

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 19 January 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
7 members of the public

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Allen. District Councillor Duffin sent his apologies.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to declare
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (15 December 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)** – The brushcutter and hedge trimmer were ordered, the brushcutter is in stock with the supplier and the hedge trimmer is due shortly.
5. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public, including reports from District and County Councillors** – A member of the public commented on the poor condition of some of the street signs in the village, particularly Spicers Lane, Valley Farm Road, Long Stratton Road and Tabernacle Lane. The clerk reported these to South Norfolk Council some time ago and was assured they would be included when the next batch were ordered. As no action appears to have been taken, the clerk will contact South Norfolk Council to ask about progress.
County Councillor Spratt reported that Norfolk County Council are proposing to increase their section of Council tax bills by 4.8%, with South Norfolk Council also likely to increase by 3%. £11 million of the NCC increase will be for provision of adult social services. The budget for children's services is still not under control and there are currently 1120 looked after children in Norfolk. The roads maintenance budget has received an additional £6.4 million of funding, with £2 million specifically allocated for the repair of pot holes. The Chairman mentioned to Councillor Spratt that there seems to be some difficulty in obtaining a response from Highways, in general. Councillor Spratt asked that he be copied in to future e-mails. The Chairman specifically mentioned the question of whether footpath finger posts can be secured with some post mix, to try and prevent their removal. Councillor Spratt confirmed this would be acceptable.
6. **To consider planning applications, including:**
 - a) **Hope Valley – update (if received)** – The Chairman confirmed receipt of the planning inspector's decision, summarised as a temporary four year permission, with various conditions regarding screening and highways etc. The Chairman also reported that he has contacted the planning inspector to highlight an apparent error in the document, in that condition 7 mentions points "i to iv below" and there are actually no points listed. The

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Chairman acknowledged that the applicant was present and advised that, although he recognised that the applicant would be aware that the parish did not support the application, a temporary permission has been granted by the Inspector, which will obviously be respected. The parish council passed on their best wishes, subject to the conditions of approval (designed to mitigate the effects of the permission) being implemented. The applicant explained some of the problems of lack of available sites for Travellers and said that he thought that his continued occupation of the land would be the best option for all parties when compared with other options. The Chairman reminded the meeting that the temporary planning permission awarded allowed for a maximum of two static and two mobile caravans on site.

7. **To hear of planning decisions:**
 - a) 2016 / 2637 – The Homestead, Low Rd – Insertion of windows – Approved
 - b) 2016 / 2526 – Chestnut Tree Farm, Bustards Green – Prior approval for conversion of piggery from agricultural building to dwelling – Refused
8. **To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings:**
None to report
9. **To consider a date for the South Norfolk Council litter pick** – The Chairman suggested three dates in early Spring and Councillors agreed on Saturday 25 March 2017.
10. **To hear a report regarding the meeting at the Station Rd land with a NWT representative** – The Chairman reported that Robert Hosea, tree warden, Mrs Hosea, Cllr Welsby, Cllr Gale and he had met with Helen Baczowska, representative of Norfolk Wildlife Trust, at the land on Station Road. It was agreed to have a brief meeting, as Trustees of the Forncett Parochial Charity, at the end of the parish council meeting.
11. **To agree to a transfer of funds to the savings account** – The Chairman reported that, as there are significant funds in the main community account, which will not be spent in the immediate future, it seemed sensible to move a further amount into the savings account, where at least a small amount of interest will be accrued. Councillors agreed that additional funds should be moved to the savings account, to attain a balance of £17000, leaving the remainder in the main community account. Should the level in the community account begin to get low, funds can easily be transferred back, although this is unlikely given that the next precept payment is due in April.
12. **To receive the RFO report and consider the approval of the following payments:**
The financial report, circulated prior to the meeting, was approved. The following payments were unanimously approved:

Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
100103	£250.00	M Chapman	Allotment rent
100104	£269.15	A Rayner	January salary

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It was also noted that a cheque was issued to Archant, in respect of the official notice advert, relating to Jubilee Green. This was cheque number 100101 and was for £144.94.

13. To consider correspondence

a) Submission documents for silica sand review - For information. The silica sand resource in Norfolk occurs entirely within the boundary of King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council. Full submission documents are available for viewing at South Norfolk Council offices.

b) Mobile phone mast pre-submission information – The Chairman reported on information relating to this pre-submission document, which indicated that several sites in Forncett and Tacolneston had been considered for a mobile phone mast but ruled out, for various reasons. However, Northfield Barns on Northfield Road appear suitable and the appropriate planning submission will be made in the near future.

14. Update on ongoing matters and outstanding issues

a) Village Hall - The New Year's Day walk was very well attended, despite terrible weather. The Murder Mystery event has sold out, leading to the decision to put on a second night. Pudding night is on 18 March. It is hoped that the car park resurfacing will be completed during February half term.

b) Highways and Public Rights of Way – A member of the public reported run off water flowing down the roads, as there appears to have been little verge and ditch maintenance.

c) SAM2 report – At a recent siting near the Methodist Chapel, a general improvement has been recorded – 62% of traffic recorded during this period was travelling within the speed limit (up from 52.8% when last in this location).

Although not on the agenda, the Chairman reported that Mr Hosea, tree warden, has recently taken part in a planting programme, resulting in new trees on land within the village. It was agreed that the clerk will appeal in the Flyer for landowners to come forward if they are interested in having trees planted on their land.

15. To receive reports from:

a) Safer Neighbourhood Police Team Report – During November 2016, one crime of anti-social behaviour was recorded.

16. Open forum, to hear from members of the public – A member of the public asked when the new CPS development would display road signs showing "Hunt's Mead", as currently the only name on display in Abbots Grange, on the main display board. It was also mentioned that the hedging bordering the development is quite overgrown and untidy. The clerk will take up both these points.

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25pm.