

Forncett Parish Council  
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council  
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 20 April 2023 at 7.45pm

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

Parish Clerk Anne Rayner  
11 members of the public

Before the meeting began, the Chairman made a short statement reflecting on the recent death of Councillor Barry Duffin, who was both District and County Councillor for Forncett. Councillor Duffin had been a regular attendee at parish council meetings and offered support and advice when needed. The Chairman has sent a card to his family, expressing condolences on behalf of the parish council. He will be very sadly missed.

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Coleman and Bezkorowajny.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to report.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (16 March 2023)** – The word ‘minimum’ in point 18 of the minutes was changed to ‘maximum’ (with reference to the number of words in the reports for the annual meeting). It was also formally noted that the parish partnership payment was to be taken from CIL funds, as agreed. With both of these amendments made, the Chairman signed the minutes accordingly.
4. **To consider matters arising from the minutes (for information only)** – The Chairman confirmed that the Coronation event planned at the village hall on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May will begin at 3pm. A tree has been purchased, as have the appropriate support posts and a plaque to mark the event. Cakes are being supplied by the Friends of St Peter’s group and snacks (crisps, cheese straws etc) will be provided. Both the tree and the food will be supplied from the £200 grant provided by South Norfolk Council. The Chairman asked Councillor Humphreys (as the longest standing Councillor) if he would plant the tree, on the day, which Councillor Humphreys accepted.
5. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public** – There were no comments.
6. **To consider planning applications:**
  - a) **2023 / 0549 – Methodist Church, Long Stratton Rd – Change of use Church F to nursery use E** – This application was discussed at some length. Councillors were particularly concerned about the lack of details in the applications, however, unanimously agreed to object to the application. Main concerns related to the parking at the site, the increased traffic and the suitability of both the indoor and outside environment for young children. The proposal would not appear to be sustainable.
7. **To hear of planning decisions:**
  - a) **2023 / 0431 – The Cottage, Bustards Green – Extension to rear of property** – Approved.

8. **To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings: None to report**
9. **To note there will be no parish election for Forncett PC in May 2023** – As there were seven nominations for seven parish council seats, there will be no parish council elections for Forncett. Councillor Andrew Coleman decided to stand down and the parish council noted their thanks for all Andrew has done during his period of service. Marie Sanders will join the parish council from the next meeting on 18 May and the parish council is looking forward to welcoming Marie. Councillor Duffin had already announced his intention to stand down from his role as District Councillor so there will be an election for the Forncett Ward of South Norfolk Council on 4 May 2023. Please remember voter ID will be needed to vote on the day. A by-election will be held for the County Council seat in due course but in the meantime Councillor Alison Thomas will do all she can to support Forncett. The Chairman asked that if any residents do have any issues they would normally raise via their County Councillor, if they could be taken to either the clerk of the Chairman of Forncett PC, in the first instance.
10. **37A Bus Service – Passenger consultation** – Several residents responded to the information contained within the consultation to change the 37A service. There were no messages in support of the plans. Concerns raised included the longer journey time and the possibility of being stranded in Wymondham if the Norwich – Wymondham bus were to be late, the last connecting bus to Forncett could be missed. Some residents also commented suggesting that, should the plans go ahead, they would start to drive to Mulbarton to catch the bus from there instead. Overall, it seems very disappointing that in a time when the public are encouraged to use public transport and we are all more aware of the impact on the environment, this very much feels like a backward step. The clerk will feedback these comments to the County Council.
11. **To consider information relating to the National Grid ESO Review** – The parish council have been asked if it will support a request to lobby National Grid to widen the scope of the review. Councillors agreed to the request.
12. **To receive and approve the internal audit report** – This was circulated prior to the meeting and the contents duly noted.
13. **To declare that FPC is an exempt authority within the definition contained in the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and confirm exemption for 2022 / 23** – Councillors unanimously approved the declaration and the Chairman and clerk / RFO signed the document accordingly.
14. **To Approve the Annual Governance Statement** – The statement was approved and signed by the Chairman and clerk / RFO.
15. **To consider and approve the Accounting Statements for 2022 / 23** – The accounting statements were approved and signed by the Chairman and clerk / RFO.

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**16. To consider the approval of the following payments:**

Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
SO	£ 407.45	A Rayner	April salary
DD	£ 59.67	A J Bell	April pension contribution
BACS	£ 349.41	NALC	Annual subscription
BACS	£ 60.00	S Blyth	Internal audit fee

All payments were approved, however, it was noted that the actual payment set up to the clerk on the amended standing order was the gross payment (£407.45) rather than the net amount (£326.05). The adjustment for the overpayment of £81.40 will be made next month.

It was also noted that a CIL payment of £175.25 was received. This was in respect of works carried out at The Granary, Northfield Road.

**17. To consider correspondence: None to report**

**18. Items for information and comment:** The batteries for the SAM2 need replacing. They are £84 each, plus VAT and delivery costs. These can be ordered from Westcotec, which Phil Whiscombe will arrange and the clerk will liaise with Phil regarding the payment.

**19. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 18 May 2023 commencing at 7.30pm. This will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.**

The Chairman confirmed that all Councillors will need to sign their “Declaration of Acceptance of Office’ before the meeting begins. All Councillors also need to return their Nil return expenses forms.

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