

Forncett Parish Council  
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council  
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 21 September at 7.30pm.

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

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

Before the formal start of the meeting, the Chairman announced with deep regret and sadness that the Council noted the passing of former Councillor (2006 – 2016) Jackie Bowers. Her funeral, at St Mary's Church, on 20<sup>th</sup> September was attended by many from the village paying tribute to her wide ranging involvement in many aspects of life in the Forncetts. Jackie will be greatly missed. Condolences have been sent, on behalf of the Parish Council, to Harry and all of Jackie's family.

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – All Councillors were present.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – Cllrs Frith and Coleman declared an interest in item 12a on the agenda.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (20 July 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 the adoption of the Low Rd phone box is proceeding, though a completion notice has not been received as yet. The grant of £100 from South Norfolk Council, towards the refurbishment of the phone box, has been received. Also, following the removal of the post box on Station Rd, the Chairman has received a communication from Royal Mail advising that they could not display a sign relating to the removal of the phone box, due to health and safety concerns. This is contrary to their own policy. A new post box will be installed by the end of October.
5. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public, including reports from District and County Councillors** – District Councillor Spratt reported that Tacolneston Parish Council may be required to become the managing trustee of TAFRA (Tacolneston & Forncett Recreation Association). Whilst Councillor Spratt was present some Highways issues were mentioned, including:  
The possibility of the speed restriction from the bridge on Station Rd being extended to include Hunt's Mead. Cllr Spratt felt a 40mph limit would be of little help and that 30mph would be required to actually make a difference. This conflicts with the advice given by the Highways Engineer, who feels it unlikely that NCC would support a 30mph limit in that area. The Chairman stated his disappointment that the request to implement a speed limit at the time of development was ignored by all interested parties, leaving the parish council to bear the brunt of the complaints from residents and potentially the cost of implementing a speed limit, whilst the developers, County Council and District Council appear to have washed their

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hands of the matter. The clerk will ask the highways engineer for an estimate to be provided as soon as possible, as if it is an issue the parish council wish to pursue, Councillor Spratt may be able to provide a contribution towards the cost, as a grant.

Aslacton Rd has several pot holes along the stretch of road towards the school. Some were reported as far back as December and, although they have the spray paint around them, which confirms NCC are aware of them, they have not been filled.

The hedge along the west side of Overwood Lane is so overgrown that it is restricting the width of the road.

Councillor Spratt asked the clerk to write to the Highways Engineer regarding all these points, with a copy to him.

Finally, the Chairman mentioned that the advice given at the last meeting, in relation to the lack of appropriate signage near the new development on Silfield Rd, was to write to County Councillor Colin Foulger. The clerk did this but was advised to write to Taylor Wimpey, the developer.

District Councillor Barry Duffin reported that it appeared several conditions have not been met as yet at the Hope Valley site, past the date of compliance. Officers at South Norfolk Council are aware. South Norfolk Council and Broadland District Council are in conversation regarding shared services. Councillor Duffin mentioned that there may be an issue with pre-determination relating to a CPRE pledge signed by several parish councils, which CPRE's legal team have disputed and asked SNC to amend their advice.

**6. To consider planning applications**

**a) 2017 / 2051 – Moorlands Cottage, Bustards Green – Replacement timber windows –** Councillors raised no objections to this application.

**b) 2017 / 2122 – The Acers, Low Rd – Single storey extension and alterations –** Councillors raised no objections to this application.

**7. To hear of planning decisions**

**a) 2016 / 1487 – Land South of Mill Road – Retention of barn for storage associated with keeping of horses and maintenance of land – Approved**

**b) 2017 / 1238 – Chequers, High Rd – Amendment to roof eaves – Approved**

**c) 2017 / 0812 – Nivelle Farm – Conversion of outbuilding – Approved**

**d) 2017 / 1052 – Tasmist, Station Rd – Cert. Lawfulness – Approved**

**e) 2017 / 1435 – 14 Orchard Close – Detached garage & new porch – Approved**

**f) 2013 / 0431 – Annexe at Orchard House – Change of use to ind. dwelling – Approved**

**g) 2017 / 1324 – Southgate Lodge – Demolition of sheds & replacement – Approved**

**8. To hear of progress with registration with Jubilee Green –** The Chairman reported that more evidence has been requested from Land Registry, to prove the relationship between the village hall, the allotments and the parish council. The Chairman has found the accounts record, covering the period in question, and the former clerk, Ethel Coleman, has kindly provided a statement confirming their authenticity, as has one former allotment tenant.

**9. To hear feedback from the meeting at Wacton re Long Stratton development –** Cllr Welsby reported on the meeting held by Wacton Parish Council, which she attended along with Cllrs Coleman and Barnes. The development proposes 2153 new homes, which is estimated to take

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the population from the current level of 4424 to 8600. Concerns were raised about the inability of the infrastructure to cope with such a large increase, given the current demands on the schools and the surgery. The bypass, according to the plans is actually a single carriageway road, with four or five roundabouts in the new section of road. There will be a meeting at South Norfolk Council in due course, where there will be a chance to ask officers about the plans.

**10. To receive the RFO report, external audit report and consider the approval of the following payments:**

The financial report was approved and the comments made as part of the external audit report were noted. All payments were unanimously approved. The payment of £402.00 to Excel Electrical, agreed via e-mail between the meetings, was also noted. This was cheque number 100124.

Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
100125	£575.18	A Rayner	Aug & Sep 2017 salary
100126	£ 55.80	Post Office Ltd	Q2 tax
100127	£126.98	A Rayner	6 months expenses
100128	£120.00	Mazars LLP	External audit fee

**11. To consider correspondence:**

**a) Saffron Housing survey site** – Saffron housing have advised that they will shortly be sending a survey to all residents of Forncett, as well as Carlton Rode and Bunwell, to assess the need for affordable housing in the village.

**b) CPRE – Vision for Norfolk** - Noted

**c) Draft Norfolk Strategic Framework consultation** - Noted

**12. Update on ongoing matters and outstanding issues**

**a) Village Hall, including request for funding** – The Chairman reported on the very successful BBQ evening, £825.00 was raised for the Big C charity. Tickets for the murder mystery evenings on 13 & 14 October are selling well. The “village trophy” quiz night is on 11 November and it is hoped the parish council will be able to field a team. At this point, Councillors Frith and Coleman left the room. Councillor Humphreys reported on a request from the village hall treasurer, asking if the parish council would release further monies held for work to be completed on the porch at the village hall, particularly the roof. The original agreement was that the funds were held for the “outside area” of the village hall. Councillors unanimously felt that the roof and windows of the porch would qualify as the outside area and it was sensible to spend the money where it was needed most. The release of funds was approved. Cllrs Frith and Coleman re-joined the meeting.

**b) Highways and Public Rights of Way, including information regarding Station Rd** – These issues were discussed as part of the County Councillor’s report, under point 5 on the agenda. The Chairman took the opportunity to thank John Wilde, footpath warden, and the volunteers who assist him, who have helped to keep the footpaths clear in the village this summer.

**c) SAM2 report** – Phil Whiscombe reported that SAM2 has recorded 643,000 traffic

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movements and 46% of those vehicles were exceeding the speed limit. An estimated 3500 vehicles are travelling at over 40 mph in a 30 mph zone, per week. The Chairman thanked Phil for managing the SAM2.

**13. To receive reports from:**

**a) Safer Neighbourhood Police Team Report** – The latest figures available are for June 2017. There were five crimes reported during this month.

**14. Open forum, to hear from members of the public** – Cllr Allen reported on prices for bulbs, meeting. Sacks of 400+ bulbs are available for around £30. It was agreed to authorise a debit card payment to allow for the bulbs to be purchased online. A small team will be gathered, following an appeal in the Flyer, to plant the bulbs. Cllr Coleman mentioned that the defibrillator has been installed at the village hall. There will be a training session on 31 October, beginning at 7.30pm. The Chairman will be writing to all user groups of the village hall, to invite them to attend, although the session is open to members of the public as well.

**15. Date of the next meeting is confirmed as Thursday 19 October 2017 to commence at 7.30pm.**

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.