

Forncett Parish Council  
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council  
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 15 February 2018 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.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to declare.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last two meetings (14 December 2017 and 18 January 2018)**  
– 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 there was no further news regarding either of the missing post boxes. However, Richard Bacon MP has responded to the Chairman's letter, confirming that he has asked Royal Mail for an explanation. The Chairman also reported that the member of the public present at the meeting last month raising the issue of the postponed new Broadband cabinet, has received a response to her Freedom of Information Request. The Chairman will arrange to meet with her, to fully assess the response.
5. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public, including reports from District and County Councillors** – County Councillor Spratt reported that Norfolk County Council will be increasing Council Tax by 5.9% from April 2018. The income generated from 3% of the increase will go to adult social services. There is a proposal relating to a possible merger between Norfolk Police and Fire Services, which is estimated to save £20 million.  
  
The final sections of the NDR should be open by the end of March. The project was over budget by £22 million. Cllr Spratt noted the flooding issues on Cheney's Lane, seemingly caused by blocked ditches. He will assess the situation over the next couple of days.
6. **To consider planning applications**  
**a) 2018 / 0179 – 19 Bentley Rd – Two storey rear extension** – This application was discussed and the parish council could see no reason to change their comments submitted when a similar planning application was submitted in 2015. The proposed new building is still two storey, so the same concerns about overlooking remain.
7. **To hear of planning decisions**  
**a) 2017 / 2824 – Cuthays, Low Rd – First floor conversion – Approved**
8. **To hear of planning applications considered between meetings** – None
9. **To agree a response to the GNLP consultation** – The various points were discussed at some

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length. Initially, it was agreed to challenge the assessment of Forncett St Peter & St Mary as a service village. It was also agreed to raise the inconsistencies when referring to Forncett End / Tacolneston. With regard to the individual sites submitted, the parish council agreed not to submit individual comments but to submit a general statement confirming that the parish council would prefer to see small sites of development, in keeping with the rest of the village and taking into account the services and infrastructure in the village. The Chairman confirmed there is a roadshow at South Norfolk Council on 22 February, 10.30 – 4.30.

- 10. Village Hall proposed revised constitution** – The proposed revised constitution has been circulated. Following advice from the solicitor the proposal includes having the parish council set up as a ‘backstop’, meaning should there be insufficient people to form a village hall committee the parish council could nominate trustees, then step back down again. The new constitution will be discussed further at a village hall committee meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February. The parish council agreed they were happy with the proposed constitution.
- 11. General Data Protection Regulations – new legislation** – The new GDPR come into force in May 2018. The clerk will be attending a training session later this month and will report back next month on the steps the parish council need to take. Bunwell Parish Council have invited Forncett Parish Council and other surrounding village Parish Councils to a training session at Bunwell village hall on 9 March. Cllr Coleman confirmed he would like to attend and the Chairman confirmed he will also go, subject to availability.
- 12. To agree arrangements for the clerk’s annual review** – It was agreed that the Chairman and Cllr Humphreys will undertake the clerk’s annual review before the March meeting.
- 13. To agree the appointment for an internal auditor for the 2017 / 18 accounts** – Pauline James has confirmed she can undertake the internal audit. Councillors agreed to appoint Ms James as the internal auditor for the 2017 / 18 accounts. The clerk will send an appointment letter.
- 14. To receive the RFO report and consider the approval of the following payments:**  
The financial report was approved and the following payments were authorised:

Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
100145	£ 287.59	A Rayner	Feb 2018 salary
100146	£ 250.00	M Chapman	Allotment rent
100147	£ 330.00	Community Heartbeat Trust	3 x managed trust maintenance agreement

- 15. To consider correspondence**
  - a) Allotment rent received** – Noted
- 16. Update on ongoing matters and outstanding issues**
  - a) Village Hall** – The pudding night is on 17 February.
  - b) Highways and Public Rights of Way** – Several pot holes in the village have been repaired.

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Cllr Humphreys suggested planting a hedge at the Station Road land, where there is an obvious gap. The Chairman confirmed he will speak to Robert Hosea regarding what sort of hedging should be planted.

**c) SAM2 report** – Phil Whiscombe reported a slight improvement in the speeding figures at the latest two sites, near St Edmunds Church and near to the school.

- 17. Open forum, to hear from members of the public** – A query was raised as to who has the responsibility to cut back hedging which is growing over and covering road signs. The clerk will check this with Highways.  
It was also noted that birthday celebrations would be taking place for Ethel Coleman at 3pm on 30 March 2018, at the village hall.

- 18. Date of the next meeting is confirmed as Thursday 15 March 2018 to commence at 7.30pm.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.