

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 21 July 2016 at 7.30pm.

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

Parish Clerk Anne Rayner
6 members of the public

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – District Councillor Barry Duffin sent his apologies.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – Cllr Allen declared an interest in item 6c on the agenda. The Chairman declared an interest in item 6b on the agenda. The Chairman and Cllr Coleman both declared an interest in items 9 and 13a (Village Hall matters) on the agenda.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (9 June 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)** – Relating to a matter raised at the last meeting, it was noted that Norfolk County Council have started a programme of verge cutting. The parish council understands only one cut will be undertaken this year.
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) To hear of developments regarding the Laynes Farm planning appeal and Hope Valley – The result of the Laynes Farm appeal has been received, with the applicant being awarded a further four years of temporary permission. With regard to Hope Valley, the third planning application has been refused and the appeal lodged in respect of the first and second application is due to be heard at South Norfolk Council on 25th August. It was agreed that the clerk should write to Richard Bacon MP to ask if he would be prepared to attend.
 - b) 2016 / 1489 – 2 Chapel Close – 2 bay cart lodge – The Chairman left the room. Councillors discussed this application and had no objections. The Chairman re-joined the meeting.
 - c) 2016 / 1487 – Land South of Mill Rd – Retention of barn with amended design – Cllr Allen left the room. The application was discussed. Councillors expressed their disappointment at what appears to be a cynical attempt at development by stealth. Clear conditions imposed in former applications have been ignored by the applicant. Councillors continue to have reservations about the access, the dimensions of the barn and the reasons for the errors when re-erecting it. Councillors agreed unanimously to object. Cllr Allen re-joined the meeting.

A late application relating to 12 Humphreys Close was also discussed 2016 / 1572 and Councillors agreed they had no objections to this application.
7. **To hear of planning decisions:**
 - a) 2016 / 0936 Corner Farm, Low Road barn roof to be raised – approved
 - b) 2015 / 1999 Tawny Farm, Station Rd – Change of use of outbuilding – approved

8. **To consider changes to planning administration at South Norfolk Council and discuss possible options to change of parish council procedures** – The clerk reported that parish councils will no longer receive extensions to planning application deadlines and a response will therefore be required within the standard 21 days. In order to deal with this, South Norfolk Council have highlighted the following points: a) It is acceptable for the clerk to circulate applications to parish councillors asking for them to respond within a designated time limit. Councillors are encouraged to check the SNC website to gain views from members of the public. b) It may not be suitable for some applications to be dealt with in this way, e.g applications involving construction of three or more properties or potentially controversial applications. c) Rather than public meetings, the parish council may choose to advertise applications on their noticeboards. This information and the options were discussed. Councillors agreed that this was a disappointing change and felt the options for inviting public comment were unrealistic. The clerk has a meeting at South Norfolk Council on 28 July and a procedure will be on the agenda for the September meeting, should it prove necessary to adapt the way the parish council treats planning applications.

9. **To hear a report of the meeting with N Hancox, solicitor, relating to the outside area of the village hall** – Brian, as Chairman of the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee, Vice Chair of the Village Hall Barry Bradford and the clerk, met with Nicholas Hancox, solicitor, and Sophie Bedwell, trainee solicitor, at the village hall in order to discuss formalising the registration of the land. The procedure would be to register with Land Registry the Village Hall and the land known as Jubilee Green. Then investigate the possibility of the parish council transferring the Jubilee Green land from the parish council, in its own right, to the parish council, acting as trustee of the Village Hall Charity. Finally, formalise the constitution as regards trusteeships within the Village Hall Management Committee. The amount quoted for all of this work is £1075 plus VAT, which is proposed to be split on a 50/50 basis between the village hall and the parish council. Councillors agreed that it would be good to resolve this long outstanding matter and agreed to proceed on this basis.

Information has also been received from the solicitor today that the registration of the land on Station Rd has been successful. The parish council will need to consider how to move forwards with this and it was agreed to add this to the agenda for the September meeting. Payment of the fee, which was exactly as per the quote, was also approved.

10. **To hear feedback from the town and parish clerk's meeting at South Norfolk Council** – The clerk attended this meeting at South Norfolk Council on 14 July. Information was given on the independent living and dementia grants available from South Norfolk Council. Bob Wade (SNC) and Simon Briggs (NCC) gave some information about maintenance of the local street scene. Various items were discussed and it was noted that other parishes spoke of the lack of response and information regarding the Highway ranger scheme and also that one of the most complained about items at parish council meetings was the lack of maintenance of footpaths. Bob Wade confirmed that, due to budget constraints, services which are costing the council significant money, such as dog waste collection, will almost certainly be reviewed, with consideration being given to either increasing the charges or looking at alternative suggestions

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for disposal of the waste.

Finally, a section on both devolution and the boundary review was covered, with parishes being encouraged to submit their views at www.eastangliandevo.co.uk and www.lgbce.org.uk respectively.

11. To receive the RFO report and consider the approval of the following payments:

The financial report, circulated prior to the meeting was approved.

Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
100079	£269.15	A Rayner	July 2016 salary
100080	£448.58	Alpha Furnishing Ltd	Deposit for village hall chairs
100081	£432.00	N Hancox Solicitors	Fee for registration of Station Rd land

12. To consider correspondence, including:

- a) Letter from Tacolneston Parish Council – This letter asks if the parish council would be prepared to allow John Wilde to use the Forncett mower for the paths in Tacolneston, as he is footpath warden for both parishes. Councillors agreed that they would be happy for John Wilde to use the mower for maintenance related to his role as footpath warden of Tacolneston. This would be on an agreed basis that all petrol costs and maintenance in the future are shared on a 50/50 basis. Cllr Gale also suggested that a brushcutter would be extremely useful and proposed that, as part of the agreement, Tacolneston purchase a brushcutter which is shared by the two parishes with the same agreement relating to costs. Cllr Barnes also suggested that the agreement stay in force whilst John Wilde is footpath warden only, which was agreed to. The letter from Tacolneston PC also asks if the parish council would be prepared to make a contribution towards the recent purchase of a dog waste bin which is situated near Bentley Road. Councillors agreed that Forncett have had a clear policy on the provision of dog waste bins and declined to contribute to this.
- b) E-mail from SNC re the CPS site – At the last meeting a query was raised relating to the 20mph speed limit within the new estate on the old CPS site. The clerk reported that Norfolk County Council require all new residential estates to be limited to 20mph, regardless of location. Also, with regard to the responsibility for the toddler play area, there are apparently no specific timescales detailing when the play area should be completed. With regard to the maintenance of the play area, either a management company will be set up by the developer or the developer may approach either South Norfolk Council or the Parish Council to take over the management, with an appropriate financial contribution for doing so.
- c) Safeguarding Adults Board – Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board became a statutory provision in April 2015. An awareness week is being held between 12 – 16 September 2016. More information is available on their website www.norfolksafeguardingadultsboard.info/ or contact the clerk. Cllr Welsby will place some of the leaflets on the noticeboard by the school.

13. Update on ongoing matters and outstanding issues

- a) Village Hall – The Chairman reported that the recent BBQ, beer and music evening was a great success, despite the weather, with another one planned for 12 September. The fete was also a fantastic success, despite the torrential rain towards the end of the event. Thanks go to everyone involved, including those who helped cars off the car park. With regard to the

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improvements at the village hall, the Chairman gave a brief history of the plans, how the funds were raised and the plans for the outside area, as they stand now. The parish council are holding £13050 on behalf of the village hall and the village hall treasurer has asked the parish council for approval of a general release of funds. This is to assist works commencing, without the need to each payment to be approved at a parish council meeting, which would considerable delay matters. The Chairman displayed a map proposing some of the changes to the outside area, which include works to the electrics, removing the old concrete pad, removing the old chain link fencing and erecting new railings, providing a method of accessing the field to be used for overflow car parking, the levelling of the car park and installing a concrete kerb. Councillors resolved to approve the general release of funds, ensuring that the spend remains within the allocated monies. Councillors agreed to purchase 65 new chairs plus trolley from Alpha Furniture (costing £1495.25 +VAT) and donate them to the Village Hall - in lieu of the usual annual £1500 grant.

b) Highways and Public Rights of Way – The Chairman met Simon Briggs, Highways Officer, in the village. Issues discussed included: the boundary of the village hall car park to Low Road, potential new SAM2 sites on Long Stratton Rd & Aslacton Rd, the road surface and ditches on Tabernacle Lane, the hedges at the Manor. Cllr Humphreys asked if the gulleys on Low Road & Aslacton Road could also be reported.

c) SAM2 report – The SAM2 has recorded 250,000 movements since its installation. A recent period of the sign in stealth mode in Mill Road did indicate that the sign has an immediate impact on at least some speeders, when it is in display mode. All the latest statistics will be in the Forncett Flyer. Thanks to Phil Whiscombe for all the work he puts into this.

14. To receive reports from:

a) Safer Neighbourhood Police Team Report – The report for May 2016 records one “other theft”. Whilst discussing crime, the number of recent thefts of trailers from nearby villages was mentioned. It appears that the trailers are normally stolen before 10pm and residents were asked to be vigilant.

15. Open forum, to hear from members of the public – No comments.

16. Date of the next meeting is confirmed as Thursday 15 September 2016 to commence at 7.30 pm

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