

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 21 April 2022 at 7.50 pm

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

6 members of the public

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from the clerk. District and County Councillor Barry Duffin also gave his apologies, although his report had been given at the Annual Parish Meeting, immediately prior to the parish council meeting.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to report.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (17 March 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 Chairman reported that the fence and hedge on Highways land outside a property on Long Stratton Road, which was mentioned at the parish council meeting last month, has been removed. It was also noted that the £200 grant from South Norfolk Council to support Jubilee events has been received.
5. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public, also District & County Cllr** – Nothing to report.
6. **To consider planning applications:**
 - a) **2021 / 2524 – The Cottage, Bustards Green – Convert boat shed to annex** – Councillors agreed they did not object to this application on the understanding that the usual condition is attached to any permission granted ensuring that the annex remains within the curtilage of the main property and is not sold as a separate dwelling at any point in the future. Councillors also trust that the annex is constructed in accordance with full building regulations.
 - b) **2022 / 0642 – 7 Near the Church, Mill Road – Single storey rear extension** – Councillors supported this application.
7. **To hear of planning decisions:**
 - a) **2022 / 0388 - Mill House, Mill Cottage Annexe, Long Stratton Rd – Ground and first floor extensions to side and rear – Approved**
8. **Planning advice re nutrient neutrality** – The Chairman reported on the decision, following a decision by Natural England, that local District councils need halt planning decisions until the developers can prove that building works will not lead to phosphates and other nutrients flowing into rivers and streams, including the Broads. South Norfolk Council are currently awaiting further guidance and information.
9. **To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings: None to report**

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It was noted that a clerical error had missed out any item numbered 10 on the agenda, so to ensure the minutes match with the agenda there is no item 10 in minutes.

11. **To confirm the annual CIL report submission to South Norfolk Council** – The annual report from the parish council has been submitted to South Norfolk Council and has been accepted.
12. **To note CIL payment due of £5647.36 and to consider suitable projects** – The Chairman reported receipt of £5647.36 CIL money, relating to the Austhorpe House development. Anyone with ideas as to how this could be spent is encouraged to contact the parish council. The Chairman noted that the value of the money could be increased by using it as part of a Parish Partnership project. Councillor Duffin (in his report to the Open Meeting) had mentioned the possibility of providing an electric car charging point at the village hall. This was discussed with some interest and the Chairman agreed that this could be looked into further, seeking to clarify how running costs are refunded and ensuring that the supply capacity is adequate for the charging and the electricity demands of the Hall.
13. **To hear information relating to highways matters** – Shortly after the last meeting the solar powered ‘slow down’ sign at the bottom of Mill Road was demolished, presumably by a vehicle, although no-one has admitted responsibility. The Chairman got in touch with the original providers of the sign, Westcotec, who attended promptly to retrieve the sign. Although it is not completely clear how any repairs or re-installation costs are covered in this situation, Westcotec have confirmed that Norfolk County Council Highways department are considering the situation and may possibly cover the costs.
The public footpath off Tabernacle Lane near the sewage works has been waterlogged on several occasions over the last few years. Extensive work has recently been undertaken to improve the drainage at the Anglian Water site and this seems to have improved the situation, although it has been very dry lately so the true situation will not be known until we have had some heavier rainfall.
Councillor Welsby made the Chairman aware of a proposed TRO relating to Pottergate Street, Aslacton Road and Muir Lane. This relates to the introduction of a 30mph speed limit for various sections around these junctions. The Chairman asked Highways as to why the parish council hadn’t been included in the initial consultation but it appears this was simply an oversight. It was noted that there is a gap of approximately 300 yards between the end of the current 30 mph limit at the Wash Lane junction and the start of the new proposed 30mph limit. Councillors agreed it they would fully support the proposals but suggest that the additional 300 or so yards be included in the proposals, to save frequently changing speed limits within a very short distance.

Whilst discussing Highways issues a member of the public spoke about the issue of surface water (which turns to ice in the colder months) near her property on Low Road, near the Spring Lane junction. Problems, which were first reported to Highways in April 2007 and have been reported many times since, both by members of the public and by the parish council, continue to be an issue. Some works have taken place, both by landowners to clear the ditches in the locality and by highways to ‘patch’ the crumbling road. Anglian Water have visited the site but they, too, seem unable or unwilling to try to resolve the matter. The

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resident voiced her frustration at the lack of response from any authorities and asked for support from the parish council to push for work to resolve the matter once and for all. Councillors were supportive and the Chairman confirmed he would raise the matter again with our District and County Councillor, Barry Duffin and also our areas Highways engineer, Adam Mayo.

Councillor Humphreys reported a damaged road sign on Aslacton Road and also blocked gullies on Low Road.

- 14. Forncett Flyer finances handover** – The Flyer bank account is in the process of being transferred to Martin and Anne Lander and a summary of the account has been provided to the parish council. Rising costs coupled with a lack of advertising income over the period of the pandemic resulted in a £700 loss but there is still a healthy balance. The Chairman proposed that the parish council continue supporting the Flyer with the usual annual grant and this was supported by Councillors. April Carlin has been presented with a book token in recognition of her work as treasurer and April has passed on her thanks to the parish council.
- 15. To receive and approve the internal audit report** – The full internal audit report has been received and was circulated to Councillors in advance of the meeting. The report was positive with just one recommendation, that Standing Orders are reviewed to take account of the change at a national level of the limits of contracts awarded.
- 16. To declare that FPC is an exempt authority within the definition contained in the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and confirm exemption for 2021 / 22** – Forncett Parish Council approved the declaration that it is an exempt authority.
- 17. To Approve the Annual Governance Statement** – This statement was read aloud and Councillors agreed this be approved.
- 18. To consider and approve the Accounting Statements for 2021 / 22** – The accounting statement was circulated prior to the meeting and this was unanimously approved.
- 19. To receive the financial report and consider the approval of the following payments:**

Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
SO	£ 357.65	A Rayner	April salary (inc. arrears)
DD	£ 67.06	A J Bell	April pension contribution
BACS	£ 420.00	C Grant	New laptop & handover
BACS	£ 66.00	A Barnes	Internal audit fee

- 20. To consider correspondence** : None to report
- 21. Items for information and comment** – The Chairman mentioned that most households had today received information from the National Grid relating to a consultation to reinforce the high-voltage electricity transmission network from Norwich main substation in Norfolk

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to Bramford in Suffolk and subsequently on to Tilbury in Essex. The proposed route includes a section through Forncett End, across Cheney's Lane and out towards Hapton. Some initial discussions took place but it was agreed that a full agenda item would be included at the May meeting, which will give enough time to respond formally to the consultation which has a closing date of 16 June 2022. It was noted that there is a public exhibition taking place at Mulbarton Village Hall on 11 May 2022 between 1pm – 6.30pm.

22. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 19 May 2022, which will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.