

Forncett Parish Council  
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council  
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 21 November 2019 at 7.30pm.

In Attendance: Cllr B Frith (Chairman) Cllr B Humphreys, Cllr A Coleman, Cllr G Barnes, Cllr D Welsby

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

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Allen and Jackson.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to report.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (17 October 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 Chairman reported that the Little Tractors AGM has taken place and, whilst some roles have been filled, some of the vital roles remain vacant. An extraordinary meeting will be taking place on 6 December, giving enough time for some people who had expressed an interest in the roles the opportunity to find out more about them. Councillor Humphreys reported that the request for the Methodist Church regarding a grass cutting grant will be available for the December meeting.
5. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public, including reports from District and County Councillors** – District Councillor Barry Duffin reported that free parking will be available at the council car parks in Diss, Wymondham and Loddon on 7, 14 & 21 December. Bin collections will be subject to change over Christmas, please see the South Norfolk Council website of The Link magazine for further details. Councillor Duffin still has some ward member funds available until the end of December, so if anyone has any ideas which could benefit from funding, please get in touch as soon as possible. Training and workshops will be available at South Norfolk Council in the new year regarding CIL funding and Neighbourhood Plans.  
County Councillor Bev Spratt reported that the Hempnall roundabout project is almost finished, with all access points open now. The total cost was £4 million. There seems to be little news regarding the Long Stratton bypass. Although a lot of the planned housing will only be accessible by the new roads it seems that a large amount of additional funding needs to be secured from the Government. Initial discussions at County Hall seem to suggest that a Council tax increase of up to 4% could be in the pipeline for next year. Councillor Humphreys asked why the layby in the approach to the Hempnall roundabout had been removed as a result of the new roundabout. Councillor Spratt confirmed that Highways do not consider laybys close by to roundabouts to be safe.  
Councillor Humphreys also referred to an article in the recent edition of the Norfolk County Council 'Your Norfolk' magazine which dealt with the impact of farming activities on rural roads. Councillor Humphreys suggested that part of the reason the rural roads suffer so

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much is due to the inefficient method of dealing with drainage and ditches, particularly the placement and the method of drilling the grips.

**6. To consider planning applications:**

**a) 2019 / 2203 & 2225 – Rookery Farm, Wacton Rd – Two storey extension to dwelling with associated alterations, detached garage building and detached storage building** – The parish council had no objections to this application, subject to the satisfaction of the listed buildings officer at South Norfolk Council.

**b) 2019 / 2307 – Industrial Steam Museum, Low Road – Erection of additional toilet facilities** – The parish council supported this application.

**7. To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings: None**

**8. To report planning decisions:**

**a) 2019 / 1645 – The Granary – Northfield Rd – Erection of garden room – Approved**

**b) 2019 / 1647 – The Granary – Northfield Rd – Extension to outbuilding to increase size of garage, creation of first floor and cart shed – Approved**

The new vehicular access from a property on Mill Road was discussed at the last meeting. The clerk contacted Highways and South Norfolk Planning regarding the matter. Highways confirmed it would be considered to be a planning issue but South Norfolk Council advised that no action will be taken as the change does not constitute development. Councillors were most surprised to hear this and asked that the clerk get back in touch with SNC for further clarification.

**9. Neighbour Support Scheme update** – The Chairman gave a brief summary of the progress made so far. The plans to potentially advance the scheme have included liaising with staff members at the Early Help Hub at South Norfolk Council. This service includes representatives from several different agencies with the aim of working together to ensure that the right help is available to the right people and that residents know how to access it when needed. It is facilitated by 'Community Connectors' and one of the next steps will be to hold a meeting in the new year in order to get the service publicised as much as possible. The parish council agreed to cover the meeting costs, as any cost is likely to be very low.

**10. Budget 2020 / 21 and precept requirements** – Budget information was circulated before the meeting, with Councillors agreeing that, as the current level of precept is enough to meet the financial commitments of the parish council, there is no need to increase the precept.

**11. To review the following policy: General Risk Management Policy** – A couple of minor additions were suggested and these were unanimously approved by Councillors.

**12. Forncett Conservation Area Appraisal** – The Heritage Officer at South Norfolk Council has contacted the clerk to advise that an appraisal of the conservation area in Forncett is due. It appears that the last appraisal of the area took place in the mid 1990's and this one should be completed Summer 2020. Councillors Welsby and Barnes confirmed that they would be happy to join the Chairman, District Councillor Barry Duffin and the Heritage Officer for a walk around the area to look at the boundaries and any matters which have arisen or

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changed since the last appraisal.

- 13. Footpath maintenance** – John Wilde will be stepping down from his role as footpath warden. John has achieved so much and the parish council is very grateful to John and the supporting team for all the work they have done. It is important that the level of maintenance is carried on, in order that the paths don't get overgrown and difficult to walk, as they were a few years ago. With this in mind, there will be a meeting in January sometime to co-ordinate volunteers and see if anyone is willing to fulfil the role of footpath warden. Storage for the mower will also need to be considered. The parish council agreed to cover any meeting costs, refreshments etc.

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

Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
100218	£335.12	A Rayner	November salary
100219	£800.00	Forncett Flyer	Grant – 2 <sup>nd</sup> instalment

- 15. To consider correspondence** – Bunwell Parish Council have recently installed some defibrillators in the village and they will be holding a training session at Bunwell Village Hall at 6pm on 4 December. Councillors are welcome to attend.
- 16. Update on ongoing matters and outstanding issues**  
**a) Village Hall** – The Quiz and Curry evening was very successful and the parish council team came 4<sup>th</sup>. The New Year's Day walk will be going ahead, thanks to additional volunteers.  
**b) Highways and Public Rights of Way** – Nothing further to report.  
**c) SAM2 report** – Phil Whiscombe was not present.
- 17. Open forum, to hear from members of the public** – No further comments.
- 18. To confirm the date of the next meeting as 19 December 2019** – Mince pies and soft drinks, tea and coffee will be available from around 7.15pm.

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.**