

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held remotely on 17 December 2020 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 D Bezkorowajny

Parish Clerk Anne Rayner
District Councillor Barry Duffin
County Councillor Bev Spratt
1 member of the public

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – None to report.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to report.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (19 November 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)** – The Chairman reported that, following the decision at the last meeting to leave the precept at the current level of £12000, the tax base figures have been received from South Norfolk Council. The tax base in Forncett has gone from 447 in 20/21 to 446 for 21/22, meaning that any impact on the parish council's share of residents council tax bill will be absolutely minimal (from £26.85 per annum for a Band D property to £26.90 for the next financial year).
5. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public, including reports from District and County Councillors** – District Councillor Barry Duffin reported that South Norfolk Council are continuing to hold meetings via Zoom / Teams. The Early Help Hub is still extremely busy, the nature of the calls is progressing somewhat to those who are suffering ongoing financial hardship as a result of the pandemic. Councillor Duffin wished all Councillors and residents a happy Christmas and voiced a hope that meetings may resume in person at some point in 2021. County Councillor Bev Spratt thanked the parish council for not increasing their precept and said he hoped Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council will do the same, given the extreme financial pressure so many people are under. Councillor Spratt reported that Highways are aware of the condition of Wash Lane and the situation is under review.
6. **To consider planning applications: None to report**
7. **To hear of planning decisions and other information:**
 - a) **Planning appeal relating to Land north of Walnut Tree Cottage, Low Road – planning application no 2020 / 0703 – Appeal Reference No – APP/L2630/W/20/3257142** – The Chairman gave a brief summary of the history of this planning application and also confirmed the procedure, that the comments made by the parish council will stand unless another submission is made updating or changing them in any way. The application was discussed again and the Chairman read the comments submitted by the parish council. Councillors agreed that they were happy for those comments to stand and the parish council will therefore take no further action.
8. **To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings: None to report**

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- 9. To hear of PPE offer** – The Chairman reported that NALC contacted all parish councils recently with the information that a local company had 20,000 face visors to donate, on the understanding that they would be used within the community. As there was a very tight deadline for applications, the clerk applied for 50 but the final amount delivered was 100. Some have already been distributed to playgroup and our Church communities but the Chairman asked to be made aware of any suitable recipients. It was agreed to ask Su Leavesley to circulate the information on the e-noticeboard. Councillor Welsby also suggested that the FENS group may know of people who may be glad of them.
- 10. To consider the allotment lease – update** – The landowner has been back in touch confirming that the allotments are safe, going forward, but also indicating that he is considering ideas for the rest of the land. The allotments only take up one acre of the land, which is eight acres overall.

11. To receive the RFO report and consider the approval of the following payments:

Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
SO	£ 351.23	A Rayner	December salary
DD	£ 52.68	A J Bell	December pension contribution

The financial report, circulated prior to the meeting, and both December payments were unanimously authorised.

12. To consider correspondence: Nothing to report.

- 13. Items for information and comment** – The Chairman advised that the only use at the Village Hall for the time being is the Playgroup. A burger van has been visiting the car park for the last couple of weeks and this appears to have been successful. Councillor Humphreys reported that he recently collected one of the defibrillators for use and, although it turned out thankfully not to be needed, the whole procedure worked exactly as it should do, which is very reassuring. Councillor Coleman asked if the forthcoming temporary closure of Low Road, scheduled for the beginning of January 2021, would impact Playgroup. The Chairman confirmed that it possibly would, with playgroup due to start back on 4th January, but he would make sure the staff are aware.
- Councillor Bezkorowajny reported on a very successful hedge laying and tree planting day arranged by the village Tree Warden, Robert Hosea. It was well attended and the new trees follow a route along the Tas Valley Way. Thanks go to Robert and all volunteers. The event was reported to be very well organised. Councillor Barnes reported that the insurance claim relating to the plaster in St Peter's Church was refused. Some recent grant applications have proved successful and Councillor Barnes hopes to submit a lottery grant application next year.

14. To confirm the date of the next meeting as 21 January 2021 to be held remotely.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their time and contribution during what has been a very trying year and gave hope that 2021 would be better. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.