

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 18 May 2017 at 7.30pm

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

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

1. **To elect a Chairman for the forthcoming year and receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office** – Cllr Frith was nominated and seconded for the role of Chairman and duly signed the acceptance of office.
2. **To elect a vice-chair and receive their declaration of acceptance of office** – Cllr Humphreys was nominated and seconded for the role of Vice- Chair and duly signed the acceptance of office.
3. **To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Gale.
4. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to report.
5. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (20 April 2017)** – The minutes were approved without alteration and signed as correct by the Chairman.
6. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public, including reports from District and County Councillors** – District Cllr Duffin reported that he is chairman of the Council for 2017/18, the Vice-Chairman is John Overton. Cllr Duffin is also on the planning committee and scrutiny committee.

A member of the public (Stephen Machaye from the Norfolk Tank Museum) mentioned the possible events taking place to commemorate the one hundred year anniversary of the end of WW1. Bruno Peek, who organised the beacon lighting events for the Queen's 90th birthday celebration, is hoping to co-ordinate 1000 beacons to be lit on the night of 11 November 2018. One will be lit at the Tank Museum in Forncett and it is hoped the community will engage to make the event a success. The other beacons being lit closest to Forncett are in Ashwellthorpe, Chedgrave, Dickleburgh and Attleborough. Councillor Duffin will find out if any funding will be available from the District Council.

It was also reported that children, thought to be from Forncett, have been playing on the railway line, which is extremely worrying. Three children actually on the tracks were reported by a train driver recently. The transport police have confirmed they will be speaking to local schools about the matter.

7. **To consider planning applications:**
(Received after the publication of the agenda)
a) 2017 / 0946 – The Poplars, 6 Bentley Rd – Replacement of 5 windows & 2 doors –

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Councillors discussed the application and raised no objections.

8. **To hear of planning decisions**
 - a) 2017 / 0545 & 0549 – Chequers, High Rd – Change of use, barn to annexe – Approved
 - b) 2017 / 0421 – 12 Humphreys Close – Front porch extension – Approved
9. **To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings:**
 - a) 2017 / 0718 – Former Methodist Chapel, Cheney's Lane – Retain replacement windows, bi-fold door, 3 velux windows, tv ariel, garden shed and rear outhouse – Comments were submitted to confirm that Councillors did not object to the application but hoped that the neighbours' concerns regarding the velux windows would be taken into account.
10. **To discuss the Low Road telephone box and defibrillator grant** – The clerk has received an estimated cost to re-instate an electricity supply to the Low Road phone box of between £800 - £900. Following discussion, it was agreed to ask the Lottery funding organisation if they would approve re-siting the defibrillator at the village hall. The parish council agreed they wished to proceed with the adoption of the phone box and would consider other uses for it.
11. **Better Broadband for Norfolk – New cabinet – Junction of Spring Lane & Low Rd** – A new communications cabinet is to be installed in the verge at the junction of Spring Lane and Low Road, Forncett St Mary.
12. **Review statement of internal control** – This policy was reviewed and it was agreed that no changes were needed.
13. **To receive and approve the internal audit report** – All comments were noted. The clerk will update the review dates of the policies.
14. **To review and approve the summary of accounts for the 2016 / 17 audit** – The accounts and statements on the external audit form were considered and Councillors unanimously agreed that both sections of the external audit form could be signed and authorised.
15. **To receive the RFO report and consider the approval of the following payments:**

Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
100113	£287.59	A Rayner	May 2017 salary
100114	£800.00	Forncett Flyer	Grant
100115	£280.00	Came & Co	Annual Insurance
100116	£ 70.50	P James	Internal audit fee

It was noted that a payment of £6268 has been received from South Norfolk Council, in respect of the first precept payment and council tax grant.

16. **To consider correspondence – None to report**

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- 17. To agree meeting dates for the forthcoming year** – It was agreed to continue to meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month (with no meeting in August) The dates for the next year are therefore as follows: 15th June 2017, 20th July 2017, 21st September 2017, 19th October 2017, 16th November 2017, 21st December 2017, 18th January 2018, 15th February 2018, 15th March 2018 and Thursday 19th April (preceded by the Annual Open Meeting commencing at 7pm).
- 18. Update on ongoing matters and outstanding issues**
- a) Village Hall** – The fete is on 24 June 2017, help from volunteers would be gratefully received.
- b) Highways and Public Rights of Way** – The Chairman reported that he is hoping to meet with Bob West, our new highways engineer, to talk through some of the issues in the village. The Chairman and John Wilde, footpath warden, met with Jody Thurston recently. Jody is the new Countryside Access Officer, covering all of South Norfolk and Breckland. Jody was extremely helpful and it's hoped will make some progress relating to outstanding issues and problems.
- c) SAM2 report** – Phil Whiscombe was not present.
- 19. To receive reports from:**
- a) Safer Neighbourhood Police Team Report** – February data shows 3 “violent offences” in the village and March shows 2 “violent offences”. The Chairman reported that he hopes to attend a police community meeting at Long Stratton next week.
- 20. Open forum, to hear from members of the public** – There were no further comments from members of the public present but Cllr Allen passed on a point raised by a resident. It was asked whether the parish council would support a bulb planting scheme in the village. The Chairman confirmed he would ask Highways about planting in verges but generally the parish council were supportive of the idea. District Councillor Duffin advised that Notcutts may consider donating some bulbs. Cllr Allen also raised the extremely dangerous situation relating to parking around the school and the area at the bottom of Mill Lane. Due to inconsiderate and illegal parking, drivers often have to overtake parked cars around the sharp corner. Cllr Humphreys confirmed that the issue has been raised on several occasions with the school, the police and Highways department.
- 21. Date of the next meeting is confirmed as Thursday 15th June to commence at 7.30pm.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm.