

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 16 June 2022 at 7.30pm

In Attendance: Cllr B Frith (Chairman) Cllr B Humphreys, Cllr A Coleman, Cllr D Welsby, Cllr D Bezkorowajny

4 members of the public

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Allen and Barnes and the clerk. District and County Councillor Duffin also sent his apologies.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to report.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (19 May 2022)** – 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 statement agreed at the last meeting with regard to the National Grid East Anglia Green proposals was submitted as part of the consultation process and an acknowledgement of the comments was received. The full statement also appeared in the Forncett Flyer and a copy of the comments were sent to Richard Bacon MP, together with an invite to visit Forncett and see the potential impact of the route. No response has been received from our MP, as yet.
5. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public, also District & County Cllr** - Councillor Duffin sent a short report as he could not attend. This confirmed that Norfolk County Council have formally objected to the pylon proposal. South Norfolk Council met recently and agreed they would submit comments, although at the time of sending his email Councillor Duffin had not received official confirmation of the statement. The Community Action Fund has a pot of £150,000 (for the whole District) and Councillor Duffin's funds for the member ward grant (South Norfolk) is £1000 and the division member grant (NCC) is £10,000. The division member grant is to help to fund small Highways improvements.
6. **To consider planning applications** – None
7. **To hear of planning decisions:**
 - a) **2022 / 2524 – The Cottage, Bustards Green – Convert boat shed to annex – Approved**
8. **To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings:** None to report
9. **To consider the annual grant for the village hall** – The Chairman reported that the Village Hall Trustees have requested that the village hall grant be held over for the time being, in case they make a request to the parish council to make a purchase on their behalf, allowing the VAT to be reclaimed.
10. **To consider disposal options for the old parish council laptop** – There are a few options available for disposal of the old laptop, including upgrading the drive and trying to sell it on. However, given that it is around 9 years old and very dated, Councillors agreed that the hard drive be removed and destroyed and the remainder of the laptop be disposed of.

- 11. Latest visit from Environment Agency Staff** - Councillor Welsby reported that Staff from the Environment Agency visited recently and the expectation is that they would come up with proposals as to how to support all of the households effected by the Christmas flooding in 2020 and also individual suggestions tailored to each property. The next step is to undertake a full survey, which they are hoping to do by September 2022. Unfortunately, it seems several assumptions had been made relating to the floods, e.g. that the flooding came up from the gardens, despite the fact that they have been informed on multiple occasions that it actually came down the road towards the properties. They asked for photos of the flooding, which Councillor Welsby provided. A member of the public reported that there is still a potential issue with obstructions under the bridge at Horsenford. The Chair agreed to contact Rich Caplin at the Environment Agency.
- 12. Review of Jubilee Celebrations** – The celebrations went very well, helped by good weather on the days the events were planned. Around 50 people attended the beacon lighting at the Tank Museum. The village hall event on the Saturday was really well attended, the BBQ sold out, tea and cakes went very well and there was lots of bar trade. The celebration cake was cut by Rosemary Hirst and was divided into approximately 170 squares, which were all eaten. Decorative bunting was made by children from the school and playgroup. Around 10 stalls were situated on Jubilee Green and all stallholders reported plenty of interest. It had been agreed that the easiest way to manage the £200 Jubilee Grant was for the Chair to make the payments and then reclaim the funds from the parish council (supporting statements of the funds spent has been provided). During the meetings held to plan for the Jubilee events it had been agreed that any donations received on the day would be put towards providing a commemorative Jubilee bench. Donations on the day amounted to £58 and this amount will be added to the donation of £200 to be made from the parish council, which was the amount received from SNC in respect of the community litter pick held earlier in the year. The Chairman reported that he felt the village hall committee would be happy to make a donation from the funds raised from the bar and BBQ and perhaps the stall holders could be asked if they would consider making a donation. A member of the public noted a nice, sturdy bench in New Buckenham recently (approx £600 from Glasdon), but it was also agreed to try again to get information about metal benches recently installed in Tharston and Hapton before any decision is made - after the final total of the funds is known.
- 13. To begin to consider projects for the Parish Partnership scheme** – Although the formal letters have not been issued as yet, Norfolk County Council have confirmed the scheme will be going ahead in the next financial year. As bids usually need to be submitted by December and have to be supported by quotes obtained from Norfolk County Council Highways it would be sensible to start considering possible projects now. One site reported for consideration is the junction at the B1113 / Austhorpe House, which has poor visibility. A member of the public asked if some of the 'informal' laybys around the village could be turned into proper nominated 'passing places'. This would benefit road users, cyclists and walkers. It was agreed to make preliminary enquiries about whether this would be possible within the 'Parish Partnership' scheme.

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14. **Update on fly tipping at Spicers Lane** – Councillor Bezkorowajny reported that, after being in correspondence with South Norfolk Council for several months, he was happy to report that the area on Spicers Lane has been cleared. Councillor Bezkorowajny thanked South Norfolk officer Rick Bowler for his support and to the landowners for clearing the area.
15. **To consider a donation request from NARS** – A letter asking for a donation and details how the money is spent was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The Chairman confirmed that the PC last made a donation to NARS in March 2021 and the amount was £50. Councillors unanimously agreed to make a further donation of £50.
16. **To receive the financial report and consider the approval of the following payments:**

Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
SO	£297.61	A Rayner	June salary
DD	£ 55.77	A J Bell	June pension contribution
Card payment	£237.94	HMRC	Q1 clerk tax (includes 14p debit card fee)
BACS	£200.46	B Frith	Jubilee refund to Chair
BACS	£ 50.00	NARS	Donation

The financial report, together with all listed payments, were approved.

17. **To consider correspondence:**
Letter from South Norfolk Council re Electric Vehicle Charging Points – South Norfolk Council are asking parish councils to register an interest only, at this stage, in supporting a district wide network of Electric Vehicle Charging Points, subject to eligibility. The Chairman confirmed that the village hall committee are happy for this to be investigated further, although some concerns were noted. Councillors agreed that an initial response can be submitted indicating an interest. This does not commit the parish council or the village hall committee to anything at this stage.
18. **Items for information and comment** – The Chairman reported that he is attending a Chairman's briefing at South Norfolk House next Wednesday (22nd June) and there are several agenda items including one relating to the Electric Vehicle Charging Points. The Covid community plaque has been installed on the post of the sign in front of St Peter's church. Thanks to Keith Fromings for sourcing and preparing the backing plate. Norfolk County Council have confirmed that trees are available at half price for any parishes who wish to take part in the 'Jubilee Trees for Norfolk' scheme. The clerk has forwarded the email to Robert Hosea, tree warden, but the issue remains that the parish doesn't own any land on which the trees could be planted. Councillors Humphreys and Welsby reported that they had been without (BT) internet connection for approximately a week, which apparently related to works being carried out by County Broadband.
19. **To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 21 July 2022.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm.