

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 17 October 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
4 members of the public

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Welsby. District Councillor Kim Carsok also sent her apologies.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to declare.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (19 September 2024)** – The minutes were approved and signed as correct by the Chairman.
4. **To consider matters arising from the minutes (for information only)** – A resident has arranged a meeting at the village hall on 26 November, with a representative from Norfolk Rivers Consortium (Part of Harrisons Civils), to hear information relating to the Norfolk Nutrient Neutrality scheme offering septic tank upgrades.
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 Kim Carsok sent a short report including the following information: The John Grose building in Diss will be demolished and plans for the site will be discussed at the next cabinet meeting; the Council has agreed to invest in more temporary accommodation properties with a third round of funding from the Government's Local Authority Housing Fund; the Council has agreed to invest in the Norwich Research Park and finally, Councillor Carsok requested that the information regarding the East Pye Solar and the Wacton Road energy storage is widely circulated.
6. **To consider planning applications:**
 - a) **For information only – Public consultation re battery storage facility** – The Chairman and Councillor Sanders both attended the event at Wacton Village Hall. Some of the details and questions raised were discussed but, as this is a screening option only at the moment and not a formal planning application, there is currently no action required by the parish council.
 - b) **Letter from Hempnall Parish Council – re East Pye Solar Project** – Following a letter from Hempnall Parish Council raising some concerns regarding this project, an invite for parish councillors to attend a meeting at Hempnall Village Hall on Friday 8th November has been received.
7. **To hear of planning decisions:** None to report
8. **To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings:** None to report

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9. **To update on outstanding highways issues** – The Chairman voiced his disappointment that there is still no word whatsoever regarding the village gateway installation on the B1113, which was paid for in March 2023 and should have been installed as part of the parish partnership scheme terms during the 23/24 year. Despite repeated requests via the highways officer and the parish partnership team, no response at all is forthcoming. The clerk has made repeated requests for an explanation but all contact is being ignored. It appears that only generic telephone numbers are now available for the County Council but the clerk will attempt to make contact by phone. Councillor Rowett is continuing to work with the Highways Officer regarding the incorrect placement of the warning signs around Tabernacle Lane / Gilderswood Lane. The direction signs at the Common Road / Long Stratton Road crossroads, which were destroyed in a recent accident, have been replaced. The clerk has been in touch with South Norfolk Council, asking them to retrieve and reinstate the street name sign, however, they had been told the sign was no longer in situ and had ordered a new sign.
10. **To consider information regarding the ‘speed limit’ stickers for residents bins** – The varying options for wording and also the amounts to order were discussed. Councillors agreed, although the bins are only visible on certain days, they are certainly visually impactful (noting villages such as Ashwellthorpe, which already have the bin stickers). Given the varying speed limits in the village, it was agreed that the clerk and Chairman will look at the options available and order 500 stickers, in the first instance.
11. **To hear information regarding the Tree Warden role** – Andrew Ryan, present at the meeting, has agreed to take over the role of tree warden. Andrew said that most parishes have a tree warden and they have welcomed him and been very generous in sharing their knowledge. The role is varied, including support with planting new trees and hedgerows, monitoring trees for disease and acting as a consultee regarding tree protection orders.
12. **To consider the Electric Vehicle Charging terms and conditions** – This relates to the potential grant application. The terms and conditions had been circulated by the clerk, which led to some queries being raised, these appear to have been answered satisfactorily. Councillors did ask some further questions, relating to suitability and demand, but it was agreed that, as the expectation is only for the demand for electric vehicles to increase, the parish council supported the approval of the terms and conditions.
Councillor Allen left the meeting at 8.30pm.
13. **To discuss Winter Pressure Grants** – Grants of £500 are available to support community groups offering support for residents during the winter months. The parish council is supportive of a grant application, with a view to some open warm space sessions being held through the winter, subject to there being enough volunteers to run the sessions. So far, seven people had offered to help and Councillor Bezkorowajny also indicated that he would be happy to help. The clerk will contact the potential volunteers to ensure it can be fully supported, before submitting the grant application.

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

Method	Amount	Payee	Notes
BACS	£ 357.07	A Rayner	Oct salary
DD	£ 66.94	A J Bell	Oct pension contribution
BACS	£ 800.00	Forncett Flyer	2 nd grant payment
BACS	£ 94.71	B Frith	6 months expenses
BACS	£ 243.99	Boston Seeds (FNG)	Clean up and bloom grant

The financial report and all payments were unanimously authorised.

It was noted that the clerk has changed her personal bank account and the October salary payment will therefore be generated manually and a letter was signed by the Chair and Vice-Chair requesting that a new Standing Order be set up by the bank for the November payment onwards.

15. To consider correspondence:

- a) **Broadland and South Norfolk Council – Design code consultation** – The information has been circulated and posters will be placed on noticeboards.

- 16. Items for information and comment** – A road closure notification has been received for Spring Lane but the parish council are not aware that this relates to anything regarding the standing water in this area.

17. To confirm the date of the next meeting as 21 November 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.