

Forncett Parish Council  
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council  
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 15 March 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, Cllr S Allen

Parish Clerk Anne Rayner  
County Councillor Bev Spratt  
7 members of the public

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – 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 February 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 gave some feedback following the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) discussion that took place last month. The Chairman submitted the comments agreed during the meeting but reported that it was an extremely laborious procedure to do so, with requirements for the same comments to be repeated on several occasions, error messages being reported stating that errors would be highlighted in red (with nothing showing), questions incorrectly numbered and it also clearly states on the sites that comments will be visible. However, on further investigation, it appears that comments will only be visible after the consultation is closed. It seems unfortunate that with all the encouragement for comments to be submitted, the process for actually doing so is so difficult and not user friendly. The Chairman also reported that Richard Bacon MP has responded regarding the Station Road post box. Royal Mail have reported that they are waiting for the signed licences from South Norfolk Council, on receipt of these, the post box will be installed, although the letter does not confirm the siting of the new box.
5. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public, including reports from District and County Councillors** – County Councillor Spratt highlighted the two Long Stratton planning applications listed on the agenda and noted that there were bound to be concerns from Forncett and other neighbouring villages. Councillor Spratt also reported financial concerns regarding Childrens Services at Norfolk County Council. The number of children in care in the County is now 1188, which is another increase, impacting on the financial strain that the service is already under. Councillor Spratt also noted the impact on the roads, following the recent heavy snow and now the excess water, following the thaw.
6. **To consider planning applications**
  - a) **2018 / 0438 & 0439 – Rookery Farm, Wacton Rd – Two storey extension to existing dwelling, garage building and storage building (listed building)** – Councillors discussed this application and agreed they had no objections to the plans.
  - b) **2018 / 0111 – Land east of A140, Long Stratton – 1275 dwellings, 8 hectares of employment land, 2 hectare primary school site, with full permission for bypass**

**c) 2018 / 0112 – Land west of the A140, Long Stratton – 387 dwellings, 1.5 hectares of employment land, western relief road, associated infrastructure and open space.**

Both Long Stratton applications were discussed at some length. Councillors were not wholly unsupportive of the plans but noted the following concerns:

- There needs to be an absolute assurance that the development will not go ahead without the bypass being built.
- Councillors felt that the provision of a single carriageway bypass was inadequate to accommodate the existing traffic, without the additional volume that the new development will bring. At the very least it is short sighted to not allow for the future provision of the road to be dual carriageway.
- It is imperative that the Hempnall crossroads are upgraded to a roundabout.
- It would be preferable if the northern end of the bypass were to be extended to the roundabout as well.
- Impact on the villages either side of Long Stratton was noted, where it is already difficult to access the A140.
- The existing infrastructure is already strained, doctors, dentists etc.
- On application number 2018 / 0112 there was some concern about the large volume of traffic that will be attempting to join the A140 via the roundabout.

**7. To hear of planning decisions**

**a) 2018 / 0179 – 19 Bentley Rd – two storey rear extension – Approved**

**8. To hear of planning applications considered between meetings – None**

**9. Station Rd – Proposed 40 mph speed limit consultation –** The parish council has received formal notification of the consultation regarding the proposed 40mph speed limit on Station Road. The parish council support the proposal and have no further comments to add.

**10. Broadband for Forncett St Mary –** Following recent discussions regarding this matter, the Chairman reported that a meeting has recently taken place at Hethel Church. The Better Broadband for Norfolk team were present, as were representatives of companies offering alternative solutions for Broadband provision (for example satellite provision), if households cannot access the service via the standard methods. The aim of BBfN is that 95% of households will have 10mb by 2020. If you have less than 2mb you are entitled to a voucher from BBfN towards the cost of attaining 10mb via another method.

**11. To report on the clerk's annual review –** The clerk's annual review took place immediately prior to this meeting with the Chairman and Vice-Chair. The Chairman recommended that the clerk progress one increment on the salary scale and Councillors unanimously approved this.

**12. To receive the RFO report and consider the approval of the following payments:**

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Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
100148	£ 306.19	A Rayner	Mar 2018 salary
100149	£1428.00	A Smith	Village hall works
100150	£ 37.20	HMRC	Q4 tax
100151	£ 30.00	Norfolk ALC	GDPR training
100152	£ 138.21	A Rayner	6 months expenses
100153	£ 35.29	Norfolk PTS	GDPR training
100154	£ 50.00	Community Action Norfolk	Membership fee

All payments were unanimously approved. It was also noted that £2032.36 has been transferred from the savings account to the community current account, to ensure there are sufficient funds for all bills to be paid. This leaves a balance of £15000 in the savings account.

**13. To consider correspondence**

**a) Forncett St Mary War Memorial listing** – Historic England have confirmed that the war memorial has been awarded listed status.

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

**a) Village Hall** – The village hall committee approved the proposed new constitution and this has been submitted to the Charities Commission.

**b) Highways and Public Rights of Way** – The parish council passed on their thanks to everyone who helped in any way during the period of heavy snow. Councillors noted the good community spirit shown in the village, roads and footpaths were cleared and errands were run. Sincere thanks to all.

**c) SAM2 report** – Phil Whiscombe sent his apologies.

**d) GDPR** – The Chairman reported that the clerk has attended a recent training session about General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and he and Cllr Coleman attended a session laid on by Bunwell Parish Council. The Chairman have a summary of some of the points however, the legislation is being interpreted differently by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC). It was therefore agreed to draft an interim policy to adopt, whilst the finer details of the legislation is agreed.

**15. Open forum, to hear from members of the public** – There were no further comments from members of the public. Councillor Allen noted that the daffodil bulbs planted in Forncett St Peter have started to emerge.

**16. Date of the next meeting is confirmed as Thursday 19 April 2018 to commence immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting, at approximately 8.00pm.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.