

Forncett Parish Council  
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council  
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7.30pm.

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

Parish Clerk Anne Rayner  
23 members of the public

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Welsby and Allen. District Councillor Kim Carsok and newly elected County Councillor Catherine Rowett also sent their apologies.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to declare.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (15 June 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)** – Nothing to report.
5. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public including, if available, a report from District Councillor Kim Carsok and newly elected County Councillor** – District councillor Kim Carsok sent a report which included details of the letter sent from South Norfolk Council to the National Grid regarding the Norwich – Tilbury pylon consultation, details of which can be found here: <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/news/article/322/south-norfolk-calls-for-consultation-rethink> Councillor Carsok also sent details of Member Ward Funding grants, go for it grants and larger amounts (up to £15000) available from the Community Action Fund. There will also soon be a community outreach vehicle which will travel around the district for appointments with Community Connector support officers.  
  
New County Councillor for West Depwade following the by-election on 13<sup>th</sup> July is Councillor Catherine Rowett. Councillor Rowett has only been in post for a few days but sent a comprehensive report highlighting the immediate important issues, including the Norwich – Tilbury pylons and infrastructure issues relating to planning and development. Councillor Rowett hopes to be able to join the parish council for the September meeting and also hopes to meet with the Chairman and Councillors soon to look around the village and highlight some ongoing issues, mostly relating to highways.
6. **To consider planning applications:**
  - a) **2023 / 1884 – Endways, Low Road, Forncett St Mary – Oak framed double cart shed** – Councillors had no objections to this application.
7. **To hear of planning decisions:**
  - a) **2023 / 0953 – The Beeches, St Edmunds Close – Conversion of existing garage to annexe, front and side extension, erection of cart lodge – Approved**
  - b) **2023 / 1433 – Mill Cottage Annexe, Mill House, Long Stratton Rd – Ground and first floor side and rear extension – Approved**

8. **To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings:**
- a) **2023 / 1188 & 1189 – Rattles, Low Rd – Forncett St Mary – Install solar panels, demolish outbuilding, build porch extension and move front door. Install gate at end of driveway, new window and rearrange internal layout** – Councillors had no objections to this application, subject to the satisfaction of the listed buildings officer.
- b) **2023 / 0017 – Agricultural building rear of Four Seasons, Cheney's Lane, Forncett St Mary – Demolition of barn and erection of dwelling and garage** – Whilst acknowledging the reduction in scale of the proposed building, the parish council continue to object to this application on the grounds that it does not meet the Q classification that the proposal is based on.
9. **To review the latest consultation information – Norwich – Tilbury pylons** – The Chairman began the discussion by displaying the comments submitted by the parish council as part of the first consultation. The Chairman asked if the response was still adequate and invited those present to offer their viewpoints and suggestions as to an amended statement. Points raised by those present included:
- The technology for undersea cabling clearly already exists and is in use for other projects.
  - Reference to wildlife and the ecological impact needs to be included (particularly as part of the route is within the Tas Valley).
  - The concern relating to the physical and mental health of those impacted by the proposed location of the pylons in proximity to their homes and businesses.

Residents present also voiced their disappointment around the timing and locations for the latest round of briefing sessions relating to the consultation, given that they are to be held over the summer holiday period, they are almost all within working weekdays and hours and they are over the busy farming harvest time.

The Chairman asked if, at this stage, residents supported a mitigation comment to request that, should the project be given the go ahead, underground cabling be requested at certain points. This was not supported. The majority of those present felt the only option that would be acceptable would be the offshore option only. The Chairman agreed that he would collate the additional comments, amend the submission from the parish council accordingly, circulate it to Councillors for agreement and then submit to the National Grid as part of this stage of the consultation.

10. **Parish Partnership Scheme 2024 / 25** – Norfolk County Council have announced they will be running the scheme again in the next financial year. The scheme supports a range of highways projects, funded on a 50/50 basis between the County Council and the parish council. These include improvements to public footpaths, sections of trod or formal pavements and speed awareness machines. Speed limit restrictions and amendments will not be considered. Please contact the clerk with any suggestions in the first instance.
11. **To consider outstanding highways issues (also hedges)** – The village gateways (a successful bid from last year's parish partnership scheme) are yet to be installed. Attempted contact with our Highways Engineer results in an 'out of office' response advising that he is

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currently working on a large project and queries should be directed to the generic 'ketteringham depot' email address. There has therefore been no opportunity to meet him and discuss issues such as the Station Road / Low Road junction and the sitting water at Low Road and on Spring Lane. There are a few sites in the village where hedges are causing problems by encroaching on to the highway or pavements. An appeal was included in the Forncett Flyer last month and, if there is no improvement, individual letters may need to be sent to residents.

- 12. To hear updated information concerning the Forncett Flyer** – The Chairman repeated the wish that the Forncett Flyer continues in some format in the future. It is considered to be generally very well received in the village and is a lifeline for some. The Chairman stressed that it need not continue in its current format, nor be the same amount of publications in the year. Any ideas at all, or anyone who would be willing to contribute in any way, please do get in touch. Two suggestions were made, one that an open meeting be called, in order that anyone interested can come forward with ideas and suggestions and the other, that someone could be paid to continue with the Flyer. This would need to be investigated but could be considered as an option, rather than lose the magazine altogether.
- 13. To hear updated information from the Village Hall Committee** – Recent appeals calling for more people to join the village hall committee have potentially been successful with one additional person to hopefully be welcomed at the September meeting. The recent BBQ benefitted from good weather and the event was a great success, meaning that some local groups received financial donations.
- 14. To receive the financial report and consider the approval of the following payments:**

Payment method	Amount	Payee	Notes
SO	£ 326.05	A Rayner	July salary
DD	£ 61.12	A J Bell	July pension contribution
Dr card	£ 241.00	Simply Sound (Diss)	Music system

The financial report and all payments were unanimously approved by Councillors. The parish council resolved to donate the music system to the village hall.

- 15. To consider correspondence: None to report**
- 16. Items for information and comment** – Councillor Barnes gave a brief report on the progress at St Peter's Church. Engineers and architects have visited the Church to confirm the repairs needed to remove the Church from the 'at risk' register. The main funding bid, which will be in the region of £700,000 will include details of all the work needed but will also need to show how the community are involved and will benefit from the work planned at the Church.
- 17. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 21 September 2023.**  
There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm.