

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 16 November 2017 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
6 members of the public

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Allen. District Councillor Barry Duffin also sent his apologies.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – Cllrs Frith and Coleman acknowledged their already recorded interest in the village hall.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (19 October 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 native daffodils have been planted, thanks to those who helped with this project. Graham Prior has passed his thanks on to the parish council for their donation in respect of the upkeep of the churchyard.
5. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public, including reports from District and County Councillors** – No comments.
6. **To consider planning applications**
 - a) None
7. **To hear of planning decisions**
 - a) 2017 / 2051 – Moorlands Cottage, Bustards Green – Replacement windows – Approved
 - b) 2017 / 2244 – Clavers Cottage, Low Rd – New shed – Approved
8. **To hear feedback from the meeting at Wacton re Long Stratton development** – The Chairman reported that the proposed developers were present at this meeting. The planning application has not actually been submitted as yet but concerns have already been raised over the apparent inadequacy of the proposed bypass and the potential for the housing to be built without the road ever coming to fruition. A new primary school is included in the plans and also a roundabout at the Hempnall crossroads.

County Councillor Spratt joined the meeting and the parish council were pleased to accept his report:

The first section of the new northern distributor road (NDR) has opened, with the remaining two sections to follow at a later date.

Norfolk Constabulary are proposing a 2% increase on their part of the council tax.

It was noted it was a blow for Norwich and employment in the area to lose Colemans / Britvic.

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The Chairman asked Cllr Spratt if he had any funding available to contribute towards an extended speed restriction on Station Rd, if the parish council decided to proceed with this. Cllr Spratt confirmed he would be prepared to support the project with £1000.

- 9. To hear information regarding the possible speeding restrictions near Hunt's Mead** – The cost of implementing a speed restriction encompassing the new development has been quoted as £5000. Highways have confirmed they would only support a 40mph speed limit in the area, which the parish council felt was disappointing as the location and bends in the road helped to restrict the speed naturally. Councillors felt very strongly that a speed restriction should have been paid for at the time by the developers, as they stressed during the planning procedure. Following further discussion, it was agreed to approach our highways engineer to enquire about the possibility of "village gates" on the approach from Long Stratton, with a sign along the lines of "Forncett – please drive carefully". The clerk will contact the highways engineer and will circulate the response for a decision on whether or not to apply, as part of the parish partnership scheme.
- 10. To consider division and payment of invoice regarding Jubilee Green registration** – The invoice has been received from the solicitor regarding the works to register the Jubilee Green land. Councillors unanimously agreed that the 50% share due from the village hall be paid from the funds being held by the parish council. It was also noted that "title possessory" has been granted, meaning that the parish council will need to apply for "title absolute" in 2029.
- 11. To hear recommendations from the finance working party meeting regarding the 2017/18 budget and precept setting** – The finance working party met earlier in the month and the budget commitments and plans have been circulated accordingly. Councillors approved a proposal to keep the precept at the current level of £12000. Tax base figures have not been received from South Norfolk Council as yet.
- 12. To receive the RFO report and consider the approval of the following payments:**

Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
100133	£ 287.59	A Rayner	Nov 2017 salary
100134	£ 285.00	A Smith	Works to village hall porch
100135	£1150.00	N Hancox Solicitors	Land registration fee
100132	£ 800.00	Forncett Flyer	Grant payment instalment 2

An invoice for the tree works on Station Road is imminent and it was agreed to pay this invoice as soon as it is received, as long as it is in line with the quotation.

Whilst mentioning the Flyer, it was noted that the Forncett Flyer magazine recently received "Best design of all A4 magazines" in the National Parish Magazine Awards. This is a great achievement and a reflection of the hard work put in by Su and the rest of the team. It was agreed to send a letter of congratulations to Su.

- 13. To consider correspondence**

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- a) **TPO No 6 – Larch tree at Church of St Peter, Aslacton Rd** – This is confirmation of TPO 6, on the larch tree in St Peter's Church.
- b) **Request for donation from Norfolk Citizens Advice** – Councillors felt this was an excellent organisation, open to all residents, and agreed to make a donation of £30.
- c) **Letter of thanks regarding bulb planting project** – A letter of thanks has been received, following the parish council's decision to plant native daffodil bulbs.
- d) **Royal Mail – Station Rd post box** – The Chairman reported on the drawn out correspondence from Royal Mail which, despite their assurances, has not resulted in a replacement post box for Station Road.
- e) **Regarding the GNLP** – The parish council has recently received some correspondence from a resident regarding this, raising some concerns at inaccuracies within the draft report. The document is currently on the South Norfolk Council website. South Norfolk Council have confirmed that parish councils will be able to submit comments as part of the consultation process early next year.
- f) **Proposed listing of Forngett St Mary war memorial** – Following the listing of the St Peter memorial, the parish council has received a letter regarding the St Mary memorial. The letter contained a suggestion that the memorial is owned and maintained by the Church, however, the parish council understand that the memorial is not on Church land, was paid for by subscriptions from the public and is maintained by the parish council. A response containing these points will be sent.

14. Update on ongoing matters and outstanding issues

- a) **Village Hall** – The parish council team came 5th in the recent trophy team quiz.
- b) **Highways and Public Rights of Way** – John Wilde, footpath warden, was present to give an end of season report. One of the main problems is landowners overplanting. Jody Thurston is now in role as countryside access officer and Norfolk County Council and has been a great help. Landowners are being written to, to remind them of their responsibilities. Many of the paths have been cut by John, assisted by Brian Frith, Graham Gale, Terry Hickman-Smith and Derek Hill. John appealed for anyone who may be able to help with the servicing of the mower over the winter and also advised that he is changing his car so will not be in a position to move the mower about as well next year. Again, if anyone feels they are able to help, that would be gratefully received. Finally, John reported that one of the main issues seems to be horses churning up the footpaths. Whilst horse riders are generally not allowed on public footpaths, they can use them with the express consent of the landowner. The landowner should make good any damage to a public footpath. It was agreed to try to find out who the landowner of the most badly affected path is and suggest making a sign, asking riders to be respectful of the surface, especially in wet conditions.
- c) **SAM2 report** – Phil Whiscombe was not present to give the SAM2 report.

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

16. Date of the next meeting is confirmed as Thursday 14 December 2017 to commence at 7.30pm.

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