

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 20 August 2015 at 7.30pm.

In Attendance: Cllr B Frith (Chairman) Cllr B Humphreys, Cllr J Bowers, Cllr A Coleman, Cllr G Barnes, Cllr G Gale.

Parish Clerk Anne Rayner
District Councillor Barry Duffin
County Councillor Bev Spratt
72 members of the public

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Claire Jordan.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – Cllrs Coleman and Bowers both declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 4a) as they are both Village Hall trustees.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (16 July 2015)** – The minutes were approved without alteration and signed as correct by the Chairman. Brian reported as matters arising from those minutes that work was progressing on the village sign, John Wilde (footpath warden) has walked all of Forncett's footpaths since his appointment and provided a comprehensive report on their condition. Finally, the Chairman recommended that thanks be passed to Highways for the excellent job completed on the paths near the school, as part of the parish partnership scheme. This was completed on time, during the school holidays and to a high standard. Councillors agreed and the clerk will write to Highways.

The Chair also proposed an amendment to the agenda to discuss item 6 at this point, to allow the remainder of the meeting to be devoted to planning. Cllrs unanimously agreed.

6. **To consider the additional options available for the SAM2 machine** – Brian reported that the original quote of approximately £3000 (50% of this cost to be met by the parish council) did not include the new pole required, brackets and the "data recording" package. If all additional items were accepted, the total cost would be approx. £3540 plus VAT. Councillors resolved to accept the quote for all the additional items and to proceed on this basis.

To consider a motion to suspend the meeting to allow members of the public to speak, including reports from District and County Councillors.

County Councillor Bev Spratt offered his congratulations to the parish council for the work carried out at the school, as part of the parish partnership scheme. Brian confirmed the suspension to the meeting would be extended to allow public comments on the planning applications.

4. **To consider planning applications, including:**
 - a) **2015 / 1612 Village Hall, Low Road, Forncett St Mary – New car park** – This application was discussed and, whilst the Chair voiced some concerns over the amount of car parking spaces, the plans were widely approved. No objections would be raised.
 - b) **2015 / 1615 The Granary, Northfield Road, Forncett St Peter – Proposed extensions and alterations** – This application was discussed and, although it was felt to be a large extension,

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 20 August 2015 at 7.30pm.

it would not appear to have any direct impact on neighbours. No objections were raised.

c) 2015 / 1536 Tasway House, Aslacton Rd, Forncett St Peter – Proposed erection of storage building – This application was discussed and no objections were raised.

d) 2015 / 1673 Hope Valley, Low Common Road, Great Moulton – Change of use to mix of Gypsy and Traveller residential use, garden and parking area and paddocks for the keeping and breeding of horses – The Chairman confirmed the public session remained open and suggested he would take comments from anyone wishing to speak both in favour of the application or to object.

An invitation for anyone to speak in favour of the application received no response.

A lengthy discussion followed during which several members of the public voiced their concerns over the unsuitability of the site, due to access and highway problems and also the site not being the size stated in the documents and therefore being completely inadequate for the requirements stated. During this period, standing orders were suspended, with unanimous agreement from all councillors, to allow the period for public participation to exceed 30 minutes.

Several people commented on the lack of surveys, including ecological, tree and bat.

Brian confirmed that the date of the committee hearing at South Norfolk Council has been confirmed as 16 September 2015. Comments to be included in the officer's report will need to be received by South Norfolk Council by 4 September but any comments received up to 15 September can be included at committee. SNC have also confirmed that each parish council, Aslacton, Gt Moulton and Forncett, will be able to speak on the day and the length allowed for comments has been extended from 5 minutes each to 7 minutes each.

Several people expressed their anger and disappointment at South Norfolk Council for the apparent poor handing of this application, including, lack of action from any enforcement officers and the misleading way the planning information was handled – i.e. the design and access statement only appearing on the website on 14 August but with a date showing of 27 July and the apparent confusion over the cut off date for comments. District Councillor Barry Duffin invited residents to contact him with their comments but pointed out that this is not actually in his ward, Martin Wilby is the District Councillor for Great Moulton.

The applicant joined the meeting at approximately 8.40pm and was invited to comment. He declined but said he would like to bring his legal representative to speak to the parish council at a later date. The Chairman explained that this was a parish council meeting, during which members of the public had an opportunity to speak and he had the same opportunity. The applicant advised that he wished to live on the site with his family only. He did not wish to comment further.

The Chair reminded everyone that comments should be made to South Norfolk Council (Planning), marked with application number 2015/1673 by e-mail, letter or online form on

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 20 August 2015 at 7.30pm.

the South Norfolk Council website, bearing in mind the deadline dates reported earlier in the meeting.

The period for public comment was declared closed and the meeting resumed. Councillors agreed they would object to the Hope Valley planning application, for the reasons discussed. A summary would be prepared, circulated to Councillors for approval and then submitted to SNC.

- 5. To hear planning decisions from South Norfolk Council:
2015 / 1267 – Sandpit Farm, Overwood Lane, Forncett St P – Replacement windows – approved.**

To consider a motion to suspend the meeting to allow members of the public to speak
No further comments were received.

- 7. Date of the next meeting is confirmed as Thursday 17th September 2015.**
The meeting closed at 8.55pm.