

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the Annual meeting of the Parish Council
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 16 May 2024 at 7.30pm

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

Parish Clerk Anne Rayner
District Councillor Kim Carsok
County Councillor Catherine Rowett
8 members of the public

1. **To elect a Chairman for the forthcoming year and to receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office** – Councillor Allen nominated Councillor Frith for the position of Chairman and this was seconded by Councillor Barnes. Councillor Frith signed the declaration of acceptance of office.
2. **To elect a vice-chair and receive their declaration of acceptance of office** – Councillor Bezkorowajny nominated Councillor Humphreys for the position of Vice-Chair and this was seconded by Councillor Allen. Councillor Humphreys signed the declaration of acceptance of office.
3. **To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Welsby and Sanders.
4. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to report.
5. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (18 April 2024)** – The minutes were approved without alteration and signed as correct by the Chairman.
6. **To consider matters arising from the minutes (for information only)** – Councillor Bezkorowajny reported that he has begun planting around the war memorial.
7. **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 reported that solar panels will soon be installed at both Wymondham and Long Stratton Leisure Centres. The works at Diss Leisure Centre are progressing well. The District Council are maintaining their previous objection to the Norwich – Tilbury pylons and are in the process of compiling additional information with the support of specialists from ecology and heritage.
Councillor Rowett provided a report which included the following points:
 - Road Safety Community Fund application results have been received.
 - Norwich to Tilbury response contribution has been submitted for inclusion into the County Council's response to the statutory consultation.
 - Full Council meeting 7 May included Cllr Rowett's motion re rural speed limitsA member of the public present asked if they could be personally notified of any planning applications relevant to them being included on the agenda. The clerk confirmed that there was no requirement to do this and anyone submitting an application, or receiving any

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notification from the District Council, can see the agenda which will be published both on the parish council's website and the noticeboard at the village hall.

8. **Public comments on the National Grid Norwich – Tilbury Public consultation – This item will be limited to 30 minutes duration and individual contributions will be limited to 5 minutes** – Members of the public present were unanimous in their objections to the Norwich – Tilbury pylon proposals. The Chairman of Tharston and Hapton Parish Council was present and suggested that local parish councils join forces to lobby against the scheme.
9. **Discussion by Parish Council members to agree a response to the National Grid consultation** – The matter was discussed again at some length. The Chairman displayed the last statement submitted by the parish council to the non statutory consultation, with some additions, in light of the HVDC alternative proposal. Councillors suggested a couple of further amendments to the draft statement including the request to pause the process whilst all options and costings are thoroughly investigated. It was agreed that the Parish Council response will be sent to National Grid and hopefully published in the June 2024 Forncett Flyer.
10. **To consider planning applications: None to report**
11. **To hear of planning decisions:**
 - a) **2024 / 0715 – Sofleur, Aslacton Rd – Single storey rear extension – Approved**
 - b) **2023 / 2592 – The Old Vineyard, Overwood Lane – Retrospective permission for coffee shop including parking and access drive – Approved**
12. **To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings: None to report**
13. **To update on outstanding highways issues, including village gateways; Cheney's Lane barriers; Wash Lane Ford and Low Road junction** – There has been no progress with regard to any of the items listed. The village gateways, which should have been installed within the 2023 / 24 year, show no sign of work commencing. It is understood that all Fords in the County are due to be assessed but there is no indication of how long this may take.
14. **To hear feedback from the South Norfolk Council EVCP webinar** – The Chairman attended this webinar recently. A grant of £10,000 is available for the installation of two EVCP and, if the parish council is successful in applying for this grant, £10, 000 will also be available for solar panel installation. UKPN have confirmed that the power supply to the village hall is sufficient to support this. The charging can be managed two ways, the village hall could accept full liability meaning full funds would be received but the Village Hall committee would be responsible for keeping on top of maintenance, or they could subscribe to a scheme called 'Plug in Norfolk'. They would still receive 34 pence pkw from the charge but maintenance would be the responsibility of 'Plug in Norfolk'. Councillors agreed this was the preferred option.

It was therefore agreed that, subject to the agreement of the Village Hall Committee, the parish council will make the grant application, source quotes for the installation, pay for the installation with a view to donating both charging points and solar panels to the village hall, allowing for the VAT to be reclaimed.

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15. **To review the following policies – Financial Risk Management Policy and Statement of Internal Control** – Both policies were reviewed and it was agreed no changes were required.
16. **To approve the following policy: Financial Regulations** – New draft Regulations were recently received from NALC. The clerk made the necessary amendments to reflect the financial procedures for the parish council and the draft regulations were circulated on 11 May. Following circulation, an additional couple of points were further amended and the draft regulations were therefore approved and adopted with immediate effect.
17. **To agree meeting dates for the forthcoming year** – It was agreed to continue with meetings on the third Thursday of every month, apart from August. Meeting dates will therefore be: 20 June 2024, 18 July, 19 September, 21 November, 19 December, 16 January 2025, 20 February, 20 March.
18. **To receive the financial report and consider the approval of the following payments:**

Method	Amount	Payee	Notes
SO	£ 357.07	A Rayner	May salary
DD	£ 68.86	A J Bell	May pension contribution
BACS	£ 320.00	Community Heartbeat Trust	Defib maintenance
BACS	£ 485.61	Gallagher Insurance	Annual Insurance

All payments and the financial report were unanimously approved.

19. **To consider correspondence: None to report**
20. **Items for information and comment** – A member of the public reported that the road sign for Valley Farm Lane is in a poor condition, with most of its letter missing. The clerk confirmed she would report this.

To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 20 June 2024