

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the annual meeting of the Parish Council
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 21 May 2026 at 7.30pm

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

Parish Clerk Anne Rayner
County Councillor Margaret Thomas
District Councillor Kim Carsok
3 members of the public

1. **To elect a Chairman for the forthcoming year and to receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office** – Outgoing Chairman Brian Frith stood down after fourteen years of service. Marie Sanders was nominated and seconded for the role of Chair, which she accepted and signed the appropriate paperwork.

Councillors unanimously gave their sincere thanks to Cllr Frith, who has served the parish council and the village in exemplary fashion, giving his time and sharing his knowledge so generously.

2. **To elect a vice-chair and receive their declaration of acceptance of office** – Councillor Humphries was nominated and seconded for the role of Vice-Chair, which he accepted and signed the appropriate paperwork.
3. **To consider apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Allen.
4. **To receive any declarations of interest** – None to report.
5. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting (16th April 2026)** – The minutes were approved without alteration and signed as correct by the Chair.
6. **To consider matters arising from the minutes (for information only)** – The Chair reminded Councillors of the forthcoming training session on 2 June, starting at 7pm, at the village hall.
7. **Open forum, to hear from members of the public including, if available, a report from District and County Councillors** – New County Councillor Margaret Thomas was welcomed to the meeting. Councillor Thomas said that her professional background was based in the NHS but she is thrilled to have been elected. New Councillors have spent an induction week at County Hall. Councillor Thomas asked what the pressing issues are, which Councillors agreed are mainly the energy projects in the area, including the pylons. With regard to outstanding highways issues, the most important issue is currently the multiple accidents at the Jolly Farmers crossroads.

District Councillor Kim Carsok confirmed that the District Council has agreed the submission in response to the East Pye solar project, progression to examination. Food waste collections are due to begin in July. Households will receive a letter in advance of the delivery of food

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waste bins and indoor food waste caddies. The District Council are near to completing the refurbishment programme of play areas and bigger leisure projects include the fitting of solar panels at Wymondham Leisure Centre, extension to the provision at Ketts Park, new dry side facilities in Diss and improvements to the sports centre at Framingham Earl.

8. **To consider planning applications:**
 - a) **2026 / 1063 – Dyke Neuk, Low Rd – Proposed cart lodge** – There were no objections to this application.
 - b) **2026 / 1021 – The Orchards, Spicers Lane – Variation of condition re original application 2025 / 0187** – There were no objections to this application.
9. **To hear of planning decisions:**
 - a) **2026 / 0372 – Riverside Farm, Low Rd (LB) – replacement of four windows** – Approved
10. **To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings:** None to report
11. **East Pye Solar – Progression to Examination** – Councillors agreed that the parish council should register as an 'interested party'.
12. **To update on outstanding highways issues** – The parish council is aware that the previous County Councillor had met with Highways Officer, Adam Mayo, at the Jolly Farmers crossroads to discuss possible options for improvement. These could include, new 'Give Way' signs with a more visible background, repainting of the white lines at the junction and a possible advance warning of the junction on the Long Stratton Road side, as there is on the Common Rd side. County Councillor Thomas will chase this up.
13. **To consider support membership offerings between NALC and NPTS** – Details of the membership options and costs for both organisations were circulated prior to the meeting. The clerk advised that the parish council can maintain their current website (hosting via NALC) but receive the rest of the support from NPTS. It was agreed to try NPTS for one year.
14. **To review the following policies:**
 - a) **Financial Regulations** – Reviewed, no changes necessary
 - b) **Financial Risk Management Policy** – Reviewed, no changes necessary
 - c) **Statement and Review of internal control** – Reviewed, no changes necessary
15. **To agree meeting dates for the forthcoming year** – It was agreed to continue with meeting dates on the third Thursday of each month, with no meeting in August, unless there is particularly urgent business. The meeting dates will therefore be: 18 June, 16 July, 17 September, 15 October, 19 November, 17 December, 21 January 2027, 18 February and 18 March.

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

Method	Amount	Payee	Notes
SO	£ 403.18	A Rayner	May salary
DD	£ 75.57	A J Bell	May pension contribution
BACS	£ 504.57	AJG Comm. Schemes	Annual insurance premium
BACS	£ 82.35	B Frith	Expenses reimbursed
Dr card	£ 20.94	Tool Station	Cement for dog bin posts
BACS	£ 378.00	Community Heartbeat Trust	Defib maintenance
BACS	£ 25.00	Forncett Village Hall	Hall hire for training
BACS	£ 354.00	NPTS	Training
BACS	£ 76.08	CJ's Garden Machinery	Strimmer repair

All payments and the financial report were unanimously approved.

17. To consider correspondence:

a) **Bus Shelter Grant Scheme** – Norfolk County Council are running a scheme for grants towards new bus shelters and improvements to current bus shelters. Councillors Sanders and Fromings agreed that they would meet to look at the current bus shelters / stops in the village and report back at the next meeting.

18. Items for information and comment – Councillor Frith reported that, following the Village Hall Annual Meeting, the village hall trustees are as follows: Brian Frith (Chair), Gill Starkie (Vice Chair), April Carlin (Treasurer), Anne Frith (Secretary), Glen Humphreys, Jan North, Andrew Richards, Marie Sanders and Pam Thurtle.

It was agreed that the clerk would attempt to add Councillor Sanders to the existing authorised signatories at Barclays. If three is the maximum number allowed, it was agreed that Councillor Barnes would be removed as authorised signatory.

19. To confirm the date of the next meeting as 18th June 2026 commencing at 7.30pm.

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