

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 14 December 2017 at 7.30pm.

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

Parish Clerk Anne Rayner
District Councillor Barry Duffin
5 members of the public

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Gale and Barnes.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to declare.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (16 November 2017)** – 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 not only is the village still waiting for the post box at Station Road to be replaced but the box at Aslacton Road has also disappeared, without any prior notification. It appears that this box may have been removed in error, during works carried out by BT, however, there has not been any indication as yet as to when the post box may be reinstated.
5. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public, including reports from District and County Councillors** – District Councillor Duffin reported that South Norfolk Council are considering working with “In Touch” in Norwich to improve the availability of broadband throughout South Norfolk. An interim Chief Executive has been appointed at Saffron. A planning application covering the proposed housing development and bypass for Long Stratton is expected at any time. Councillor Duffin indicated that he felt strongly that the bypass must come before the majority of the housing development and that the proposed bypass must be fit for purpose. South Norfolk Council are considering introducing permit parking in some areas where inconsiderate drivers are making it difficult for residents to access or park near their own homes, e.g. at some places near the hospital.
The Chairman asked Cllr Duffin about the lack of progress in making live the two new fibre broadband cabinets in Low Rd and Aslacton Rd. Cllr Duffin asked the clerk to e-mail this query to him.
6. **To consider planning applications**
 - a) **None**
Whilst no planning applications have been received for the parish council to consider, the Chairman did highlight the fact that the parish council’s tree warden was not notified of a recent application relating to tree works at Forncett Manor. Cllr Duffin will also look in to this.
7. **To hear of planning decisions**
 - a) **2017 / 1915 – Land north of Walnut Tree Cottage – Replace garage / store with open sided wood store – Approved**
 - b) **2017 / 2370 – Variation of conditions 4 and 8 of planning consent 2016 / 1114** – Received after the publication of the agenda – The applicant withdrew the request to remove the need

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to install appropriate fencing at the site and, with the other conditions remaining, these were approved.

- 8. To hear further information regarding the possible speeding restrictions near Hunt's Mead –** Following the discussion at the last meeting regarding the consideration of village gates, the clerk and the Chairman met with the Highways Engineer to assess the site again and see what could realistically be done. The Highways Engineer did not support the installation of village gates at the location near to where the housing begins, due to a lack of available verge on the right hand side (when approaching Forncett from Long Stratton). However, following discussion, the Highways Engineer indicated that, as he felt it may be unlikely that, if consulted, Forncett residents would probably be unlikely to object to a proposed 40 mph speed limit, this would reduce the cost to an estimated £2500 plus the cost of the sign. County Councillor Spratt has confirmed would contribute £1000 from his budget, bring the cost to the parish council down to approximately £1500 plus the cost of the sign. An article is in the Forncett Flyer this month asking for views, so it was agreed to wait and receive any feedback from residents, before making a final decision. A member of the public present, living close to the area in question, asked for any options to be considered.
- 9. To consider a donation request from Borderhoppa –** Following discussion, the parish council agreed to make a £30 donation.
- 10. To receive the RFO report and consider the approval of the following payments:**

Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
100138	£287.59	A Rayner	Dec 2017 salary
100139	£ 55.80	HMRC	Q3 tax
100140	£ 30.00	Norfolk Citizens Advice	Donation
100141	£ 30.00	Borderhoppa	Donation

The payment proposed to Norwich Sunblinds was postponed to the January meeting. At the last meeting it was agreed to make payment of the invoice for the tree works on Station Road as soon as it was received. Cheque number 100137 was therefore sent to Broadland Tree Services for a total amount of £864.00.

11. To consider correspondence

a) Letter from Saffron Housing re housing survey – Saffron Housing have advised that as a result of the response to their recent housing survey they have identified a need for 8 affordable homes in Bunwell and for 14 affordable homes in the Forncetts, Carlton Rode and Tacolneston. The Chairman pointed out that there is already a provision for some affordable housing within the plans for The Fields in Tacolneston and District Councillor Duffin confirmed this would need to be taken into account.

b) Notification of external auditor appointments – The external auditors for the next 5 years for smaller authorities in Norfolk will be PKF Littlejohn LLP. It appears there will be no charge for parishes with an income and expenditure of less than £25000.

12. Update on ongoing matters and outstanding issues

- a) Village Hall** – As part of the project to correctly register the land at the village hall, it became apparent that the village hall constitution is very out of date. The solicitor who has handled the other issues has sent a draft revised constitution but recommended that the parish council should have a role in agreeing the village hall management committee representatives. The Chairman asked if any Councillors would be prepared to meet with members of the village hall committee to look through the draft constitution to give an independent view from the parish council. Councillors Allen and Welsby volunteered to do this and their offers were gratefully accepted. The Chairman will arrange a suitable meeting date.
- b) Highways and Public Rights of Way** – John Wilde, footpath warden, asked at the last meeting for a volunteer to help him move the mower around next year. Someone has come forward and offered their assistance.
- c) SAM2 report** – Phil Whiscombe reported that the SAM2 has now been in the village for two years and has recorded 750,000+ vehicle movements. Looking at the statistics as a whole, 54% of those drivers were within the speed limit and 46% exceeded the speed limit.

13. Open forum, to hear from members of the public – Cllr Allen highlighted the terrible parking around the school again. Given that the parish council have engaged with the police and the school on this matter on several occasions, there seems to be little else that can be done at the moment. Councillors agreed that the parking is inconsiderate and often illegal and it seems only a matter of time before an accident occurs.

A member of the public present asked if there was any indication of an application for a new phone mast in the area, given the terrible signal. Councillors suggested the best signal in the area seems to be on the EE network and, following a recent refusal for a new mast, there has not been a subsequent application.

14. Date of the next meeting is confirmed as Thursday 18 January 2018 to commence at 7.30pm.

The Chairman passed on Seasons Greetings from the parish council and thanked everyone for all their work during the year, from the team managing the SAM2, the footpath warden and volunteers keeping our footpaths accessible, the people checking the defibrillator, the tree warden, the residents taking part in the litter pick every year, the people in the community making the village hall events such a success and the Councillors who volunteer their time.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.