

Forncett Parish Council  
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council  
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 17 October 2019 at 7.30pm.

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

Parish Clerk Anne Rayner  
7 members of the public

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Welsby. District Councillor Barry Duffin also sent his apologies.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – Councillor Barnes declared an interest in item 11 on the agenda.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (19 September 2019)** – 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 team managing the neighbour support plan are arranging a meeting with officers from South Norfolk Council to further discuss participation in the wider ‘good neighbour’ pilot scheme. It was noted that Austhorpe House had been advertised for sale as a ‘development opportunity’. The hedging and verges around the property have been tidied up and cut back.
5. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public, including reports from District and County Councillors** – A member of the public asked whose responsibility it is to deal with hedges encroaching onto the highways. The parish council agreed that where the hedge is in private ownership then it is the owner’s responsibility to ensure it remains cut back from the road. In areas where ownership cannot be established, highways may arrange for hedges to be cut back, or if they are forced to cut back a private hedge, they may do so and invoice the owner accordingly.
6. **To consider planning applications:**
  - a) **2019 / 1999 – The Grove, Wacton Rd – Amend water consumption allowance from 105 litres to 114.1 litres per person** – The parish council had no comment to make regarding this application.
  - b) **2019 / 1869 & 1870 – Broad Barn, Northfield Rd – Erection of garden room and extension and log store to existing garage** – The parish council did not object to this application, subject to the satisfaction of the listed buildings officer at South Norfolk Council.
  - c) **2019 / 2003 – Laburnum Cottage, Low Rd – Installation of multi-fuel log burner, including external flue to rear of dwelling** - The parish council did not object to this application, subject to the satisfaction of the listed buildings officer at South Norfolk Council.

**d) 2019 / 1725 – Station Bungalow, Station Road – Erection of single storey side extension, conversion of garage to living space and external alterations. Creation of additional vehicle access** – The parish council did not object to this application, subject to the usual condition to ensure that the garage accommodation remain as part of the main property and is not to be sold off as a separate dwelling at a later date.

It was noted that planning application 2019 / 1544 – land north of Walnut Tree Cottage, Low Road has currently been withdrawn.

It was also noted that a new vehicular access has been created at 1 Mill Road. Concerns were raised over the safety of an access so close to the bend in the road. The clerk will seek advice from Highways / Planning.

7. **To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings: None**
8. **To report planning decisions:**
  - a) **2019 / 1769 – 18 The Poplars – Entrance lobby & cloakroom – Approved**
9. **Budget 2020 / 21** – The Chairman reported that the parish council's finances have remained stable and outgoings are not exceeding income. With this in mind, it was agreed that a summary of the budget and the forecast would be perfectly acceptable, without the need for a budget working party meeting.
10. **To report on income received – second payment of precept and CIL** – The second half of the annual precept has been received and a CIL payment of £915.45 will be made on 28 October. The parish council will have the usual five years to spend the CIL money.
11. **To consider requests for a contribution towards Churchyard maintenance from St Mary's & St. Peter's churches and the Methodist chapel** – Following discussion, it was agreed to make a donation of £600 towards the Forncett churchyards. Councillors agreed that an initial figure of either £200 or £250 had been suggested for the Methodist Church but this was subject to a formal request.
12. **To receive the RFO report and consider the approval of the following payments:**

The financial reported, circulated prior to the meeting, was approved. The following payments were both unanimously approved:

Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
100216	£335.12	A Rayner	October salary
100217	£600.00	Upper Tas Valley All Saints PCC	Donation towards churchyard maintenance.

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**13. To consider correspondence:**

- a) Little Tractors Playgroup will be holding their AGM at the village hall on 8 November, starting at 6.30pm. This is a very important meeting, as the playgroup need to appoint a new Chair and Treasurer and without people in these roles, the group cannot continue. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please do attend the meeting.
- b) Also on 8 November, the group managing the '100 trees' project will be holding their meeting at St Mary's Church, starting at 7pm. The group aim to secure pledges from residents to ensure 100 trees are planted in the forthcoming season.

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

**a) Village Hall** – The music event held on 21 September was a great success and the parish council team for the Trophy Quiz on 9<sup>th</sup> November was agreed.

It is hoped that the annual New Year's Day walk will take place this year, however, some of the usual volunteers may be away, so new volunteers would be warmly welcomed. It would be a shame if this event didn't go ahead as it is usually well attended.

**b) Highways and Public Rights of Way** – The Chairman reported that he and John Wilde have checked on some of the footpath signs around the village and have straightened several up. Councillor Humphreys noted that, as part of the construction of the new Hempnall roundabout, it appears that the layby, which used to be on the approach to the crossroads has not been retained. This seems short sighted as it was well used and they are very few pull in points on this stretch of road.

**c) SAM2 report** – Phil Whiscombe reported that Mill Road continues to be the worst spot in the village for speeding, with some 80% of vehicles being recorded as over the speed limit during the period the sign was in place. Even at the site near the Methodist Chapel 5 vehicles were recorded a travelling at between 55 – 65mph, which is very concerning, giving the forthcoming bend.

**15. Open forum, to hear from members of the public** – A member of the public reported that the sign at the junction of Northfield Rd and Valley Farm Road is completely broken and parts of it are on the floor. The clerk confirmed she will report this.

**16. To confirm the date of the next meeting as 21 November 2019.**

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