

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at remotely via Zoom on Thursday 19 November 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
2 members of the public

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Cllr Welsby after the meeting.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to report.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (15 October 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)** – Councillor Humphreys reported that Highways have undertaken some patching work on Wash Lane but the road generally remains in a poor condition. County Councillor Bev Spratt confirmed that he would take a look at the road when next in the area.
5. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public, including reports from District and County Councillors** – County Councillor Spratt confirmed that works undertaken recently on Cheney's Lane were the best solution possible in relation to an ongoing flooding problem, the alternatives being hugely expensive. Councillor Spratt mentioned the spike in Covid-19 cases in Wymondham and suggested residents avoid the area if at all possible for a few weeks. Finally, it appears that the Long Stratton bypass does look as if it will go ahead, hopefully by 2024.

District Councillor Barry Duffin reported that the Early Help Hub at South Norfolk Council has remained busy and is seeing demand increase again, given the surge in local cases recently. Councillor Duffin urged everyone to respect the social distancing guidelines and also remember the 'hands, face, space' campaign. Although there seems to be positive news on the horizon regarding a vaccine the virus is still out there and we cannot afford to become complacent. Councillor Duffin reported that his Ward grant deadline for use has been extended, so if there are any community projects which could benefit from some funding, please get in touch.

6. **To consider planning applications:**
 - a) **2020 / 2058 – 7 Near The Church, Mill Road – Single storey rear extension** – The parish council had no objections to this application.
 - b) **2020 / 2065 – The Barn, Common Rd – Front porch and front dormer window with cart shed** – The parish council had no objections to this application but did ask for clarification as to whether the remaining turning space on the driveway would satisfy the criteria laid down by NCC Highways,
 - c) **2020 / 2003 – Chestnut Cottage, Long Stratton Rd – Increase height of existing chimney re-using existing pots** – The parish council had no objections to this application, subject to the

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satisfaction of the listed buildings officer.

- d) 2020 / 1984 (1985) – Yew Tree Farm, Low Rd – Erection of dormer** - The parish council had no objections to this application, subject to the satisfaction of the listed buildings officer.

- 7. To hear of planning decisions and other information:**
a) 2020 / 1425 – Sequoia, Long Stratton Rd – Erection of oak framed garage to front of dwelling and car port – Approved
- 8. To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings: None to report**
- 9. To consider the Councillor vacancy** – David Bezkorowajny joined the meeting remotely, having expressed an interest in the parish councillor vacancy. David briefly introduced himself and spoke about his interest in the role and the community. Councillors unanimously agreed that David be co-opted to the vacant position. The paperwork will be completed and forwarded to the clerk as soon as possible.
- 10. To consider the allotment lease – update** – Following initial indications from the landowner as to a willingness to extend the lease, no further communication has been received. The clerk has sent a letter to the landowner for him to sign in suggestion and agreement of the lease extension and it is hoped that this will be returned soon, at which point the parish council can agree to the extension.
- 11. To approve the appointment of an internal auditor for the 2020 / 21 audit** – Pauline Barnes, who has undertaken the parish council's internal audit for some years, is retiring from the role. The clerk has secured Anne Barnes as internal auditor for the next two years and will send the appropriate appointment letter. **Action AR.**
- 12. To consider budget proposals for 2021 / 22** – In previous years a working party, made up of the clerk, the Chairman and two other councillors, have held a finance meeting in order to discuss the budget for the forthcoming year. However, given the circumstances this year and the stability of the parish council's financial commitments, the proposed budget information was circulated in advance of this meeting, together with a proposal to leave the annual precept for the parish council at £12000. Councillors unanimously agreed. The clerk will submit the precept request when the information is received from South Norfolk Council. **Action AR.**
- 13. To receive the RFO report and consider the approval of the following payments:**

Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
SO	£ 351.23	A Rayner	November salary
DD	£ 58.32	A J Bell	November pension contribution
BACS	£ 800.00	Forncett Flyer	Grant – 2 nd instalment
BACS	£1500.00	Forncett Village Hall	Annual Grant

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The financial report and all payments were unanimously approved.

14. To consider correspondence:

a) NCC Annual Budget Consultation – This consultation remains open until 14 December 2020 and can be found at www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget

15. Items for information and comment – Phil Whiscombe reported that the team responsible for moving the SAM2 continue to do so. The traffic registered during this second period of lockdown remains much more as normal, in sharp contrast to the first lockdown back in March, although the schools remain open this time, which will account for a significant amount of the traffic in the village. Thanks as always to Phil and the team for the work they do.

At one point it looked as though the restrictions may mean that no Remembrance Sunday service could take place at all, however, following guidance from the Police, it was confirmed that an outdoor service could take place. This was held at Tacolneston for all villages in the benefice and was followed by wreath laying ceremonies at St Mary's and St Peter's memorials. Thanks to Gilly and Graham Prior for arranging.

At the village hall most activities have stopped again to stay in line with the latest Covid-19 guidelines. Playgroup could continue but had to close as one child had been in contact with a family member who subsequently tested positive. If there are no further issues Playgroup can re-open on 24 November.

Finally, the site on Overwood Lane was mentioned again, regarding what appears to be an extension to the accommodation. District Councillor Barry Duffin confirmed that he would ask an enforcement officer to attend the site.

16. To confirm the date of the next meeting as 17 December 2020 to be held remotely.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.