

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 19th March 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

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

1. **To consider apologies for absence** – 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 (19 February 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)** – NPTS will be providing some training for Councillors and Clerk on some specific, relevant topics on Tuesday 2 June at the village hall, likely start time 7pm. The Chairman has investigated some further information regarding the war memorials and Councillor Humphreys will get in touch with his contact to try to arrange an inspection. The Chairman confirmed that the dog waste bins will shortly be ordered, total cost (including posts) is £704.68 + VAT. The Chairman asked Councillor Carsok if there was any updated information relating to the nutrient neutrality project and the modernisation of septic tanks. This was prompted by a recent contact from Norfolk Rivers Trust seemingly offering the same scheme. Councillor Carsok said that, as far as she understood, the original company offering the scheme had withdrawn as they had met their numbers criteria. Councillors noted their concern regarding this, as some residents were now considerably out of pocket, having paid the legal fees for the arrangement, which was a requirement of the original offer.
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 reported that work will start on the new dry side leisure centre at Diss as soon as the planning permission is passed. The facilities at Kett's Park in Wymondham will be expanded and improved including a new 3G pitch, soft play area, café etc. Councillor Rowett was not present but sent a report, which the Chairman read on her behalf. This included information about the re-instated elections, children's Easter holiday activities and support available for residents trying to give up smoking. Councillor Rowett also report that the Government is consulting on measures that they say will tackle speculative applications for electricity network connections. The queue for demand to the transmission network has grown by 460% in just six months. The consultation can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/accelerating-electricity-network-connections-for-strategic-demand>

A member of the public asked about the recent planning permission approval for BESS at Wacton. When reported in the local newspaper, there appeared to be more units than

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detailed in the original application when it was originally discussed at the parish council meeting. Without the information at hand it was difficult to say, however, it was agreed that the overall size could not change (without a revised application being submitted).

6. To consider planning applications:

- a) 2026 / 0504 – Grove Cottage, Wacton Road – Renovation, alteration and extensions –** Councillors had no objections to this application.
- b) 2026 / 0372 – Riverside Farm, Low Rd – Replace four windows (LB consent) –** Councillors had no objections to this application, subject to the satisfaction of the historic buildings officer.
- c) 2025 / 3413 & 3414 – The Homestead, Low Rd (Revised plans) – Demolition and replacement of sun room. Remove internal kitchen / pantry wall –** Councillors had no objections to this 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:

- a) 2025 / 3294 - Laurels Farm, Low Road – Replacement of single glazed windows with double glazed units (Listed building consent) –** Councillors had no objections to this application, subject to the satisfaction of the listed buildings consent.
- b) 2025 / 3624 – Gilderswood Farm – Lake construction – Additional comments submitted –** The Chairman reported that the clerk had submitted some additional comments relating to this application, noting the height and type of parts of the fence surrounding the proposed lake, which appears to be with the intention of keeping out otters. It had also been noted that Highways had asked about the intention for the lake (lack of information within the original plans was noted as part of the parish council's comments) and had been advised that it is intended to be for personal use only. Highways have requested that this be noted as a condition in any permission granted.

9. To review the following policies:

- a) General Risk Management Policy –** The clerk made some minor amendments to the policy and circulated the updated version prior to the meeting. Councillors reviewed and approved the policy accordingly.
- c) Sickness Absence Policy –** This policy was reviewed and it was agreed that no changes were required.

10. To update on outstanding highways issues – Nothing to report.

11. To review the asset register – The register was reviewed and approved, without alteration.

12. To consider recommendations arising from the Clerk's annual review – The Chair and Vice-Chair met with the clerk recently in order to undertake the annual review. As a result of this, it was proposed to award a pay increase of one point on the NJC Local Government Services pay scales. Councillors approved the increase which will take effect from 1 April 2026.

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

Method	Amount	Payee	Notes
SO	£ 393.19	A Rayner	March salary
DD	£ 73.71	A J Bell	March pension contribution
BACS	£ 328.28	HRMC	Q4 clerk tax and E'er NI
BACS	£ 156.00	A Rayner	Expenses Oct 25 – March 26

All payments and the financial report were unanimously approved.

14. To consider correspondence:

- a) **Armed Forces Day** – Ben Goldsborough MP has written to the parish council highlighting Armed Forces Day, which will be on 27 June 2026. Grants are available to support with events but applications will close on 30 March.
- b) **South Norfolk in Bloom Grants** – These are being offered again, to a maximum value of £1 per resident in a parish but they must be 50% match funded. Applications will close on 19 April. The clerk will contact Forncett Nature Group to see if they have any suitable projects in mind.
- c) **Pylon campaign donation request** – This was previously discussed by the parish council in March 2023, with the decision being not to proceed with a donation. However, following discussion, it was agreed that the clerk will a) contact the pylon group to ask if any other parish councils have donated and b) seek advice from NALC regarding the scope for donation.

15. Items for information and comment – Free mental health awareness training – Details of this training have been circulated.

The Chairman confirmed that, in light of the elections on 7 May, the 'Meet your MP' coffee morning planned at the village hall on 25th April has been postponed.

16. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 16th April 2026 commencing immediately after the Annual Open Meeting.

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