

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 19th February 2026 at 7.30pm

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

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

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Allen.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to report.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (15 January 2026)** – The minutes were approved without alteration and signed as correct by the Chairman.
4. **To consider matters arising from the minutes (for information only)** – The date of the litter pick has been confirmed as Saturday 28th March, meeting at the Village Hall for 9.30am. Refreshments will be provided at the hall afterwards.
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 confirmed that the County Council elections will be going ahead. The District Council finalised their budget recently and approved large increases to the Community Action Fund. There will also be a generous 'In Bloom' fund in the next financial year and Councillor Carsok will have £2000 in her Member's Ward Grant fund. If anyone has any ideas for green projects, improvements to village facilities or community groups or projects, please get in touch with Councillor Carsok directly, or the clerk.

County Councillor Catherine Rowett reported that Central Government has proposed to write off the County Council's historic SEN debt, as part of the financial settlement this year. However, this does not help the ongoing budget demands, meaning that cuts have had to be made in other areas. The Government has announced new funding for community energy projects, this aims to support small community projects. More information can be found at <https://www.communityclimateaction.uk> Councillor Rowett is in discussion with neighbouring villages regarding bus shelter improvements and better bus services, including for villages like Forncett, Ashwellthorpe and Tacolneston to get a decent service to Wymondham.

A member of the public present asked about the nutrient neutrality scheme, which was supporting septic tank replacement. It was a requirement of the County Council that residents pay the appropriate legal fees relating to the project, however, the payments for the actual funding now appear to have stalled. Although some people have received the funds (including some residents of Forncett), the member of public present, has not. Both Councillors present confirmed they would investigate accordingly.

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6. **To consider planning applications:**
a) **2026 / 0047 – 20 – 22 Bentley Road – Replace rotten windows and two back doors. Replace roof felt, timbers and tiles. Renew fascia and guttering. Remove interior stud wall (Listed building)** – Councillors had no objections to the application, subject to the satisfaction of the historic buildings officer.
7. **To hear of planning decisions: None to report**
8. **To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings and consider other planning issues: To note 2025 / 1152 Wacton Rd BESS planning application was considered at the meeting of SNC Development Management Committee on 18th February** – This was approved at South Norfolk Council Committee by 5 votes to 2. The permission is subject to several conditions.
9. **Comments following circulation of information on DCO procedures for the Norwich to Tilbury application** – This information was circulated after the last meeting. No-one present had any comments.
10. **To update on outstanding highways issues** – It was noted that the works on Low Road last year, to resolve the standing water, appears to have been a complete success. Councillors thanked Highways for the excellent work. Councillor Rowett confirmed that she spoke to the Highways officer about the further accident at the Jolly Farmers crossroads. The Highways officer has suggested yellow 'Give Way' signs and the installation will take place in due course.
11. **To discuss possible projects for CIL further (noting that the four suggested dog waste bin locations have been approved by South Norfolk Council)** – The four locations have been approved by South Norfolk Council. The clerk will detail the locations in the Flyer report this month, to ensure there are no significant reasons for objections from members of the public, then the bins will be ordered and installed. It was agreed that green dog waste bins would be preferred. The Chairman proposed an inspection of the war memorials, with a view that the cost, plus any repairs necessary, also be funded from CIL. Councillors agreed to support this.
12. **To confirm arrangements for the clerk's appraisal** – The Chairman asked that Councillors feedback any comments relating to the clerk's work by Friday 6th March.
13. **To receive the financial report and consider the approval of the following payments:**

Method	Amount	Payee	Notes
SO	£ 393.19	A Rayner	February salary
DD	£ 73.71	A J Bell	February pension contribution
BACS	£ 67.20	Norfolk ALC	Charge for .gov.uk domain

All payments and the financial report were unanimously approved.

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To also note partial payment of the Art Club grant of £106.91 (giving a £1.32 balance spend requiring approval) – The additional £1.32 was approved.

14. To consider correspondence:

- a) **GNLP – Call for sites** – Due to changes in planning legislation, the Greater Norwich Local Plan is being reviewed and the call for sites has been opened again.
- b) **South Norfolk Community Awards 2026** – There are nine categories in the awards, including Young Achiever Award, Volunteer of the Year and Community Organisation of the Year. Further information and details of how to nominate can be found at www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/leisure/south-norfolk-community-awards

15. Items for information and comment – To note refund due from the parish partnership scheme of £482.58 – Norfolk County Council have confirmed that the village gateways installed as part of the Parish Partnership cost less than the initial estimate and a refund of £482.58 is due. The clerk has applied for the refund.

The Chairman reported on the sad news of the death of Bill Matthews, just a few days after the death of his wife, Heather. During the 1970's and 80's Bill was thought to have been Chair of both the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council. Bill was instrumental in the design and production of the village sign in 1981 and was signatory to the transaction which saw Jubilee Green (the former allotments) purchased from the Church.

It was agreed that the April meeting will follow the usual format of the Annual Parish Meeting taking place from 7.00pm, with the parish council meeting following on immediately afterwards.

16. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 19th March 2026 commencing at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm.