

Forncett Parish Council  
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council  
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 17 November 2016 at 7.30pm.

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

Parish Clerk Anne Rayner  
4 members of the public

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Barnes.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to declare.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (20 October 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)** – The Chairman reported that Graham Prior had passed his thanks on to the parish council in respect of the donation towards the grass cutting at the churches.
5. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public, including reports from District and County Councillors** – No comments.
6. **To consider planning applications, including:**
  - a) **Hope Valley – update** – The Chairman reported that the planning appeal was well attended and the Planning Inspector was very thorough. The hearing lasted approximately five hours, with a short break for lunch. A decision is expected around Christmas time.
  - b) **2016 / 2408 – Grove Barn, Wacton Road – Demolish existing garage & replace with new** – This application was discussed and Councillors raised no objections.
  - c) **2016 / 2637 – The Homestead, Low Rd – Insertion of windows to east & south elevations** – Councillors raised no objections to the plans but agreed to submit comments confirming this, on the understanding that the listed buildings officer is satisfied with the plans.
  - d) **2016 / 2526 – Chestnut Tree Farm, Bustards Green – Prior approval for conversion of piggery from agricultural building to dwelling** – This application was received after the publication of the agenda. The application is subject to new legislation introduced in 2015 and, as such, Councillors agreed to raise no objections, subject to the plans meeting current legislation.
7. **To hear of planning decisions:**  
**Received after agenda publication: 2016 / 2271 Bridge Farm – Approved & 2016 / 2368 Merlecroft – Approved.**
8. **To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings:**  
**None to report**
9. **To agree to a grant application submission for a defibrillator for the St Mary phone box** – It was agreed at the last meeting to try to retain the BT phone box at Forncett St Mary and the favoured use for the phone box, as expressed from nearby residents, would be for a

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defibrillator. The clerk circulated information after the meeting about a possible grant source and Councillors agreed that an application should be submitted. This has been done and the parish council should find out in approximately 10 weeks if the application is successful.

- 10. To hear recommendations from the finance working party for the budget and precept –**  
The Chairman reported that the finance working party met at the beginning of the month to discuss the budget requirements and precept. The budget for the forthcoming year was discussed and the recommendation from the working party was that the precept remain at £12000 for the next financial year. The Chairman also mentioned the possible forthcoming legislation proposing the need for a referendum, should an increase of more than 2% be required. Councillor Gale mentioned the purchase of the lawnmower during this year, which had been a great success, and asked if the purchase of a brushcutter could be considered for the next year. Councillors were unanimously supportive of this idea, given the positive feedback received from residents and the cost saving made as a result of not having to pay for a contractor to cut the footpaths. Cllr Gale will look into sourcing a brushcutter. It was therefore agreed to include this in the budget and Councillors resolved to leave the precept at £12000 again for the 2017/18 year.
- 11. To further consider the grant request and public works loan from Tacolneston Children's Play Area Refurbishment Project –** The Chairman reported that he attended the recent Tacolneston Parish Council meeting. It became apparent at this meeting that there are some governance issues relating to the management and Trustee position of TAFRA, which Tacolneston parish council and the association will now work to resolve. Forncett parish council placed an item in the Forncett Flyer last month asking for feedback from residents about a possible donation and / or increase to the precept for this project. Two positive responses were received but also one stating that a precept increase would not be appropriate, for a variety of reasons. Councillors agreed that the clerk should send a response to TAFRA confirming that it would be unlikely to take out a public works loan but had certainly not ruled out a donation, when the current governance issues have been resolved and when other fundraising sources / grant applications mean that the project has adequate funding to start.
- 12. To consider the draft recommendations, Electoral Review of South Norfolk –** This relates to the Boundary Commission review proposals, with the aim resulting in each District Councillor having responsibility for Wards with similar numbers of constituents. Due to development in some areas, this is currently not the case. The proposed change for Forncett would mean that instead of the Forncett Ward being comprised of Forncett, Ashwellthorpe, Tacolneston and Fundenhall it would be Forncett, Tacolneston, Hapton, Tharston and Wacton. The consultation ends in January but Councillors agreed that they had no comments to make.
- 13. To receive the RFO report and consider the approval of the following payments:**  
The financial report, circulated prior to the meeting, was approved. Payments approved at the last meeting (see item no 14 of the minutes dated 20 October 2016) were made between meetings, once the correct cheque payee had been established. Two additional

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payments, relating to work taking place at the village hall, were received after the publication of the agenda and Councillors unanimously approved all payments.

Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
100092	£ 25.00	Upper Valley All Sts.	Wreath & donation to Royal BL
100093	£ 600.00	Upper Valley All Sts.	Grass cutting donation
100094	£ 800.00	Forncett Flyer	Payment 2 of annual grant
100095	£ 269.35	A Rayner	November salary
100096	£ 892.80	Fieldline	Works to village hall car park
100097	£2245.92	G & G Fencing	Balance of fencing work at V Hall

It was also reported that a CIL payment of £1994.07 was received on 28 October. The parish Council has five years to spend this, or it returns to the District Council.

**14. To consider correspondence, including:**

**a) Greater Norwich Local Plan** - The Greater Norwich Local Plan “call for sites” details have recently been published. This identifies land put forward by landowners as potential sites for development. The next stage will be for South Norfolk Council to assess the sites for suitability and, if approved, the standard planning procedure would then commence. Six sites have been identified in Forncett, three off Common Road, one on Tabernacle Lane and two near the junction of Cheney’s Lane / Spicers Lane. This does not mean that these sites will necessarily be approved as suitable for development.

**b) SNC – Development of a Community Assets Strategy** – This is information received from South Norfolk Council relating to the Community Assets they own, such as Common Land, public toilets etc. It suggests that the District Council will not be taking on any more Community Assets and, if parish councils wish to consider taking over responsibility for something currently belonging to the District Council, they should get in touch to begin discussing the possibility of this happening.

**c) Better Broadband for Norfolk Project** – A new communications cabinet being installed in Low Road should begin providing services within a year. Residents will need to contact their Broadband provider to upgrade, if appropriate.

**15. Update on ongoing matters and outstanding issues**

**a) Village Hall** – The Chairman reported that the Parish Council team came second at the Trophy quiz night. Improvements have been made to the outside area, including better lighting and the fencing has been installed.

**b) Highways and Public Rights of Way** – The boardwalk located at footpath 17 (at the side of the school) is in poor condition and is very slippery. This has been reported to Highways. The new footpath sign on Gilderswood Lane has been removed / stolen.

**c) SAM2 report** – Phil Whiscombe submitted a report highlighting some of the statistics. The sign has been placed on Mill Road eastbound for the first time, with 61% of people recorded as speeding in this location. The police have confirmed, following submission of the SAM2 data for Mill Road, that air tubes will be placed on the road to give further statistics relating to the number of vehicles and the speeding problem, with a view to an officer attending with a speed gun.

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16. **To receive reports from:**
  - a) **Safer Neighbourhood Police Team Report** – Crime reported in September was one criminal damage and arson.
17. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public** – Cllr Coleman reported on the Norfolk Police Consultation which really only asks one question, would residents be prepared to pay an additional 2% to the police share of their Council Tax in order to improve police services.
18. **Date of the next meeting is confirmed as Thursday 15 December 2016 to commence at 7.30pm** – Please be welcome to attend from approximately 7pm onwards, to enjoy some Christmas nibbles.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.**