

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 21 March 2019 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 S Jackson

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

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – District Councillor Barry Duffin sent his apologies.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to report.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (21 February 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)** – Numbers are slightly down on previous years for volunteers for the litter pick. This will take place on 6 April. Please let either the clerk or the Chairman know if you can take part. The Chairman reported that he has submitted his nomination forms to South Norfolk Council and gave some additional information about the forms, which do not appear to be particularly straightforward. The election notice is on the parish council website and the noticeboard outside the village hall.
5. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public, including reports from District and County Councillors** – County Councillor Bev Spratt reported that Anglian Water seem to be making good progress with the mains works on Long Stratton Road. The Chairman reported that, whilst this issue is on the agenda for discussion later, it would be good to make some points while Councillor Spratt was in attendance. A complaint was received over the weekend from a resident of Cheney's Lane regarding HGV drivers who are coming down Cheney's Lane then attempting to turn right into Valley Farm Road, in order to reach Long Stratton / the A140. Whilst 'not suitable for HGVs' signs were displayed, they were originally sited on the B1113, with no suggestion that they were referring to Cheney's Lane. This has been rectified and it is hoped that the issue will not reoccur. Another issue is that Anglian Water are being as flexible as they possibly can be with regards to vehicular access for residents on Long Stratton Road, they have reported that cars are driving through far too quickly. Anglian Water have suggested that, unless drivers act more responsibly in this situation, they will be left with no choice but to close the barriers.

Councillor Spratt also mentioned the closure of Austhorpe House. Norfolk County Council were informed on 13 February of the decision.

Finally, Norfolk County Council will, in future be operating a Cabinet system.

6. To consider planning applications and information:

Received after the publication of the agenda:

- a) 2019 / 0608 – Variation of condition 2 from planning consent 2017 / 2824 alterations to the

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design, including revised rear dormer and roof raised – Councillors agreed they had no objections to this application.

b) 2019 / 0658 – Corner House Farm, Long Stratton Road – Dutch barn for agricultural purposes – Councillors agreed that they had no objections to this application. (Post meeting note – it appears that the parish council may not be approached as a consultee for this application, in which case, no comments will be submitted).

7. To hear of planning decisions:

a) 2018 / 2611 – The Granary, Northfield Rd – single storey & two storey extensions – Approved

8. To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings – None

9. To appoint an internal auditor for the 2018 / 19 year – Councillors agreed that the clerk should ask Pauline James if she will be willing to undertake the internal audit again this year. Action AR.

10. To hear a report on the clerk's annual review – The clerk's annual review took place immediately prior to this meeting. Following this, the Chairman proposed an incremental salary increase of one point for the clerk, effective from 1 April 2019. Councillors approved this increase.

11. To consider a request from the village hall committee regarding payment of their grant – The village hall committee have requested that, instead of receiving a grant payment twice a year, the parish council keep the funds until approached by the village hall to request purchase of large items, for example the village hall are currently considering the purchase of a marquee to use at the village fete and other events. The balance owing to the village hall could be paid over at the end of the financial year, if the full amount is not spent. Councillors agreed that they were happy to proceed on this basis.

12. To hear a report regarding the Long Stratton bypass proposals meeting – The Chairman recently attended a meeting at South Norfolk Council regarding proposed changes to the Long Stratton bypass. South Norfolk Council are currently negotiating regarding funding to enable the Eastern road to be built before the housing development is delivered. A decision on this is due Autumn 2019. The Western road, the one used by people travelling from Forncett to Long Stratton will still be linked to the provision of housing.

13. To receive the RFO report and consider the approval of the following payments:
The financial report, circulated prior to the meeting, was approved. The following payments were unanimously approved:

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Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
100193	£ 354.31	A Rayner	Mar salary
100194	£ 141.16	A Rayner	Expenses 1/10/18 – 31/03/19
100195	£ 250.00	M Chapman	Allotment rent
100196	£ 67.60	B Frith	Expenses
100197	£ 52.00	Forncett Flyer	Additional printing costs

14. To consider correspondence:

a) School partnership proposals – The Parish Council agreed that they would respond, confirming their ongoing support for the school with an arrangement which has clearly been working for both parties.

b) From SNC re Purdah – South Norfolk Council have reiterated that advice given regarding Purdah applies to Parish Councils and Councillors, as well as other levels of Local Government.

15. Update on ongoing matters and outstanding issues

a) Village Hall – The recent music night was very successful. The annual ‘village hall tidy up day’ will be on 18 May 2019, everyone is welcome. The next meeting is the Annual Public meeting followed by the AGM of the trustees. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help to run events or help in any way at the village hall, please do get in touch.

b) Highways and Public Rights of Way – Long Stratton road is into its fourth week of closure. Due to co-operation from Anglian Water the closure has not proved quite as disruptive as first feared.

c) SAM2 report – Report not available this month.

16. Open forum, to hear from members of the public – A member of the public asked if the parish council would consider payment of a grant towards the maintenance of the grounds at the Methodist Church. Councillors agreed they would be happy for this to be considered at the May meeting of the parish council.

17. To confirm the date of the next meeting as 18 April 2019.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.