

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 15th January 2026 at 7.30pm

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

Parish Clerk Anne Rayner
County Councillor Catherine Rowett
11 members of the public

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – District Councillor Kim Carsok sent her apologies.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to report
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (18th December 2025)** – 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 including, if available, a report from District Councillor Kim Carsok and County Councillor Catherine Rowett** – Councillor Rowett reported that the Government have invited impacted councils across the Country to apply for a postponement of the May elections. Norwich City Council have requested a postponement but the County Council have not made a firm decision in their response to Central Government. Councillor Rowett has funded several small projects from her Community Fund and would like to hear from anyone with a community idea needing some funding. Councillor Rowett talked about the recently launched 'Norfolk Trails Public Survey', which prompted the Chairman to ask about the footpaths making up the Tas Valley Way, which used to be included as one of the 'Norfolk Trails' but became downgraded. Councillor Rowett agreed it would be interesting to see if the trail status could be reinstated.
6. **To consider planning applications:**
 - a) **2025 / 1689 – Erection of Battery Energy Storage System and associated infrastructure (Amended Application) Great Moulton** – The Chairman reminded everyone of the comments submitted by the parish council when the original application was submitted in June 2025. The developers have submitted revised details which were discussed at some length, however, councillors did not see any reason to change their original comments. It was agreed to also highlight inaccurate and incomplete information relating to Highways in the plans.
7. **To hear of planning decisions:**
 - a) **2025 / 3478 – Rattles, Low Rd – New window in gable apex and 2 solar panels on south elevation – Approved**
8. **To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings and consider other planning issues:** The Chairman reported that parish councils impacted by the Norwich – Tilbury Pylon Scheme were recently invited to attend some webinars hosted by the Town

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and Country Planning Association, the aim being to provide practical guidance to parishes who plan to attend the examination of the development consent order application. The Chairman and Councillor Allen both attended the webinar, on behalf of Forncett Parish Council. The Chairman reported that the next steps appear to be moving very quickly, with open floor hearings taking place in Ipswich on 10th & 11th February. Some clear points were that repeated comments, particularly those that appear to have been copied and pasted, will not be welcome, nor will those generated by AI. It will be expected that if you use AI to help draft your submission, this should be declared. The Chairman said that he would circulate the presentation slides used to support the webinar, after the meeting.

9. **To update on outstanding highways issues** – Councillor Fromings reported that the County Council do not currently have funds to pay for replacement finger posts. The request will be considered again when the new budget starts in April 2026. The footpaths officer will confirm the costings for the replacement bridge at FP17. The Chairman reported on another recent accident at the Jolly Farmers crossroads, the fourth in this location in a relatively short period. It's not clear what the issue is, although it was noted that sat nav's do not appear to acknowledge the junction. Councillor Rowett said that there may be a couple of options to improve the approach to the junction, which could either be a 'Give Way in 50 yards' sign or a change in colour to the existing signs (to yellow). Councillor Fromings mentioned the large telegraph pole to the right, on the approach to the junction from Long Stratton Rd, which appears to be obsolete. It is possible that this is obstructing a view. Councillor Rowett said she would speak to the Highways officer about the latest accident, possible causes and solutions, as a matter of urgency. (NB – subsequent to the meeting it was confirmed that the telegraph pole is still in use).
10. **To adopt the following policy: Equality and Diversity** – The policy was formally adopted.
11. **To review the guidelines regarding 'public participation' for the parish council website** – The clerk drafted some guidelines, reflecting the parish council's Standing Orders, and circulated the statement prior to the meeting. Councillors approved the statement and the clerk will ensure this is published on the website.
12. **To discuss possible projects for CIL further** – Councillor Fromings confirmed that the school have no objection to the possible placement of a dog waste bin at the entrance to FP17. It was agreed that the clerk will contact South Norfolk Council with details of the initial four sites, to ask for approval for the suggested sites. The clerk reminded all present that the majority of the remaining CIL funds of £3608.70 would need to be spent by April 2027, with the alternative being that the money is returned to the District Council.
13. **To receive the financial report and consider the approval of the following payments:**

Method	Amount	Payee	Notes
SO	£ 393.19	A Rayner	January salary
DD	£ 73.71	A J Bell	January pension contribution
Dr card	£ 250.00	M Chapman	Allotment rent

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To also note partial payment of the Art Club grant of £159.00 and £35.41 (£105.59 remaining). The financial report and all payments were approved.

- 14. To consider correspondence: None to report**
- 15. Items for information and comment** – The parish council normally arrange the annual litter pick, supported by South Norfolk Council, around the end of March. The Chairman suggested Saturday 28th March as the nominated date and the clerk will include this in the Flyer report.
- 16. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 19th February 2026 commencing at 7.30pm.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm.