

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 16 September 2021 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 and County Councillor Barry Duffin
5 members of the public

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – None to report. The Chairman asked that Councillor Coleman pass on the very best wishes to his Mum, Ethel, who has been quite unwell over the weekend but is hopefully on the mend.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to report.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (15 July 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, also District & County Cllr** – Councillor Duffin reported initially on matters from the District Council, which included the end of the consultation for the village clusters, as part of the Greater Norwich Local Plan.

News from the County Council is that the Long Stratton bypass has moved a step closer. The Government have confirmed a contribution of £26.2 million towards the project, with the remainder of the total cost of £37.4 million coming from CIL and developer funds. The planned start date is mid 2023 with a planned project end date of the end of 2024. The County Council will soon begin discussing budgets for the next year, it is expected that the full impact on finances as a result of the pandemic will be felt, so cuts are to be expected.

6. **To consider planning applications:**
 - a) **2021 / 1867 – The Stables, Common Rd – Conversion of existing stable block to holiday accommodation units** – The parish council agreed that there are no objections to this application, subject to the standard clause being included to ensure the new units remain within the curtilage of the main property and are not to be sold as separate dwellings in the future.
7. **To hear of planning decisions:**
 - a) **2021 / 1075 – Four Seasons, Cheney's Lane – Replacement lime render – Approved**
 - b) **2021 / 1116 – Clavers Cottage, Low Rd – Installation of heating tank – Approved**
 - c) **2021 / 0365 – Old Safety Valve – Extension to annexe – Refused**
 - d) **2021 / 1405 – Yew Tree Farm – Rebuild chimney stack – Approved**
8. **To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings:**

- a) **2018 / 0111 & 0112 Land East & West of the A140 Long Stratton** – No additional comments to add to original submission
- b) **2021 / 1848 & 1849 – The Granary, Northfield Rd – Single storey & two storey extension (retrospective following 2018 / 2611)** – No objection in principle
- c) **2021 / 1761 – Plum Tree House, Low Rd** – Demolish garage and erect self-contained annexe – No obj – condition expected re retaining with original dwelling

9. **To consider plans for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee June 2022** – The Beacon lighting will be held at Forncett Tank Museum. If anyone has any thoughts or ideas as to how the celebrations can be planned then they are encouraged to share them at the next meeting. The clerk will contact Councillor Duffin to ask if there are likely to be any funding grants available as part of the celebrations. **Action AR.**
10. **The future of the Forncett Flyer – update** – To date, no volunteers have come forward. There will be another appeal in the October edition of the Flyer. The Chairman reiterated that the Flyer does not have to continue in its existing format and even a much scaled down version would be preferable to ceasing all together. Help and support will be given to anyone or any group of people willing to try to keep the publication going.
11. **St Mary's War memorial – maintenance** – As the person who has kindly kept an eye on the war memorial has recently moved away, the Chairman appealed for a volunteer to take over the role. This is really just casting an eye over the memorial when walking past and reporting anything of concern to the clerk or Chairman. Councillor Bezkorowajny confirmed he would be willing to do this. The Chairman passed on his thanks for this and confirmed he would send through some relevant information after the meeting. **Action BF.**
12. **Flood information – update** – Councillor Humphreys reported that progress has been frustratingly slow. Works to be undertaken to the bank and surrounding area can only be done up to 1st October and this deadline is now very close. The Chairman agreed that the lack of progress is disappointing. The report due from the Norfolk Water Management team which was promised some months ago has still not been published and the most recent emails asking about progress have not been answered at all. Councillor Welsby reported that nearby neighbours in Aslacton Road have recently received a leaflet but the information contained conflicted with previous advice ie two telephone numbers given when then parish council had been assured there would be one number only going forwards, in order that all information is recorded at one point.
13. **Highways issues, including any considerations re Parish Partnership scheme** – The Chairman reported that all issues reported via the online reporting service have invariably been closed down by Highways with a note stating that they are already aware of the issue reported. Again, this is frustrating as sometimes 18 months has elapsed between reports of the same item, ie the standing water on Low Rd, and yet the task is still closed down with the same message, even though no action has taken place in the intervening period. The Chairman will ask to meet our new Highways Engineer with a view to taking a walk around the village and highlighting the most pressing matters.

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In better news, the new school lights are due to be installed within the next few weeks.

14. **Forncett Conservation Appraisal – adopted 26 July 2021** – South Norfolk Council's Heritage Officer confirmed that the Forncett Conservation Appraisal was approved by the Council and adopted on 26 July 2021. The Officer asked that his thanks be passed on to Councillors for the help and positive contribution. The full appraisal can be seen here:
<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/conservation-areas-south-norfolk>
15. **To consider a grant request to support grass cutting at St Peter's & St Mary's churches** – A grant of £600 has been requested. This is towards the cost of grass cutting for both churchyards. Following discussion, the grant was approved.
16. **To receive the financial report and consider the approval of the following payments:**

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
SO	£ 357.06	A Rayner	August salary
SO	£ 216.26	A Rayner	September salary
DD	£ 53.74 x 2	A J Bell	Clerk Pension Aug & Sep
BACS	£1818.00	Excel electrical	Village hall lights
BACS	£ 144.40	HMRC	Clerk tax Q3
BACS	£ 600.00	Upper Tas Valley PC	Grass cutting grant
BACS	£ 156.00	A Rayner	6 months expenses

17. **To consider correspondence – None to report**
18. **Items for information and comment** – The Chairman gave an overview of the South Norfolk Council Accommodation Review. Councillors agreed they had several concerns about this and agreed that the clerk should respond to the consultation accordingly. **Action AR.** The Chairman reported that the recent BBQ held at the village hall was a great success. The litter pick will be held on Saturday 18th September and several of the usual participants are away so an appeal for additional volunteers was made. Two of the members of public present indicated they would be happy to help, which is much appreciated. Councillor Barnes reported that a really critical time is approaching for St Peter's Church. A minimum of £500,000 is needed to even get the church off the 'at risk' register and this is obviously a huge amount, way above what any normal fundraising could achieve. The only hope is to access lottery funding and team managing the fundraising are taking all steps possible to try to save the Church. Funding applications need to show support from the Community so Councillor Barnes appealed for support by attending events and fundraising opportunities. The Church and churchyard are full of history and wildlife and Councillors agreed it would be extremely sad to lose this. Members of the Parish Council confirmed that

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they supported all efforts to secure funding to ensure that St Peter's Church is removed from the 'Heritage at Risk' register'

Finally, the Chairman reported that after a very quiet period throughout the Covid pandemic, the village noticeboards are becoming busy again. There has always been a rule of 'no commercial noticed' which people mostly respect but all notices are meant to be size A5 or smaller. Larger items take up too much space and then one item just tends to get pinned over the top of another and so on. The Chairman will re-print the advisory notice and place this on all of the noticeboards.

19. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 21 October 2021

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm.