

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 15 February 2024 at 7.30pm

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

Parish Clerk Anne Rayner
District Councillor Kim Carsok
4 members of the public

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Allen. County Councillor Catherine Rowett also sent her apologies.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – Cllr Humphreys declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6a on the agenda.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (18 January 2024)** – The minutes were approved without alteration and signed as correct by the Chairman.
4. **To consider matters arising from the minutes (for information only)** – The Chairman confirmed that 20 litter pick ‘hoops’ have been purchased. The planned date for the annual village litter pick is 23rd March. Also, the clerk confirmed that she had referred a question raised by Councillor Barnes last month on to Councillor Rowett. This related to the lack of parking in Long Stratton, should the residents of surrounding villages drive there, in order to catch an onward bus. Councillor Rowett has referred this to Councillor Alison Thomas and we await a response.
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** – District Councillor Carsok reported on several items including:
 - The closure of Diss Pool for total refurbishment until December 2024
 - The District Council is purchasing additional units for temporary accommodation, which includes Clare House in Diss.
 - “Right Care, Right Person” – Partnership approach aiming to ensure that individuals in mental health crisis are seen by the right professional.
 - Help Hub Van – Soft launch events have started. Cllr Carsok said the van is meant to be multifunctional, so if anyone can think of a suitable community based scheme or event, please get in touch with Cllr Carsok.

County Councillor Catherine Rowett could not attend the meeting but sent a report including the following points:

- The County Council are due to approve their annual budget shortly.
- Councillor Rowett is working with the area Highways Engineer in order to look for solutions for Highways issues which were rejected under the Road Safety Community Fund.
- The County Council is reviewing its Post 16 Transport Policy Statement.
- Issues around accessing a dentist have been in both the national and the local press recently. All local MPs are supporting a proposal for an undergraduate dental school

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 15 February 2024 at 7.30pm

at the UEA, which is good news but will take some years to provide any relief from the current situation.

6. **To consider planning applications:**
 - a) **2024 / 0249 – Unit 4, Old Court Farm, Wacton Rd – Extension to existing workshop to enable commercial class & MOT testing** – The parish council raised no objections to this application.
 - b) **2024 / 0259 – Hall Farm, Overwood Lane – Erection of two storey extension** – The parish council raised no objections to this application.
 - c) **2023 / 3660 – 12 Humphreys Close – Removal of porch and erection of larger porch (resubmission of 2022 / 2049)** – The parish council raised no objections to this application.
7. **To report planning comments agreed via email between meetings:**
 - a) **2024 / 0139 & 0140 – 1 Rectory Cottages, Low Rd – Single storey front, first and second floor extensions with solar panels. Rear garden room, double garage, workshop and log store** – The parish council did have some concerns regarding the scale of this application. As the property has listed building status, the plans will need to meet the satisfaction of the historic buildings officer, hence, the parish council simply asked for the notes of concern to be taken into consideration.
8. **To hear of planning decisions and information:**
 - a) **2023 / 0017 – Agricultural building rear of Four Seasons, Cheney's Lane – Demolition of barn and erection of dwelling and garage – Approved** – Although the approval has been reported from the District Council under the original planning details, the approval is for a one bedroom property, significantly reduced in size from the original plans and much more within the footprint (although situated in a different area) of the original agricultural building. The approval comes with development rights withheld.
9. **To hear information relating to trees on the Station Rd land** – Councillor Humphreys and the Chairman met with same arborist who has previously worked on the land. The quote, to make safe the trees in question, was accepted.
10. **Ongoing Highways issues** – The clerk has sent a reminder to the Highways officer regarding all outstanding tasks. It was also noted that the 'village gateways' purchased as part of the parish partnership scheme last year, are due to be installed before the end of this financial year. It was also noted that over the weekend of 10th February, Councillor Humphreys retrieved three vehicles from the Ford on Wash Lane. Photographs of submerged vehicles, along with proposals of how the Ford could be made safer, have also been sent to the Highways Officer, inviting him to a meeting at the site. Further concerns have been expressed about careless, inconsiderate and dangerous parking at the school. An email has been received from the police via Cllr Carsok, detailing some of the legal aspects of the issues, which we are hoping will be addressed by Police visits to Forncett, before too long. The Chairman has invited Councillor Rowett to the village, to visit some of the sites of concern and it is hoped this will take place in early March.

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 15 February 2024 at 7.30pm

- 11. Clean up and bloom grant – application successful** – The parish council has been awarded a £300 ‘Clean up and Bloom’ grant from the District Council. The Chairman proposed purchasing 5 more litter grabbers (at a cost of approximately £50) and Councillor Bezkorwajny would also like to spend a small amount on some planting around the war memorial. Both of these proposals were approved, with the balance likely being spent in conjunction with the Forncett Nature Group.

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

Payment method	Amount	Payee	Notes
SO	£ 346.86	A Rayner	February salary
DD	£ 65.02	A J Bell	February pension
BACS	£ 41.17	B Frith	Expenses reimbursement
BACS	£ 216.00	Waterhaul Ltd	Litter pick hoops

All payments and the financial report were unanimously approved.

- 13. To consider correspondence: (Received since publication of agenda):**

- a) Option to nominate for Buckingham Palace Garden Party – Councillor Humphreys nominated.
- b) Rivers Trust Grant – The Norfolk Rivers Trust has partnered with Aviva to launch a fund to help break down barriers for groups struggling to access countryside and rivers. If anyone has any ideas for applications, please contact the clerk as soon as possible, as the deadline for applications is 3 March.
- c) The National Association of Civic Officers is offering free portraits of King Charles III for public authorities. Councillors agreed that, as the parish council has no office or suitable buildings, an application would not be submitted.
- d) Flood Management Event 6 March – Those affected by recent flooding have been invited to an event at the village hall on 6 March.
- e) South Norfolk Council have consulted the parish council about three oak trees on the land south of the Fields in Tacolneston, part of which shares a border with Forncett. Councillors agreed to support the proposal for three Tree Preservation Orders.

- 14. Items for information and comment:**

- a) The Annual Parish Open Meeting will take place on 18 April 2024 (immediately before the usual parish council meeting). It was agreed to stay with the format of asking groups and clubs to draft a report of no more than 250 words and for a group representative to be at the meeting to present the report.
- b) There have been some issues recently with spam email being received via the forncett.info website. The option to email via the website has been removed.
- c) Councillor Welsby reported that she has been asked about the parish council’s Biodiversity Policy. Councillor Welsby advised on the council’s policy relating to the Station Road land, which is the only land owned by the parish council. It was agreed that the clerk would start to investigate the basis for a draft policy.
- d) The clerk’s annual review will take place next month.

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 15 February 2024 at 7.30pm

15. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 21 March 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.