

Forncett Parish Council  
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council  
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 21 July 2022 at 7.30pm.

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

3 members of the public

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Welsby and Allen and the clerk. Apologies were also received from County and District Councillor Barry Duffin.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to report.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (16 June 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)** – Su Leavesley has volunteered to produce a commemorative photobook of photos taken during the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. There will be an appeal in the next Flyer for residents to submit photos that they took during the celebrations.
5. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public, also District & County Cllr** – No comments from members of the public at this point.
6. **To consider planning applications** – None
7. **To hear of planning decisions** – None
8. **To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings: None to report**
9. **Parish Partnership updates** – After the last meeting, the clerk contacted the Parish Partnership team to ask if the formalising of lay-bys on narrow roads could be considered as a suitable project for the scheme. The response was not a definitive no but an indication that it probably would be quite expensive and that every site would need to be considered individually for feasibility. Councillor Welsby suggested two potential sites on Overwood Lane and the Chairman also identified another possible spot on the narrow part of Tabernacle Lane which links to Long Stratton Road. Councillor Bezkorowajny indicated that he would not support the idea of formalising any lay-bys as he felt this would result in an extension of the road surface, potentially making the situation worse. It was agreed to try to obtain a quote from Highways and then give further consideration to the matter. Another possible project, suggested by a member of the public, concerns the poor visibility at the crossroads by the Jolly Farmers, when attempting to pull out from the Common Road side. Although issues surrounding land ownership would need to be investigated, it was agreed to ask our Highways Engineer to look at the site and provide a quote for improvements, if appropriate.  
The Chairman also reported that it had been noted that the location with one of the worst

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speeding statistics recorded on the SAM2 is the site on the B1113 on the approach to the Jolly Farmers and the crossroads. There are only two small, 30mph signs at the location (photograph shown). The Chairman reminded Councillors that, in the past, the parish council attempted to get 'village gateways' installed on Station Road just before the approach to Hunts Mead and, although Highways deemed this location not suitable, there appears to be a much wider verge at this site on the B1113. Councillors discussed this, including possibilities for the wording on the gates, agreeing that a quote for village gateways should be obtained for this location.

Finally, the Chairman confirmed that Norfolk County Council have agreed to fund the repair of the sign at the bottom of Mill Road, which was damaged in an accident in March 2022.

**Action BF.**

- 10. To hear feedback from SNC briefing for PC Chairs** – The Chairman reported that he attended this meeting soon after the last parish council meeting. There was some further information relating to Electric Vehicle charging points. The parish council has registered an interest in this scheme and awaits further details. Another item to report on relates to Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments. The proposal is unlikely to impact Forncett and really relates to towns and villages where larger amounts of development are taking place. Councils in these locations are reporting that the way the CIL is paid, almost in dribs and drabs, is not conducive to supporting larger projects they may have planned. There will now be a new loan scheme meaning that the town and parish councils can be paid in consolidated amounts, relating to the planning permission granted, with the CIL amounts being repaid once received from the developer. Finally, there was a reminder of the role of the 'Help Hub' as an initial contact with a wide variety of agencies, resulting in support for residents.
- 11. Household Support Fund update** – Shortly after the last meeting, the clerk received information from Norfolk Community Foundation relating to payments of £50 available for some households towards 'regular bills' in light of the cost of living crisis. There is no means testing relating to the payments. The details have been advertised in the Forncett Flyer and via the FENS group but, to date, there have been no applications. A further newsletter has been received from NALC detailing additional schemes and, with permission from NALC, it has been agreed to include the information in the next Flyer.
- 12. To hear information regarding the proposed Jubilee Commemorative Bench** – At a previous meeting it was agreed to consider putting the £200 litter pick money plus donations made during the Jubilee celebrations towards a commemorative bench for the village. The village hall committee have also agreed to make a contribution from the profits from the bar and BBQ on the day. There are a wide variety of benches available online, including those made from recycled plastic. The metal benches at Tharston were approximately £1000 each. Ideas for possible locations for a new bench were discussed, with several sites considered. It was resolved to purchase a bench, with the parish council topping up the funds needed, possibly from CIL money. It was agreed to include something in the Flyer this month to ask residents for ideas for a location.
- 13. To consider a quote from a potential new internal auditor** – Anne Barnes, who has carried

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out the internal audit on behalf of the parish council for the last two years, is retiring. The clerk has obtained a quote of £60 from Sonya Blythe. Sonya is currently clerk to Cringleford Parish Council and her quote included details of her relevant qualifications. The parish council agreed to accept the quote and appoint Sonya as internal auditor for the current financial year. **Action AR.**

**14. To receive the financial report and consider the approval of the following payments:**

Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
SO	£297.61	A Rayner	July salary
DD	£ 55.77	A J Bell	July pension contribution

Both payments and the financial report were unanimously approved.

**15. To consider correspondence:**

**a) Email from resident regarding speed limits** – A resident from Hunts Mead has been in touch asking about the possibility of lowering the current 40 mph speed limit around the development, to 30 mph. Both the clerk and the Chairman have been in some correspondence with the resident, detailing the history at the site and also giving the guidelines set out by Norfolk County Council and National Highways as to the reasons why certain speed limits apply in certain areas. The resident also asked if the parish council's SAM2 could be used at the point of entry officially into the village, in order to slow drivers on their approach. Phil Whiscombe kindly visited the site and reported that the SAM2 could not be used at that point as it would only record drivers whilst they were still within the 60mph speed limit. Phil felt that there may be the possibility of a new post nearer the bend but this would be subject to the approval from Highways. It was agreed that, when the Highways Engineer attends the village to discuss parish partnership options, the Chairman will also ask for a visit to the site to gauge possible new SAM2 sites and ask again about the likelihood of gaining approval of lowering the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph. It was noted that one of the reasons for refusing this in the past was that Highways felt the two bends and the railway bridge in the area were self-limiting. **Action BF.**

- 16. Items for information and comment** – The Chairman reported that, just prior to the meeting, he and Councillor Bezkorowajny visited the War Memorial, as a resident had reported that it could do with some attention in places. The wear and tear is minor but it was agreed to contact an expert in the village with a view to authorising some minor works. The War Memorial is a listed structure and it was noted that guidelines from the War Memorials Trust include the advice that lichens should be left unless they begin to obscure inscriptions, which isn't the case on this memorial.
- The Chairman also gave an update on the issue of the surface water on Spring Lane. The resident who has complained about this matter over many years submitted an Freedom of Information request to the County Council and received a response from Graham Bygrave, Director of Highways & Waste. He reports that he has instructed the local team to investigate further and will report back in due course. The issue of standing water on the Mill Road corner has also been reported again via the Highways Rangers scheme, together

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with a few other items, including the disappearing finger post sign at the bottom of Cheney's Lane and the overgrown entrance to the footpath by St Mary's. The Clerk recently found some information asking parish councils to support steps taken to protect hedgehogs and the Chairman passed this on to Councillor Bezkorowajny, as a member of the 'Forncett Nature Matters' group. Whilst mentioning hedgehogs, Councillor Bezkorowajny appealed to all present to leave water out for hedgehogs and other wildlife, particularly during this recent hot, dry spell.

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm.