

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held remotely on Thursday 18th March 2021 at 7.30pm

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

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 and accepted from Cllr Welsby.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to report.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (18 February 2021)** – 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 calls to the Help Hub are slowing down but the service is still very much running for anyone who needs it. The telephone number is 01508 533933. The public toilets in Long Stratton have been handed over to Long Stratton town council. No further information is known at the moment but Cllr Duffin will keep the parish council updated. There is also no further information to report just yet regarding the 'village cluster' section of the Greater Norwich Local Plan. The Chairman mentioned Saffron Housing are currently undertaking a new survey, in relation to the proposed new development behind William Lant Close. Saffron are also circulating another survey regarding housing needs but Councillor Duffin believes this is a separate issue from the William Lant development.
6. **To consider planning applications:**
 - a) **2021 / 0365 – The Old Safety Valve – Proposed change of use and extension of existing annexe to create separate dwelling** – Following discussion, the parish council agreed that there were no objections in principle to this application but did note the conditions attached to the original permission granted.
 - b) **2021 / 0421 – Lakeside, Low Road – Single storey front porch extension, change of surface finishes and single storey garage** – The parish council had no objections to this application.
7. **To hear of planning decisions and other information:**
 - a) **2020 / 2093 – Rookery Farm, Wacton Rd – Approval of conditions relating to windows / doors / schedule of repair – Approved**
 - b) **2020 / 2373 – The Stables, Common Rd – Demolition of lean to porch and replacement single storey extension – Approved**

8. **To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings:**
a) **2021 / 0246 – Horseshoe Barn, Northfield Rd – Extension to stable to create additional storage** – No objections
b) **2021 / 0300 – Rookery Farm, Wacton Rd – Take down brick skin to north gable and rebuild** – No objections, subject to the satisfaction of the listed buildings officer
9. **Christmas Eve Flooding – Update** – Councillors Welsby, Humphreys and Frith attended a meeting with the Norfolk County Council Water Management Team on 24th February. The team took a good look at the river, the flooded properties, Wash Lane Ford and Moulton bridge. Some practical advice was given as to what clearance should be done by riparian owners. Photos taken by Councillor Humphreys on Christmas Day clearly demonstrate the effect of the railings on the flow of the water. Those photos have been shared with the Water Management Team and Highways. A subsequent meeting with Bob West, Highways Engineer, has resulted in agreement that the bottom two railings on either side of the Ford should be removed to prevent them acting like a dam. The Chairman reported that both meetings seemed quite positive and is hopeful that good co-operation between the Environment Agency and Highways will result in better flow through the pipes under the Ford.
- It was noted that a leaflet from the Norfolk Flood Alliance, headed by Lord Dannatt, will be sent to all households in the County.
- A further meeting was held today between Councillor Humphreys and Helen George and Rich Caplin with a colleague from the Environment Agency. Councillor Humphreys reported that this meeting was also quite positive and it may be that, under licence, the Humphreys be allowed to deal with a 10m length of the river on one side, with residents being given the option to undertake work (or appoint someone on their behalf) on their side. A member of the public present suggested that the whole river needs dredging from Hapton / Wacton / Tasburgh and that all interested parties need to walk those sections of the river to see what needs to be done to ensure the flow of the water can be maintained. Rich Caplin had said in a phone call to the Chair (repeated in a meeting with Bev Humphreys) that, in the longer term, major events such as the flooding in Forngett will result in the Environment Agency carrying out a modelling exercise which may result in changes to river profiles and maintenance procedures.
- During this discussion, County Councillor Bev Spratt joined the meeting. Councillor Spratt agreed that dredging of the river would seem to afford the most protection against further flooding.
- The Chairman invited County Councillor Spratt to report any matters of interest, as the item for this on the agenda had already passed. Councillor Spratt reported that children have returned to Forngett School and the school is covid free at the moment. Council tax bills have recently been issued and Councillor Spratt mentioned his disappointment that Norfolk County Council increased their share of the Council Tax bill by 4% but did acknowledge that they had need to borrow an additional amounts as a result of the pandemic.
10. **Speed limits – update** – Following the last meeting, the clerk contacted Highways to ask about current policy relating to speeding and a comprehensive response was received from Graham Bygrave, Head of Highways. As a result of this it has been agreed that the Chairman

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and Councillor Bezkorowajny will meet with the Highways Engineer soon to discuss speed limits and / or other measures at various locations in the village. Councillor Humphreys noted that Suffolk County Council appear to be trialling 'Quiet Lanes' which was an approach tried by Norfolk County Council some ten years or so ago but the scheme was no longer supported by Norfolk. Whilst discussing speeding, the Chairman reported that confirmation has been received that the parish council's bid for 20mph signs around the school (one on Mill Road, one on Aslacton Road and one on Low Road) was successful. County Councillor Spratt was reminded of his contribution of £1000 from his member's fund and he asked the clerk to get in touch with the Highways Engineer in order to arrange this.

Action AR.

- 11. Clerk's annual review** – The clerk's annual review was undertaken earlier in the week via Zoom by the Chairman and Vice-Chair, Cllr Humphreys. Feedback from Councillors, working hours and a brief review of work over the last year were all discussed. The Chairman proposed the clerk's salary increase by one increment from 1 April and this was approved by Councillors.
- 12. To receive the RFO report and consider the approval of the following payments:**

Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
SO	£ 351.23	A Rayner	March salary
DD	£ 52.68	A J Bell	March pension contribution
BACS	£ 208.52	A Rayner	Expenses 1/10/20 – 31/3/21
BACS	£ 50.00	Norfolk Accident Rescue Service	Donation
BACS	£ 72.00	Norfolk ALC	Training course

The financial report, circulated prior to the meeting, was approved. All listed payments were approved plus a small fee, for which an invoice is expected soon. This relates to booklets order as a result of the new councillor course and the payment, which is expected to be under £10 can be made to NALC together with payment of the training invoice.

- 13. To consider correspondence:**
a) Request for donation from Norfolk Accident Rescue Service – Councillors agreed to authorise a payment of £50 (shown above).
- 14. Items for information and comment** – A request for reports from local clubs and groups was included in the March Forncett Flyer, in relation to the Annual Open Meeting. The request will be repeated in the April Flyer, with instruction to contact the clerk by 10 April, at the latest. Councillor Bezkorowajny asked if the Spicer's Lane fly tipping problem could be included on the next agenda.
- 15. To confirm the date of the next meeting as 15 April 2021 to be held remotely, commencing immediately after the closure of the Annual Open Meeting.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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