

Forncett Parish Council  
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council  
held remotely – April 2020

Responses from : Cllr B Frith (Chairman) Cllr B Humphreys, Cllr A Coleman, Cllr G Barnes, Cllr D Welsby, Cllr S Allen, Cllr S Jackson

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – No meeting held but electronic responses have been received.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to report.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (March 2020)** – The minutes were approved without alteration and will be signed by the Chairman at the first available opportunity.
4. **To consider matters arising from the minutes (for information only)** – Nothing to report.
5. **Public questions - including reports from District and County Councillors** – District Councillor Barry Duffin sent in a report on behalf of South Norfolk Council, extracts of which are: Our teams have continued to call the most vulnerable residents who appear on the lists sent to us by the NHS and the County Council. At the start of today we had called 2,286 people, and everyone on the first edition of the shielded list. We have received 4,783 calls asking for help with food and support and our benefits team has taken 2,904 calls from residents asking about financial help. We have deployed our staff and volunteers on 2,062 occasions into our communities to deliver food, medicines and other essential supplies.

#### **Changes to bin dates**

Please see our websites for changes to the bin collections for tomorrow and next week.

#### **Supporting our local businesses**

Our Business Team has continued to contact local businesses to let them know what help is available.

6. **To consider planning applications:**
  - a) **2020 / 0647 – The Granary, Northfield Rd – Extensions to existing garage to form additional under cover parking and workshop with first floor play room and storage areas** – Although members acknowledge that the earlier application (2019/1647) has been approved there is some concern that, although the changes are relatively minor, they add to the issues of overdevelopment of the site and surrounding area with several ongoing developments.
  - b) **2020 / 0639 – Chestnut Tree Farm, Bustards Green – Notification for prior approval for proposed change of use, agricultural building to a dwellinghouse** – The parish council have no objections to this application, subject to it still falling within the guidelines for conversions.
7. **To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings: None to report**

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8. **To report planning decisions: None**
9. **To consider applying for a 20mph flashing school sign as part of the next parish partnership scheme** – Councillors were broadly supportive of a sign, depending on the cost and an agreement as to where it may be placed. The clerk will obtain a quote.
10. **To consider the adoption of updated financial regulations and a revised grant awarding policy** – Councillors approved the revisions to both policies and both policies were adopted with immediate effect.
11. **To receive the RFO report and consider the approval of the following payments, including the authority to make payment by BACS:**

Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
BACS	£ 341.82	A Rayner	April salary
BACS	£ 260.72	NALC	Annual subscription
BACS	£ 85.00	NARS	Annual subscription
BACS	£ 330.00	Community Heartbeat Trust	Annual support cost x 3

All payments were unanimously approved.

12. **To consider correspondence: Nothing to report**

13. **Items for information and comment.**

The Village Hall has had no bookings since the final Playgroup session on 19<sup>th</sup> March. Our cleaner, Ben, is tasked with special cleaning duties and will carry out some routine maintenance (touching up paint etc) as times goes on. At the request of the Insurers additional security checks and procedures have been introduced for the duration of the close-down. The Annual Public Meeting of the Trustees is due on 21<sup>st</sup> April and will be held via email comments from Trustees with members of the public invited to view reports and make comments and suggestions.

Footpaths are being very well used as 'daily exercise' routes - probably a good thing, as it seems unlikely that there will not be much cutting in the foreseeable future. Flooding caused by overflowing 'clean' outfall from the Anglian Water reed beds on the very popular 'sewage works' path off Tabernacle Lane made the path practically impassable for a couple of weeks, but Anglian Water have now cleared the outflow pipe under the path and it is drying out. A reminder that problems (with signs, bridges, styles etc) should be reported to Keith Fromings ([keithfromings@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:keithfromings@yahoo.co.uk)), who will then submit reports to Norfolk Highways. We have been told that only essential 'safety' work will be carried out at the moment, but problems will be logged for attention at a later date.

Phil Whiscombe has sent this 'SAM2' report:

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Following the national lockdown due to the coronavirus it was decided that journeys to move the sign were not essential so the sign was withdrawn from use on the 8<sup>th</sup> April. At that point it had recorded 1.51 million vehicle movements in total. In the 30mph limit areas 45% of vehicles exceed the speed limit (16.5% over 35mph) and in the 40mph limit areas it's 24% (7.6% over 45mph).

In February the sign was installed for the first time on the pole opposite Austhorpe House on the B1113 logging southbound traffic coming from Tacolneston and heading towards the Jolly Farmers junction. In this position it recorded an average of 1,030 daily vehicle movements with 49% keeping to the limit; 51% exceeding the limit which includes nearly 14% at over 35mph. There were 89 vehicles recorded at between 50 and 85mph.

Although the data we have is necessarily limited it is interesting to see the differences before and after the lockdown. The sign was on the 40mph section of Station Road at the time the lockdown started. In the week after the lockdown the volume of traffic reduced by about 43% and the percentage of vehicles exceeding the speed limit increased by about 5%. In the second week and part of the third week after lockdown the sign was on the Long Stratton Road between Orchard Close and Northfield Road (location 11). Compared to the last time the sign was in this location in late 2019 the weekday volumes were down by about 62% and the speeding up by about 10%. I don't think any of this is a great surprise! As reported to Brian the pole for location 11 does look as if someone or something has tried to push it over so when things get back to 'normal' it will probably need some attention. We have had a couple of apparent battery failures recently but I'm not yet convinced whether it's equipment or operator failure – we'll monitor again on resumption of normal service.

Thanks as usual to the team.

**14. To confirm the date of the next remote meeting 21 May 2020.**