

Forncett Parish Council  
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council  
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 16 February 2023 at 7.30pm

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

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 Welsby, Allen and Coleman.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to declare.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (17 January 2023)** – The minutes were approved without alteration and signed as correct by the Chairman.
4. **To consider matters arising from the minutes (for information only)** – Although no further information has been received from South Norfolk Council as yet, it was agreed that the parish council would undertake a litter pick, as planned, on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March.
5. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public, also District & County Cllr** – On behalf of the District Council, Councillor Duffin confirmed that South Norfolk Council are currently operating from the Broadland District council offices on Thorpe Road, Norwich. Councillor Duffin confirmed he will not be standing as District councillor in the May elections and he also reminded everyone that, for these elections, photo ID will be required at the polling station in order for electors to be able to cast their vote. South Norfolk Council have confirmed they will not be increasing their element of the Council Tax. Finally, grants will be available to support events for the coronation celebrations. On behalf of County, Councillor Duffin confirmed that a consultation on the 'County Deal for Norfolk' has been circulated. A response to the consultation can be completed online until 20 March and details of the proposal will be displayed at 18 venues around the County.

Councillor Bezkorowajny referred to the local anti-pylon group (re the East Anglia Green proposal) and asked if the parish council would support a donation towards their fund. It was agreed to consider this request next month.

6. **To consider planning applications:**
  - a) **2023 / 0240 – 14 Orchard Close – Demolition of existing rear conservatory and extension. Construction of single storey rear extension and cart shed** – Following discussion, it was agreed that the parish council has no objections to the rear storey extension. Concerns were raised, however, with regard to the size and location of the cart shed. Similar concerns were raised in the previous planning application (2017 / 1435) which were shared with the planning officer at the time.

7. **To hear of planning decisions:**
  - a) **2022 / 2194 – Laburnum Cottage, Low Rd – Rebuild existing chimney due to cracked / crumbling bricks and no cowls resulting in internal water damage – Approved**
  - b) **2022 / 2387 – 1 Bentley Rd – Convert existing garage to dining room, extension to front elevation forming new bedroom and ensuite, porch extension, new shed and new doors – Approved.**
8. **To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings – None to report**
9. **To agree arrangements for the Annual Open Meeting** – It was agreed to hold the Annual Open Meeting immediately prior to the April parish council meeting. The Annual Open Meeting will start at 7pm on 20 April 2023 and the clerk will invite attendees to read a concise report of no more than 250 words.
10. **To consider the timetable for the May 2023 Parish and District Council elections –** Nominations must be hand delivered, not necessarily by the candidate, to the Horizon Business Centre, Broadland Business Park, Peachman Way, Norwich, NR7 0WF. Papers can be submitted Monday – Friday from 9am on Friday 17 March to Tuesday 4 April 2023. Anyone interested in standing as a parish councillor can contact the clerk for more information.
11. **To hear information relating to footpath maintenance** – Keith Fromings has reported some footpath issues recently, including the poor condition of the wire mesh on the boardwalk on the path behind the school. Norfolk County Council have scheduled this for repair. Keith also managed to speak to a representative from Anglia Water regarding the condition of the footpath at the side of the sewage works, which continues to flood, as it has done so for the last three years or so. The Chairman also reported on repairs to the mower, which he paid for and has the receipt to be submitted for reimbursement. There is also a small amount of charge for petrol for the mower. Councillors were happy to approve the refund, agreeing that the mower has proven to be excellent value since its purchase almost seven years ago.
12. **To report issues at the Station Rd / Low Rd junction** – A resident has raised concern regarding this junction following a spate of accidents. Options were discussed but it was agreed to ask our Highways Officer to attend and discuss the issue.

Whilst discussing Highways, Councillor Humphreys reported the poor condition of Station Rd, from the junction of Wacton Rd right around the bend to Long Stratton. The clerk will report these.

13. **To hear information relating to events for the coronation of King Charles III** – St Peter's Church group will be holding a 'Coronation' Quiz night on Saturday 29 April and there is a flower event planned at the Church, probably during July. Councillors discussed holding a scaled down version of the village fete, similar to that held for the Jubilee last year. Dates around mid June were proposed and Councillors were supportive of this idea. In line with the structured celebrations, it is suggested that street parties take place on Sunday 7 May

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and Monday 8 May is a day set aside for 'The Big Help Out'. Residents and communities will be encouraged to spend a day contributing to volunteering in some way.

- 14. To review and consider adopting the LGA model code of conduct** – The LGA recommend that the model code of conduct be adopted in order that Councillors are all following the same guidelines. The document was circulated prior to the meeting and Councillors unanimously agreed that the revised document be adopted.
- 15. To receive the financial report and consider the approval of the following payments:**

Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
SO	£318.42	A Rayner	February salary
DD	£ 59.67	A J Bell	February pension contribution
BACS	£250.00	M Chapman	Allotment rent
BACS	£ 59.08	B Frith	Mower repairs and fuel

All payments and the financial report were approved.

- 16. To consider correspondence:**  
**a) Village Cluster Housing Allocation Plan – GNLP** – This was noted. None of the sites put forward for Forncett were considered viable.
- 17. Items for information and comment** – The pole and the 30mph repeater sign near the bus shelter on Norwich Road have been engulfed by the hedge, meaning the SAM2 cannot be displayed in this location. The Chairman has spoken to the builder on site who has confirmed he will ensure the hedge is cut back. When the houses are occupied, each section of hedge is going to be the responsibility of the relevant owner.

Two of the grit bins in the village are completely empty. These have been reported to Highways by the clerk. Su Leavesley operates the 'e-noticeboard' in the village, an email system used to circulate important and relevant information to residents. Well over 200 people in the village subscribe to the service and Councillors agreed it's a valued method of communication and information. The service Su uses is now imposing a charge on what was, previously, a free service. For the amount of emails Su sends, a package costing £10.85 per month is recommended. Councillors agreed to reimburse Su for this service, suggesting this is done for a period of one year initially, with a view that alternative services may come to light.

Councillor Barnes reported that, contrary to the agreement in place, access to St Peter's Church for two recent funerals was not granted in the manner of the agreement. This is obviously an extremely distressing time for mourners and it is unfortunate that the situation has arisen.

- 18. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 16 March 2023**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9pm.