

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 18 April 2024 at 7.30 pm

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
6 members of the public

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Welsby. District Councillor Kim Carsok was present at the Annual Open Meeting (immediately preceding this meeting) and gave a report detailing the main points of the past year. County Councillor Catherine Rowett sent her apologies.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to report
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (21 March 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)** – Nothing to report.
5. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public** - A member of the public asked about the barriers on Cheney's Lane which have been there for months, with no apparent action. The clerk has already raised this with Highways but will try to find out what is the reason for the delay.
6. **To consider planning applications: None to report**
7. **To hear of planning decisions:**
 - a) **1 Rectory Cottages – Single storey front, first and second floor extensions** – Approved
8. **To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings:**
 - a) **2024 / 0626 – 2 & 3 Rectory Cottages – Fenestration replacement and refurbishment** – there were no objections to this application.
9. **To receive an update on Highways issues** – Unfortunately, there is little, or no, progress on any of the outstanding highways issues. The village 'gateways' on the B1113 which were paid for as part of the parish partnership agreement should have been installed during the 23 / 24 year but there is no sign of the works starting. There has been no response to repeated questions relating to the standing water on Low Road; improved signage and Low Rd / Station Rd junction; suggestions for improvements at Wash Lane ford and signage to deter lorries and other long vehicles from trying to access the narrow roads around Gilderswood Lane. It was also noted that several pot holes which had been circled with white paint several weeks ago are yet to receive any further attention. Pot holes can be reported directly to the County Council via the online form <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/39671/Potholes>
10. **To receive and approve the internal audit report** – The internal audit report was circulated

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prior to the meeting and a copy of the report will also be available on the parish council's website. The Chairman thanked the auditor for such a thorough report and for completing the audit so promptly. The contents of the report were noted and approved.

11. **To declare that FPC is an exempt authority within the definition contained in the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and confirm exemption for 2023 / 24 –** Councillors unanimously approved the declaration and the Chairman and clerk / RFO signed the document accordingly.
12. **To Approve the Annual Governance Statement –** The statement was approved and signed by the Chairman and clerk / RFO.
13. **To consider and approve the Accounting Statements for 2023 / 24 -** The accounting statements were approved and signed by the Chairman and clerk / RFO. Councillors unanimously expressed their appreciation of the clerk's excellent record keeping and prompt completion of the audit and end of year documentation, resulting in the exemplary audit report.
14. **To consider the approval of the following payments:**

Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
SO	£ 357.07	A Rayner	April salary
DD	£ 65.02	A J Bell	April pension contribution
BACS	£ 294.00	NALC	Annual subscription
BACS	£ 70.00	NALC	Website hosting
BACS	£ 120.00	S Blyth	Internal audit fee
BACS	£ 800.00	Forncett Flyer	Grant instalment one

All payments were unanimously approved.

15. **To consider correspondence:**
 - a) **Statutory consultation notification – National Grid Norwich to Tilbury 10 April – 18 June 2024 –** The Chairman encouraged all present to attend one of the consultation events coming up (the nearest ones to Forncett are Ashwellthorpe 9 May, Tibenham 10 May and Diss 15 May) with a view to agreeing a response to the consultation from the parish council at the May meeting.
 - b) **EVCP Webinar –** The Chairman will be attending this webinar to hear more information from South Norfolk Council about grants available towards the installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Points. The Chairman will report further at the May meeting.
16. **Items for information and comment –** Nothing further to add.
17. **To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 16 May 2024 commencing at 7.30pm. This will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.**
There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm.