

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 21 March 2024 at 7.30pm

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

Parish Clerk Anne Rayner
2 members of the public

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Welsby. County Councillor Catherine Rowett and District Councillor Kim Carsok also sent their apologies.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to report.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (15 February 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)** – Following up from a query raised last month regarding issues at Long Stratton Surgery, Councillor Carsok included an item in her report advising that she has recently spent a morning at the surgery to see the scale of the problem. The building work is now complete and the surgery is actively trying to recruit to vacant posts so it is hoped the situation will improve as quickly as possible.
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 Rowett sent a report including the following points:
 - Norfolk County Council budget approval
 - Minimum Income Guarantee information
 - Highways updates
 - NCC Climate Change StrategyDistrict Councillor Kim Carsok sent a report including the following points:
 - District Direct Funding (relating to hospital admission prevention and increased discharge speed)
 - Grants available, including: Anglia in Bloom; Clean up and Bloom; Community Action Fund
6. **To consider planning applications:**
 - a) **2024 / 0715 – Sofleur, Aslacton Rd – Single storey rear extension** – Councillors had no objections to this application.
7. **To report planning comments agreed via email between meetings: None to report**

8. **To hear of planning decisions and information:**
 - a) **2023 / 3660 – 12 Humphreys Close** – Approved
9. **To report information relating to trees on the Station Rd land** – The tree works at the land on Station Road have been completed .
10. **To hear information relating to the clerk’s annual review** – The parish council recommended that the clerk increase by one point on the salary scale with effect from 1 April 2024. The Chairman also asked the clerk to keep an eye on the amount of hours worked and reminded that there are funds set aside in the budget to pay for additional hours, should they be needed.
11. **To hear information re the fornsett.info website** – Richard Ball has given annual costings for the fornsett.info website to be managed by the parish council as a community facility amounting to approximately £120 per year. Although the parish council has it’s own website, it was agreed that the volume of information on the fornsett.info website is too great to consider merging the two sites. Councillors agreed the site is an excellent resource, very well used and were happy to agree to the payment.
12. **To report information from the Natural England / Environment Agency Flood Prevention session** – Councillors Humphreys, Barnes and Welsby attended this event. The event was very well attended, however, Councillor Humphreys reported that there was little structure to the evening and it could have been more helpful, particularly to those residents directly impacted by the flooding.
13. **To consider the parish council’s draft Biodiversity Policy** – The draft policy was considered and councillors resolved to adopt the policy with immediate effect.
14. **To review the following policies:**
 - a) **General Risk Management** – Minor amendments were made to the existing policy and the revised policy was approved.
 - b) **FOI and Publication Scheme** – The policy was updated in accordance with the model scheme available from the ICO and the revised policy was adopted.
15. **Ongoing Highways issues – inc. Low Rd junction, village gateways, Wash Lane Ford** – Councillor Rowett has been pro-active in chasing up various outstanding Highways projects around the village but there still seems to be very little progress, unfortunately. The village gateways, a parish partnership project from last year, was meant to be completed last week but there is no sign of any start to the work as yet. The parish council will continue to liaise with Highways.

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

Payment method	Amount	Payee	Notes
SO	£ 346.86	A Rayner	March salary
DD	£ 65.02	A J Bell	March pension
BACS	£ 259.96	HMRC	Clerk tax Q4
BACS	£ 156.00	A Rayner	Clerk expenses Oct 23 – Mar 24
BACS	£1032.00	Broadland Tree Services	Station Rd trees
BACS	£ 59.50	Helping Hand Co	Litter pickers

All payments, together with the financial report, were unanimously approved.

17. To consider correspondence:

a) **Receipt of Greater Norwich Local Plan Inspectors' Report** - No action required

18. Items for information and comment – National Grid ESO has carried out a review of options against various criteria for upgrade, including several new versions to be considered by the 'Norwich to Tilbury' project.

19. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 18 April 2024, commencing immediately after the Annual Open Meeting – The Annual Open Meeting will start at 7pm, with the parish council meeting following immediately afterwards, usually around 7.45pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.