hole scheme, which received an additional £3 million of funding earlier in the year is progressing well. A section of the B1113 from the Bird in Hand to just before Rattes Corner has been resurfaced and also has the newest state of the art cats eyes installed. Finally, Councillor Spratt reported that verges are not being cut as part of a programme this year, mostly corners and junctions are the only areas that will be cut. Councillors and members of the public present felt this was an extremely dangerous policy for rural areas, not only causing visibility problems but also issues for walkers on narrow roads not having verges to access when cars are passing.

- 10. To receive the RFO report and consider the approval of the following payments:**

Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
100076	£273.77	A Rayner	June 2016 salary
100077	£ 45.60	Post Office Ltd	Q1 tax
100078	£ 35.00	B Frith	Reimbursement for brass plaque

The financial statement for the months of April and May was reviewed and approved.

- 11. To consider correspondence, including:**

**a) Letter from Saffron Housing** – Following concerns raised at last month’s meeting, the clerk wrote to Saffron Housing. They have responded, stating that their anti-social behaviour officer will contact the clerk in due course.

**b) The Centenary Fields Programme** – This is a letter asking for details of playing fields or other green spaces which can be protected by becoming a “Field in Trust” as part of the Centenary Fields Programme. It was agreed that there were no suitable areas in Forncett.

- 12. Update on ongoing matters and outstanding issues**

**a) Village Hall** – Brian reported that the Queen’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday event was very well attended with about 100 people present. The weather held off and it was a very successful event, particular mention was made of the excellent children’s entertainer. A spring clean day took place last Saturday, with 13 people present and a great deal was achieved, thanks to all those involved. The next event is on Saturday, with a BBQ, bar and music. Future plans are being discussed for new chairs, improvement to the flooring, electrical works and so on. The status of Jubilee Green and the village hall is still being looked into and it is hoped that official land registration will be able to be achieved.

**b) Highways and Public Rights of Way** – In light of comments from Councillor Spratt about the verge cutting, it was agreed that the parish council would formally write to Councillor Spratt to

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voice their concerns about this policy. Norfolk County Council are running the Parish Partnership Scheme again this year and applications need to be made by 16 December 2016. Projects which will be considered are trod paths, SAM2 machines, flashing 20mph school signs, small sections of formal footway, cycle racks and benches at bus stops etc. Councillors agreed they would all think about any suitable projects. Brian reported that John Wilde continues to regularly walk and attempt to maintain all of Forncett's footpaths, with the help of Cllr Gale. This is much appreciated, especially at this time of year when grass and plant growth is so quick. Finally, following discussion, it was agreed to write to South Norfolk Council enquiring about what seems to be a 20mph speed limit at the former CPS site and also to ask what is happening in relation to the small play area which should be installed at the site.

**c) SAM2 report** – Phil Whiscombe reported that the SAM2 has recently been outside St Edmunds for a two week period, during which it recorded 16000 vehicle movements. 27% of these vehicles were speeding, some falling into the 50 – 55mph speed limit, which is quite shocking considering the location and the layout of the road. Phil has spoken to Westotec about some additional options for the machine, which may help to register the effectiveness. Using data from the SAM2 machine as evidence of the problem, the clerk has written to the police to ask for a presence on Mill Road.

**13. To receive reports from:**

**a) Safer Neighbourhood Police Team Report** – During April 2016 records show one burglary, one violent offence and one other theft.

**14. Open forum, to hear from members of the public.** The issue of the hedges at the Manor encroaching on to the road was raised again. Brian advised that the owner of the Manor has previously given the village hall committee assurances that the overhanging tree will be dealt with, so Brian will write again addressing both issues.

**15. Date of the next meeting is confirmed as Thursday 21 July 2016 to commence at 7.30 pm**  
There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm.