

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the annual meeting of the Parish Council
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 19 May 2022 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

District and County Councillor Barry Duffin
19 members of the public

1. **To elect a Chairman for the forthcoming year and to receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office** – Brian Frith was nominated and seconded and accepted the role of Chairman for another year. The appropriate form was completed.
2. **To elect a vice-chair and receive their declaration of acceptance of office** – Bev Humphreys was nominated and seconded and accepted the role of Vice- Chair. The appropriate form was completed.
3. **To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from the clerk.
4. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to report.
5. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (21 April 2022)** – The minutes were approved without alteration and signed as correct by the Chairman.
6. **To consider matters arising from the minutes (for information only)** – Further correspondence has been received from Highways regarding the proposed speed limit changes on Aslacton Road / Moulton Bridge. The proposal is that the section of road from Wash Lane to the Garden House (approximately) be 40 mph. Following the appeal in the last edition of the Flyer, one suggestion was received from a member of the public regarding a possible Highways project to make use of the CIL money. This was relating to improvements at the Common Road / Norwich Road junction. Further clarification regarding boundaries will be needed but this can be discussed with Highways.
7. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public, also District & County Cllr** – Cllr Duffin reported on news from the County Council initially and this included a report that all County council meetings are now open to members of the public. County and District councils are working together to support Ukrainian refugees and also processing the applications of hosts. Cllr Duffin reported that following the December 2020 flooding emergency, Anglian Water and other agencies seem to working together much better to prevent similar issues arising again. The final amendments to the Long Stratton bypass application have been submitted but these are now being held up as a result of the nutrient neutrality issue raised by Natural England. From the District Council, Councillor Duffin reported that various grants and funds are available for community projects and he will be happy to give details. Community groups with access to buildings eg. village halls will shortly be invited to take up solar charging with a view to providing electric car charging points, so please respond when the invitation is received. Finally, South Norfolk Council have confirmed that they will be moving to Broadland Business Park. Despite some reservations being raised, the overall vote

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was in favour of the move so it will be going ahead, although dates have not been confirmed as yet. South Norfolk House in Long Stratton will be sold and developed for affordable housing and / or assisted living.

8. To consider planning applications:

- a) 2022 / 0799 – The Granary, Northfield Rd – Extension to existing garage to form additional parking, workshop and plant room with first floor playroom and store –** The Chairman gave a brief summary relating to the history of the original application which was initially submitted in 2020. This modification includes an additional outbuilding. Following discussion, the parish council agreed to repeat their concerns previously raised regarding overdevelopment at the site but note that the decision will be subject to the satisfaction of the Historic Buildings officer.

9. To hear of planning decisions:

- a) 2022 / 0641 – 7 Near The Church, Mill Rd – Single storey rear extension – Approved**

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

11. Public comments on National Grid East Anglia Green Energy Enablement Consultation – This item will be limited to 30 minutes duration and individual contributions will be limited to 3 minutes – Several members of the public wished to speak on this matter and a summary of the key points raised was as follows:

- Disappointment was expressed that National Grid are not considering the most up to date technology to achieve what needs to be carried out – this simply seems like taking the cheapest option to them at the cost of great environmental suffering to all of the counties involved.
- The planned route for the pylons does not seem to take into account SSSIs.
- Residents voiced serious concerns about the environmental and visual impact.
- A suggestion was made to involve our local MP, specifically to invite him to the area to appreciate the impact.
- Given the proximity to the coastline of the three counties involved it would seem sensible to use offshore technology.
- The visual impact on small villages, the rural location and individual homeowners must be taken into account. In some cases the planned route is very near to houses and would be particularly disastrous for well-being and lifestyle of those living there.

Councillor Duffin encouraged everyone concerned to submit a response to the consultation. He confirmed he has spoken to Richard Bacon MP regarding the matter and he will encourage him to attend a meeting or visit the village if his schedule allows.

12. Discussion by parish council members in response to National Grid Feedback Form – A draft response was discussed. Some parts of the draft statements were deleted and others agreed in their place. It was agreed that the response should begin by stating clearly that the parish council strongly object to the proposals. The Chairman will circulate the final statement taking into account all proposed amendments to Councillors for approval before submitting the response to the National Grid consultation web-site by email. The Chairman

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reiterated the advice given by Councillor Duffin and encouraged everyone to enrol on the webinars taking place on 8th and 9th June and submit individual feedback. A copy of the response will be sent to our local MP urging him to engage with his East Anglian colleagues seeking policy change.

The agreed feedback for the consultation is printed at the end of these minutes.

At this point, several of the public attendees left the meeting.

- 13. To review the following policies – Financial Regulations and Statement of Internal Control**
– Both policies were reviewed and it was agreed that no changes were needed.
- 14. To receive the financial report and consider the approval of the following payments:**

Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
SO	£297.61	A Rayner	May salary
DD	£ 67.06	A J Bell	May pension contribution
BACS	£330.00	Community Heartbeat Trust	Maintenance contract for 3 x defibrillators
BACS	£800.00	Forncett Flyer	Grant instalment 1
BACS	£ 50.40	Bartlett Signs	Replacement noticeboard 'glass'
BACS	£451.01	Came & Co	Annual Insurance

The financial report, circulated prior to the meeting, was approved. All listed payments were unanimously approved. It was agreed to accept the three year insurance deal offered as part of the renewal invitation.

- 15. To consider correspondence:**
a) Consultation for Public Space Protection Order to cover dog fouling and exclusion from play areas – This is a periodic review and confirmation of renewal of regulations, which was agreed to by Councillors.
- 16. Items for information and comment** – The Chairman reminded everyone about the Jubilee events on Thursday 2nd June at the Tank Museum and the Village Hall on Saturday 4th June. Hopefully we can look forward to good weather and community celebrations. Several street parties are taking place on Sunday 5th June. Unfortunately the flower festival planned at St Peters planned for late June has been postponed. Councillor Barnes reported that the Church will be temporarily closed whilst scaffolding is in place to support the roof. Finally, the Parish Council has a noticeboard policy and this includes guidelines that the boards are there to display parish council information and village (or nearby) events only - but not private / business advertising or 'campaigning' notices. This has resulted in the removal of some notices which have appeared recently. The Chairman reiterated that advertising community meetings relating to the consultation would, of course, be acceptable. Councillors agreed to uphold this policy.
- 17. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 16 June 2022.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

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Agreed statement for feedback to National Grid 'East Anglia Green' consultation May 2022. This will also be copied to Richard Bacon MP, urging him to give full support to the opposition to the National Grid proposals.

Forncett Parish Council strongly objects to the National Grid East Anglia Green proposals.

The Parish Council urges National Grid, planners, law makers and those at the very highest level of Government to do everything possible to avoid the need for a new line of pylons in East Anglia as described in the East Anglia Green Proposals. If proven, reliable technology exists (or is likely to exist within the timescale required by the Government renewable energy strategy) an offshore 'grid' / 'interconnectors' / 'ring main' should be fully investigated and pursued with all possible determination and without delay. This solution must also take into account the inherent issues involved in bringing power ashore where it is needed by consumers and minimising further issues at landfall and with distribution onshore - the source of much contention (and hence further delays) with some schemes hitherto. We note that various reports on National Energy Strategy and Distribution planning are due later in 2022 and urge urgent action by all parties following their publication.

In addition, Forncett Parish Council:

- **supports the OffSET group led by Sir Bernard Jenkin, in the drive to create an offshore strategic electricity grid across the East Anglia region.**
- **asks that National Grid holds a proper public consultation on all options, with full details and costings being made available for public scrutiny.**
- **urges all residents to submit feedback comments by the June 16th deadline - particularly those most affected by the proposals.**