

Forncett Parish Council  
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council  
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 17 November 2022 at 7.30pm

In Attendance: Cllr B Frith (Chairman), Cllr A Coleman, Cllr G Barnes, Cllr D Welsby

Parish Clerk Anne Rayner  
District and County Councillor Barry Duffin  
4 members of the public

1. **To consider apologies for absence** - Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Humphreys, Allen and Bezkorowajny.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to report.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (20 October 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)** – Following the agreement to replace the bench outside of St Edmunds Church, Councillor Allen suggested after the last meeting that there is a local craftsman in Silfield who constructs benches. It was agreed that the Chairman and Councillor Allen will visit to discuss options and costs and report back. It was also agreed that a wooden post be placed on the verge in front of the bench, to try to prevent vehicles from reversing into the bench again.

With regard to the War Memorial, Cllr Bezkorowajny kindly washed down the memorial and the bench, in advance of Remembrance Sunday. Cllr Humphreys has made contact with a local stone mason who will check the memorial over and report on any recommended works.

5. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public, also District & County Cllr –**

Councillor Barry Duffin reported the following, on behalf of the County Council:

- Further cases of avian flu have been confirmed in Norfolk on 9 November. The UK Health Security Agency says that avian influenza is primarily a disease of birds and the risk to the general public's health is very low. However, to help minimise the spread, the public are asked to keep to designated footpaths, not feed wild birds and keep dogs on leads. Do not touch dead birds, their feathers or their droppings. If you see a dead bird, please report it to Defra's helpline on 03459 335577.
- Museums in the County have received funding boosts in the form of £185,000 from the National Lottery for a new heritage project and a further £4 million to be shared within the 10 museums in Norfolk.
- A winter campaign has been launched to support people in Norfolk and Waveney to keep warm and well over the winter months. Please visit the Warm and Well portal <https://improvinglivesnw.org.uk/our-work/our-campaigns/warm-and-well/> which includes advice and support relating to hardship support, vaccination information, mental health support and self-care tips.

Forncett Parish Council  
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council  
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 17 November 2022 at 7.30pm

- Residents and businesses are being asked to respond to a consultation from Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) on their Community Risk Management Plan. The link to the consultation is here <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/safety/norfolk-fire-and-rescue-service/about-nfrs/publications/have-your-say> but there will also be a series of events based at fire stations.
- Waterstones and Norfolk County Council are running the 'Giving Tree' project again this Christmas. The tree will be decorated with hundreds of tags which each represent child in care and each tag represents a child and the book they would like to receive for Christmas. To support the initiative please visit the Castle Street Waterstones branch or purchases can be made online by emailing [Norwich@waterstones.com](mailto:Norwich@waterstones.com) with 'Giving Tree Appeal' in the subject line.

Councillor Duffin also reported from the District Council that the offices at South Norfolk Council are now closed. Staff are currently either working from home or are based at the Broadland Council offices on Thorpe Road. It is hoped that staff will move in to the new shared Horizon offices in the new year.

There were no comments from members of the public.

**6. To consider planning applications:**

- a) **2022 / 2049 – 12 Humphreys Close – Removal of current porch and erection of larger porch** – Councillors had no objections to this application.

**7. To hear of planning decisions:**

- a) **2022 / 1047 – Rattles, Low Road – Roof repairs kitchen and bedroom – Approved**

**8. To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings: None to report**

- 9. Parish Partnership proposal** – Highways have provided a quote for the proposed village gateways on the B1113 on the approach to the crossroads by the Jolly Farmers. The total cost of the gates and the installation would be £6746.46. If a successful bid were made as part of the Parish Partnership scheme, the parish council would be required to pay 50% of this price. The Chairman has been in discussion with Tacolneston Parish Council to see if they would be prepared to make a contribution towards the gates. Tacolneston Parish Council are broadly supportive of the project but it was noted that, if they do make a financial contribution, it will probably be relatively small, as their budget did not include an allowance for any parish partnership projects. Councillors agreed that the clerk should submit an application, with a view that the application can be withdrawn at a later date, should that decision be taken.

- 10. East Anglia Green – National Grid Proposals** – The parish council has been asked to respond to a scoping consultation document relating to the East Anglia Green National Grid proposals. This is not a response to an application, at this point it is a scoping document only asking as to the information to be provided in an environmental statement. The parish council agreed to respond suggesting that the amount of visual receptors be expanded to include more key points and also that the effects of climate change should warrant further

Forncett Parish Council  
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council  
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 17 November 2022 at 7.30pm

consideration. Finally, the parish council requested that there should be details analysis of the whole range of security risks and the environmental impact and they ways they might be mitigated.

- 11. LGA National Salary Award (April 2022)** - The National pay award has been agreed and backdated to April 2022. This is reflected in the clerk's salary this month.

District & County Councillor Duffin left the meeting at this point but, just before he left, a member of the public asked about any progress regarding the sitting water near the triangle on Low Road. Councillor Duffin confirmed that, despite extensive investigations by Highways, no resolution has been found. The decision is that, should works be undertaken to divert the water coming up from the road at its current point, as the water comes from an underground spring, it will simply pop up somewhere else. There is certainly no immediate solution, unfortunately. To try to mitigate any accidents due to the surface water, Councillor Duffin has received agreement from Highways that they will install 'warning' road signs on the approach to the section of road.

- 12. To consider a request from the Village Hall Committee regarding the purchase of replacement low energy LED lighting** – The village hall committee have requested that, instead of receiving their grant as a direct payment, they would like to use the funds to upgrade the fluorescent lighting to more energy efficient LED lighting. The quote received is £660 plus VAT. The parish council agreed to fund this request (out of the usual PC annual grant to the village hall) and resolved to donate the new lighting to the village hall.
- 13. Parish & District Councils elections – May 2023** – Parish and District elections will take place in May 2023. Posters will be displayed on noticeboards and information will be included in the Flyer, in the run up to the elections.
- 14. To receive the financial report and consider the approval of the following payments:**

Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
SO	£464.09	A Rayner	November salary
DD	£ 86.98	A J Bell	November pension contribution
BACS	£800.00	Forncett Flyer	Grant – instalment 2

The financial report and all payments were unanimously approved.

- 15. To consider correspondence:**
- a) **Parish and Community Infrastructure – information from SNC** – South Norfolk Council have appointed a new Community Infrastructure Officer to support parish councils who may benefit from support developing and delivering community infrastructure projects.
- 16. Items for information and comment** – It was agreed to discuss the budget and precept requirements for 23/24 at the December meeting. The cost of living situation and the squeeze on household finances was mentioned and it was provisionally agreed to aim not

Forncett Parish Council  
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council  
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 17 November 2022 at 7.30pm

to increase the precept for Forncett but that a full budget assessment would be discussed at next month's meeting.

Mention was made of works that seemed to be taking place relating to the river at Low Common, Bunwell. The Chairman said he would make contact with Bunwell PC to ask if they had any information relating to this.

**17. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 15 December 2022.**

Everyone present was reminded that the date of the **January 2023** meeting has been changed to **Tuesday 17 January 2023**.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

D