

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held remotely via Zoom on Thursday 17 September 2020 at 7.30pm.

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

Parish Clerk Anne Rayner
District Councillor Barry Duffin
County Councillor Bev Spratt
No members of the public

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Welsby. The Chairman also reported that Councillor Sally Jackson has recently resigned from her role as parish councillor. The Parish Council agreed that the clerk should send Councillor Jackson a brief letter, thanking her for all her work.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to report.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (16 July 2020)** – The minutes were approved without alteration and signed as correct by the Chairman.
4. **To consider matters arising from the minutes (for information only)** – Nothing to report.
5. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public, including reports from District and County Councillors** – District Councillor Barry Duffin reported that the ongoing Covid 19 situation is evolving and, as such, demands and pressure on the District Council are changing. It is expected that people losing jobs and experiencing increased financial pressures will be ongoing. No meetings are taking place at South Norfolk Council at the moment, everything is being conducted via Zoom. Councillor Duffin said that, as always, he would be in touch with regard to anything such as a controversial planning application but is available at other times should residents or the parish council require support or information.

County Councillor Bev Spratt reported that 50 refugee children from Syria have been accepted by Norfolk County Council. The financial impact of the pandemic is being felt at the County Council and it is expected that this will be ongoing for some time, particularly regarding the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates.
6. **To consider planning applications: None to report**
7. **To hear of planning decisions and other information – 2018 / 2090 – Floricultural building** – Following concerns raised by residents, the clerk raised the issue of the caravan at the site and also the timber framed building, which did not appear to form part of the planning permission. South Norfolk Council have confirmed they are aware of the caravan but advise that this is permitted development whilst works are being carried out to implement the planning approval. The parish council agreed that, should further concerns be noted, they will raise the matter again with the district council and copy in Councillor Duffin.

The Chairman also mentioned that the new owners of Austhorpe House have confirmed they are not in a position to submit a planning application at the moment but will start by renovating the building known as 'The Barn' at the rear of the building. Councillor Spratt asked about the trees at the site and Councillor Duffin confirmed that three trees have TPOs on them. Councillor Duffin thought that Austhorpe House may be a listed building so any planning application will be subject to the usual rules and regulations relating to listed buildings.

8. **To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings:**
a) 2020 / 1425 – Sequoia, Long Stratton Rd – Erection of oak framed garage to front of dwelling and car port – The parish council raised no objections to this application.
9. **To consider quotes for speed signs within the Parish Partnership scheme** – The Chairman, Councillor Welsby and Helen Carlile (representative from the school) met with Roy Payne from Westcotec to discuss the most effective signs and locations to deal with the ongoing speeding issues at the school. Westcotec have suggested a total of three flashing '20 mph' signs to be located on Mill Road, Aslacton Road and Low Road. These would all be solar powered and the total cost of the signs, the installation and a ten year maintenance programme would be £10,600, meaning that the parish council would need to pay £5,300, should a successful Parish Partnership bid be made. Councillors agreed that the clerk should draft a bid for submission. Councillor Humphreys noted that he believed the placement of the signs to be crucial and this should be thoroughly thought through and agreed before any installation takes place. County Councillor Bev Spratt confirmed that he would make a contribution of £1000 from his member's fund towards this project. The parish council confirmed they would be grateful to receive this contribution, should their bid be successful.
Action AR.
10. **Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2020/21** – The 2020/21 pay agreement has been circulated. A 2.75% increase has been agreed, backdated to 1 April and this award was approved by Councillors.
11. **To consider a donation towards churchyard maintenance** – The parish council has received a request for a grant towards the maintenance of the churchyards. Following discussion, Councillors agreed to award £600 towards the cost. Councillor Barnes reported that the new contractors are cutting the grass and it is working well, so far.
12. **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 also approved:

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Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
SO	£ 341.82 x 2	A Rayner	August & September salary
DD	£ 51.27 x 2	A J Bell	August & Sept pension contribution
BACS	£ 600.00	Upper Tas Valley All Saints PCC	Grant towards churchyard maintenance
BACS	£ 161.80	A Rayner	Expenses 1/4/20 – 30/9/20
BACS	£ 54.46	A Rayner	Pay award arrears (to Apr 2020)

13. To consider correspondence:

a) SNC Litter pick – South Norfolk Council did run a litter pick scheme in August, following the cancellation of the usual Spring event. It was felt that with no August meeting, no Flyer report and little preparation time, together with the fact that a few local residents kindly litter pick in the village all year round, the parish council would not take part this time but would hope to participate again next Spring.

- 14. Items for information and comment** – The Chairman reported that playgroup have recommenced sessions at the village hall from last Monday. They are still low on numbers so would welcome any new children. Sessions take place all day on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and also a Wednesday morning. Bowls has also restarted. Tight restrictions are in place but Councillor Coleman reported that the session which took place the night before this meeting worked very well. Other groups such as line dancing and the art group are looking at the restrictions and considering options.
- The Chairman noted that current advice from NALC is for parish councils to continue to meet remotely. As this is the case, the clerk suggested that an upgrade to the 'Zoom' subscription may be worthwhile. Councillors agreed and asked the clerk to investigate. **Action AR.**

15. To confirm the date of the next meeting as 15 October 2020 to be held via Zoom.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm