

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

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

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

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Coleman.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to declare.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (16 February 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)** – At the February meeting, Councillor Bezkorowajny submitted a donation request on behalf of the group campaigning against the pylons. The local Forncett group do not have a bank account for appeal funds but the wider group, Pylons East Anglia Ltd, do. However, the status of this group is a company, not a charity or community group. There does not seem to be any evidence of any other parish or district council making a donation, at this time. Councillors agreed to leave this request open, for the time being, with a view to considering further information as it becomes available.

The Chairman reported that the clerk received notification from NCC that the parish council's parish partnership bid has been successful. The parish council need to submit their 50% of the payment (£3373.24 – to come from CIL balance) and the gates will be installed at some point in the 23 / 24 year.

5. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public, also District & County Cllr** – Councillor Duffin confirmed this was his last report as a District Councillor as he is not standing for the seat in the May 2023 elections. He confirmed that SNC are not increasing their portion of Council Tax for the 23 / 24 year. Their site at Long Stratton is not sold, as yet. The Chairman thanked Councillor Duffin for his work representing Forncett on behalf of the District. From the County Council, Councillor Duffin reported that the Council tax will increase by 4.99%, 2.99% for general council tax and 2% for adult social services. There is lots of information in the media and on the Norfolk County Council website about the 'County Deal for Norfolk'. If the deal goes through, there will be a leader position in Norfolk, not a mayor. Additional Government funding has been secured for the benefit of National Parks, which includes the Norfolk Broads.
6. **To consider planning applications:**
 - a) **2023 / 0431 – The Cottage, Bustards Green – Extension to rear of property** – There were no objections to this application.

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- b) **2023 / 0207 – Church Farm Barns, Low Rd – Erection of gate at end of driveway** – There were no objections to this application. The clerk will check if this is a Listed Building, before submitting comments.

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

- a) **2022 / 2300 – Broad Barn, Northfield Rd – Photovoltaic panels on garage** – Approved
b) **2022 / 1880 – The Granary, Northfield Rd – Increase size of hayloft and include pv panels on roof** – Approved

8. **To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings:**

- a) **2023 / 0422 – Endways, Low Rd – New double carport** – There were no objections to this application.

9. **To review the timetable for the May 2023 Parish and District Council elections** – The Chairman confirmed that, for those wishing to stand for parish councillor, nomination forms must be submitted **by hand** by 4 pm on 4th April. Roll numbers of proposers can be obtained by calling 01508 533704.

10. **To hear information relating to the clerk's annual review** – The Chairman confirmed that a successful annual review has taken place and the recommendation is that the clerk increase one point on the salary scale, to point 23 from 1 April 2023.

11. **To consider a donation request from Norfolk Age UK** – The parish council agreed to make a donation of £50.

12. **To consider the village hall grant** – The Village Hall Treasurer has submitted a request relating to the balance of the village hall grant (£744.80) for the current year 2022 / 23. The Village Hall committee are still looking in to a replacement television / screen for the hall and would like the balance of this year's grant rolled over to the next year, to hopefully give a large enough grant to be able to buy the television and then donate it to the village hall. Following discussion, it was agreed to add the balance of £744.80 on to the full grant amount due next year.

13. **To hear plans relating to the Coronation celebrations** – The Chairman reported that, unfortunately, only four people attended a recent meeting to discuss plans for the Coronation celebrations and, as a result of this, it felt necessary to plan for small scale events only. The plan is to purchase and plant a tree at Jubilee Green and mark the tree with a commemorative plaque. Advice will be taken from the village tree warden, Robert Hosea as to the most appropriate tree to purchase. The Village Hall will be open for tea and cake on Sunday 7th May and the bar will also be open. It was agreed that the clerk will apply for the Coronation Grant available from the district council, in order to purchase the tree, plaque, refreshments for the day, bunting and perhaps a celebration cake.

14. **To review the following policies:**

- a) **Financial risk management policy** – Reviewed, no changes necessary
b) **General risk management policy** – Reviewed, with changes made to the relevant dates,

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the LGA code of conduct in place of the District Council code and the change of broker.
The revised policy was formally adopted.

- c) **Sickness absence policy** – Reviewed, no changes necessary.
d) **Standing Orders** – Reviewed, with changes made to update the amounts showing in the 'Public Contracts Regulations' only. The revised Standing Orders were formally 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	March salary
DD	£ 59.67	A J Bell	March pension contribution
Dr card	£ 238.34	HMRC	Q4 clerk tax
BACS	£ 156.00	A Rayner	Clerk expenses Oct 22 – Mar 23
BACS	£3373.24	Norfolk County Council	Parish Partnership contribution FROM CIL FUNDING
BACS	£ 50.00	Norfolk Age UK	Donation

The financial report and all payments were approved.

16. To consider correspondence: None to report

- 17. Items for information and comment** – The Chairman asked if there had been any update regarding the empty grit bins. The clerk confirmed they had been reported via the Highways reporting system and had been immediately closed down. The clerk will enquire further.

- 18. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 20 April 2023, commencing immediately after the Annual Open Meeting** – The chairman confirmed that attendees will be asked to read their own reports and to keep them to a maximum of 250 words. The Parish Council meeting should, therefore start close to its usual time of 7.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25pm.