

Forncett Parish Council  
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council  
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 21 September 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 Councillor Kim Carsok  
County Councillor Catherine Rowett  
15 members of the public

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Sanders.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – Councillor Barnes declared an interest in item 16. Councillor Humphreys declared an interest in item 6a). The Chairman reminded everyone present of his declared interest as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (20<sup>th</sup> July 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 add.
5. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public including, if available, a report from District Councillor Kim Carsok and County Councillor Catherine Rowett** – Councillor Carsok gave a full report including the following information:
  - Various community grants are available (get in touch with the clerk in the first instance)
  - New EGYM equipment has been installed at Long Stratton Leisure Centre
  - The 'Homes for Ukraine' project is ongoing – payments of £500 per month are available to cover costs
  - The community outreach vehicle will soon be travelling around the District
  - Mental Health Awareness training sessions are continuing
  - Long Stratton Town Council applied to list the former South Norfolk Council offices on Swan Lane as an asset of community value but this has been rejected
6. **To consider planning applications:**
  - a) **2023 / 2592 The Old Vineyard, Overwood Lane, Gt Moulton – Retrospective permission for coffee shop, reception area associated with floricultural purposes to inc. parking & access** – Councillor Humphreys remained present but took no part in the discussion. This application was discussed at some length. Councillors acknowledged the improvements to the site, however, felt that the objections raised when the previous applicant was the owner were still valid and therefore could not be ignored. Most concerning is the unsuitability of Overwood Lane as the access to the site and some of those present reported witnessing issues with cars attempting to pass on what is essentially a single track lane. It was noted that the original application very clearly stated that there would be no increase in traffic to the site as it would not be open to the public. Councillors

Forncett Parish Council  
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council  
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 21 September 2023 at 7.30pm

also registered their disappointment that the application is retrospective. It was therefore resolved to object to this application.

**County Councillor Catherine Rowett joined the meeting at this point** – It was agreed to receive Councillor Rowett's report at this point, which included the following points:

- Norwich – Tilbury pylons – details of NCC meeting and agreed comments
- Highways information – including the Parish Partnership scheme
- Long Stratton bypass update
- Norfolk bus service improvement plan
- Flood prevention information
- <https://www.travelnorfolk.co.uk/journey-planner/> A new website launched by NCC which will give travel options for any journey in Norfolk and compares the time, cost and carbon footprint of the journey. Councillor Rowett noted the lack of public transport options in our area and hopes this is something that can be improved on.

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

- a) **2023 / 1884 – Endways, Low Road, Forncett St Mary – Oak framed cart shed –**  
Approved
- b) **2023 / 1188 – Rattles, Low Rd – Solar panels, replacement porch, gateway, internal layout etc –** Approved

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

- a) **2023 / 2246 – Balcara, Long Stratton Rd – Demolition of extension and replace with new single storey extension, replacement doors & windows –** No objections

**9. To confirm submission of comments re consultation – Norwich – Tilbury pylons** - The comments agreed at the last meeting were submitted by the clerk and an acknowledgement of the comments has been received.

**10. To hear a summary of District Councillor Carsok's visit to the village** – The Chairman reported that District Councillor Kim Carsok visited the village on 16 August and, together with Councillors Welsby and Sanders, drove to look at some of the points to note, including the site of the flooding at Aslacton Road and the Spring Lane issue at Forncett St Mary. The Chairman thanked Councillor Carsok for her time.

**11. Play area** – Cllr Carsok had been approached by a parent regarding the possibility of installing a public play area in the Village. Village Hall Trustees had decided at their recent meeting that they could not, for a wide variety of reasons, take on the installation, maintenance and upkeep of such an area. There was some discussion about whether this could be a project for the Parish Council. A wide range of views were expressed but it was agreed things such as availability and suitability of space would have to be examined in depth before any plans could be made and the issue was left undecided.

- 12. Parish Partnership Scheme 2024 / 25** - A summary of the scheme was given again. Following the last appeal for ideas, the clerk was contacted regarding the stile at the entrance to the footpath alongside St. Edmunds Church. Parts of this have collapsed and the resident asked if it could be replaced. The Chairman also raised a possible footpath project, relating to the small section of path running behind the Methodist Church linking Tabernacle Lane with Long Stratton Road. Due to erosion, heavy rain etc a lot of the surface matter from the path has been washed into the ditch. This has been unblocked by Highways previously but it has left the path itself somewhat sloping. It was agreed to raise both queries via the NCC Countryside Access Officer, stressing a certain level of urgency, given that bids for the scheme need to be submitted by December 2023.
- 13. To consider outstanding highways issues – including hedges** – It was noted that, following direct requests, some hedges had been appropriately cut back. However, some were still causing an issue. Several other highways issues were noted (Spring Lane surface water), Low Rd / Station Road junction, a specific issue re HGVs / inappropriate vehicles using Tabernacle Lane / Gilderswood Lane and some new issues were reported:
- The non-return valve installed as part of the works undertaken after the 2020 flooding on Aslacton Road, near to Wash Lane appears to have made the problem worse.
  - A similar issue of standing water is occurring at the Moulton bridge / Aslacton Road junction
  - The 'give way' sign near Yew Tree Farm on the approach to Spring Lane has fallen over and is laying on the ground.
- It was agreed that the sign can be reported via the online reporting system but the other issues really need a visit from the Highways Officer. It was agreed to try to schedule a meeting in the village that could be attended by both the Highways Engineer and also County Councillor Catherine Rowett, in order that the sites of concern can be visited and a plan of action formulated.
- 14. To hear updated information concerning the Forncett Flyer** – The current editor will produce an October edition and work is taking place to try to ensure the magazine can continue in some form in the future.
- 15. SNC – Public Spaces Protection Order consultation – Anti Social Behaviour** – SNC are asking consultees if they agree with a proposed Public Space Protection Order being implemented across the District. The aim is to deal with anti-social behaviour being demonstrated at some vehicle meet ups. Councillors unanimously supported the proposal.
- 16. To consider a grant request for Churchyards (St Mary's & Peter's)** – Councillor Barnes remained in the room but did not take part in the discussion. The parish council has previously made a donation of £600 towards the grass cutting at St Mary's and St Peter's Churches. Councillors agreed to make the same donation this year and a grant of £600 was approved.

Forncett Parish Council  
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council  
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 21 September 2023 at 7.30pm

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

Payment method	Amount	Payee	Notes
SO	£ 326.05	A Rayner	August & September salary
DD	£ 61.12	A J Bell	August & September pension
BACS	£ 75.82	S Leavesley	E-noticeboard
Dr card	£ 244.20	HMRC	Clerk tax Q2
BACS	£ 156.00	A Rayner	Mar - Sep 2023 expenses
BACS	£ 19.99	Upper Tas Valley PCC	Remembrance Wreath
BACS	£ 600.00	Upper Tas Valley PCC	Churchyard grass cutting

All payments and the financial report were unanimously approved. It was noted that Forncett won the litter pick prize money of £200 again this year.

**18. To consider correspondence:**

- a) **B1113 Road closure** – The B1113 was closed at night over a period of a few days for rolling road repairs to take place. Unfortunately the road closure information was not sent out in advance of the works starting.
- b) **Mindful Towns and Villages** – Further training sessions are available. Please get in touch with the clerk for more information.
- c) **Licence Application – Greenmantle, Fundenhall Rd, Hapton** – Although not within the Forncett boundary, this could potentially impact some residents, given the information relating to vehicle numbers and live / recorded music. It was agreed to highlight those concerns, in relation to the ‘prevention of public nuisance’ statutory objective.

**19. Items for information and comment – inc Village Hall Trustees** – The Chairman reported that the current nine Village Hall Trustees are: Brian Frith, Gill Starkie, April Carlin, Anne Frith, Pam Thurtle, Andrew Coleman. Gill Coleman, Glen Humphreys and Jan North.

**20. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 19 October 2023.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.