

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 19 December 2019 at 7.30pm.

In Attendance: Cllr B Frith (Chairman), Cllr A Coleman, Cllr D Welsby, Cllr S Allen, Cllr S Jackson

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

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Humphreys and Barnes.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to declare.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (21 November 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)** – It was agreed at the last meeting that the level of precept remain the same as the previous year, £12000. The meeting with Steve Beckett of South Norfolk Council to begin the review of the parish conservation areas is taking place at 10.30am on 24 January 2020. Finally, it appears that Little Tractors playgroup have been successful in securing people to help in the various committee roles, which is excellent news.
5. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public, including reports from District and County Councillors** – District Councillor Barry Duffin reminded everyone that there will be changes to bin collection dates over the Christmas period. The information was included in the last 'Link' magazine and is also detailed on the South Norfolk Council website. Councillor Duffin reported that there has been a good take up for the VE grants.

County Councillor Spratt reported that the Boundary Commission recommendations suggest that West Depwade will all but disappear. The changes will not take effect until May 2021.

It was noted that, whilst Cheney's Lane usually floods near to Spring Farm, the flooding has been particularly bad recently. Councillor Spratt reported that this is not as a result of blocked ditches, rather the fact that the pond is spring sourced and, given the amount of rain recently, there is nowhere else for the excess water to go. There is no immediate solution to this problem.
6. **To consider planning applications** – None
7. **To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings:**
a) **2019 / 2337 – Blacksmith Cottage, Low Road – Demolition of existing lean to and garage, erection of two storey extension and link building** – The parish council had no objections to this application.

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8. **To report planning decisions:**
a) **2019 / 1869 – Broad Barn Northfield Rd - Erection of garden room and extension– Approved**
b) **2019 / 1999– The Grove, Wacton Rd – Variation to amend water consumption – Approved**
9. **To review the following policies: Discipline, dismissal & grievance policy, Equalities policy (previously Equal opportunities), Expenses policy** – It was agreed that no changes were needed to the Discipline, dismissal and grievance policy or the expenses policy. The Equal opportunities policy was updated with some minor changes and re-named the equalities policy.
10. **FENS progress report** – Phil Whiscombe gave a brief update on the progress made since the last meeting. A drop in event at the Jolly Farmers pub is planned for Saturday 22 February between 11 am – 2 pm. The aim is to spread the word of the services and help available via the South Norfolk Early Help Hub and to see what ideas parishioners have about what is actually needed. Using the FENS (Forncett Emergency Neighbour Support) as initial support, it is hoped to use the services of the Community Connector to get the right people in touch with each other. Although the pilot scheme being discussed between FENS and South Norfolk Council is a good idea in theory, it may be a little more in depth than initially thought and Julia Fromings-Hill will write to South Norfolk Council to this effect.
11. **To consider a grant request towards maintenance of Methodist Church burial ground** – In the absence of Councillor Humphreys this item was carried forward to the January agenda.
12. **To receive the RFO report and consider the approval of the following payments:**

Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
100220	£335.12	A Rayner	December salary

The financial report, circulated prior to the meeting, was approved, as was the one payment.

13. **To consider correspondence – None to report**
14. **Update on ongoing matters and outstanding issues**
a) **Village Hall** – The village hall supplied the bar for the St. Mary's concerts. It was noted that the field coped very well with three nights of parking, in very wet weather. The New Year's Day walk will begin at 10am at the village hall. Refreshments will be served at Su and Pete Leavesley's on Tabernacle Lane and at the village hall, with thanks to Sarah and Peter for their offer of help. Profits will be donated to St Martin's Housing Trust.
b) **Highways and Public Rights of Way** – A meeting is planned for February to address the ongoing footpath maintenance. A member of the public asked why road closures seem to remain in place, seemingly after the work is completed. It was agreed that the village seemed to have suffered more than its fair share of burst water mains recently. Two

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additional items were reported. There is a roadworks sign in the ditch on Aslacton Rd, opposite the school. Also, it appears that water is pooling on the road by the Anglian Water pumping station on Long Stratton Road. There seems to be standing water there permanently and it is concerning that this may become dangerous if the weather becomes freezing.

c) SAM2 report – The SAM2 has recorded 1.4 million vehicles in the four years since it was purchased. 45% of these vehicles are not within the speed limit. One vehicle was recorded as travelling at 90mph on Low Road recently and in the last two week period in this position, some 750 vehicles were exceeding 40mph.

15. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public** – No further comments.
16. **To confirm the date of the next meeting as 16 January 2020.**

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