

FOULDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Ordinary Meeting held 13th January 2022

MINUTES

Present: M Christian, R Cooper, S McMahon, S Parker (Chairman), S Pye

Absent: None (see Item 1 below).

In attendance: Six members of the public; J Taylor (Clerk)

1. To receive apologies and approve absences

None required. County Councillor Eagle and District Councillor Nairn sent informal apologies.

2. To receive declarations of interest in any items to be discussed and grant any dispensation requests

No pecuniary interests. Cllr Parker declared potential personal interest in War Memorial (stonemason is previous contact) and Parish Plan (may include Foulden Common, which is part of Cllr Parker's property).

3. Public Participation

Residents queried the outcome of the questionnaire re the Parish Plan, and whether it were to be circulated, and queried other aspects of the Parish Plan, such as how many Points would be included. Councillors responded that nothing was as yet set in stone, but that a Working Party would be set up to review all the options (note also Item 11). Residents queried the potential building of more housing in the parish. Cllr Parker noted that most residents seemed to prefer that more housing was not wanted. There was a suggestion that the parish could pursue a Neighbourhood Plan. Councillors noted that a Neighbourhood Plan had been considered, but it needed to comply with the District Council's Plan, which had expired and would not be clarified for a number of years. Therefore, time and effort could be expended on something which was not compliant with the superior Plan, and this needed to be taken into consideration.

A resident queried how members of the public could have the opportunity to ask questions, particularly after discussions of the items on the agenda had taken place. Cllr Parker noted the Public Participation at the beginning of the meeting, and suggested that the Council used to encourage public comments at the end of the meetings, and that could be revisited.

Cllr McMahon suggested that ways be found to make the Parish Plan more transparent. It was agreed that the report produced by the former clerk would be circulated, as part of the Action Plan. It was AGREED that the Report be circulated.

4. To co-opt (a) new councillors(s)

No expressions of interest had been received.

5. To receive communications as the person presiding wishes to lay before the Council

None.

6. To receive reports for information only

Clerk confirmed that there were no outstanding invoices for Westcotec (streetlights); confirmation received in writing.

Clerk is pursuing information from Breckland District Council re recommended tree inspection regime.

It was noted that there was a potential issue with compliance with housing association rules at a property on School Road. Clerk to investigate with housing association.

ACTION: CLERK

7. To approve Minutes of the meeting held 30th December 2021

RESOLVED: 22/01/13/07.

8. To approve the employment of Mrs J A Taylor as Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer and Proper Office to the Council, 20th December 2021, at £12.95ph (based on National Joint Council Spinal Column Point 18), and as Secretary and Treasurer to the Foulde Village Hall, Foulde Recreation Ground and Foulde Former Highway Surveyor's charities

RESOLVED: 22/01/13/08.

9. Foulde dog show/fete, to discuss and decide on sponsorship of rosettes

It was AGREED that Foulde Parish Council gives permission for dogs to be allowed on to the playing field for the dog show. It was AGREED that if it were requested, a donation of £50 would be provided from the Recreation Ground Charity.

10. War Memorial, to receive updates, consider and decide on any further action

Cllr Parker reported that a quote had been received from Spectrum Stone and the relevant paperwork is about to be sent to the War Memorial Trust for confirmation. The WMT grant would be 76%. The works are strictly refurbishment and no alterations are involved.

11. Parish Plan action points

Cllr Parker gave a summary of progress, which, following receipt of the village questionnaires, was at an early stage. The results of the questionnaire would be circulated with these Minutes. A list of Action Points would be created. Cllrs Christian, Cooper, McMahon, Pye would form a Working Party to take this forward, with Cllr Christian responsible for the village Welcome Pack. Cllr McMahon agreed to produce a list of the top 10 priority projects. All to be presented at the next meeting for discussion and agreement.

12. Charities, to confirm engagement of suitable outside body for advice

Cllr Parker had received advice, with various proposals. If the turnover of a charity exceeds £5,000 it must be registered with the Charities Commission. A registered charity would be eligible for funding unavailable to local authorities; be entitled to Business Rates Relief; be able to reclaim some tax. The suggestion would be to appoint the parish council as Sole Trustee. Cllr Parker undertook to circulate the advice to councillors; Village Hall (and other charities') meetings had been separated

away from parish council meetings; the subject will be discussed at the next Village Hall meeting.

13. Update on streetlights

Clerk had confirmed, in writing, with the supplier that there are no outstanding invoices to be paid for streetlights. Following Cllr Cooper's query whether the speeding problems on Vicarage Road could be reduced with additional streetlighting, Cllr Parker suggested that a wider review of streetlighting be added into the Parish Plan.

14. Grass cutting/grounds maintenance; to discuss and appoint future contractor

Cllr Parker confirmed that the quote from Fendicks was the cheaper of the quotes. Acceptance of the Fendick quote was APPROVED. Cllr Pye noted that residents supported additional cuts immediately prior to specific events.

15. Vattenfall/Boreas/Windfarms

Cllr Christian gave a summary of the current situation. The windfarm, which will be the largest in the world, has been given permission despite the recommendation of the Planning Inspectorate. The campaign against the windfarm is therefore now moot.

16. Planning

A single-storey extension at the rear of a property on Vicarage Road (3PL/2022/0004/HOU). No objection.

17. To consider supplier contracts for the village hall

An alternative quote for electricity had been obtained. It was AGREED that the saving would be minimal and so the current supplier would be retained.

18. Finance

- a. Bank reconciliation was noted.
 - b. Payments, previously approved, were noted.
 - c. Outstanding payment. Confirmed as approved and paid.
 - d. Internal Auditor for Financial Year 2021/22. Contact made and quote awaited.
 - e. VAT. Reclaim confirmed.
 - f. To consider transfer of parish council bank account to Unity Trust Bank.
- APPROVED.

19. To consider approval of a Scheme of Delegation of Authority to the clerk in emergency circumstances

It was APPROVED that the Scheme as put forward be enabled, to be enacted in the event that the Council is prevented by external circumstances from convening lawfully.

20. Date of next meeting and items for the agenda

Thursday 10th March 2022.

Meeting closed 8.04pm.

A further Public Participation session was agreed. Residents enquired about the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Cllr Cooper confirmed that a tree (an oak) would be purchased and planted for the occasion. Mrs Pye, as Village Hall Manager, confirmed that the village hall committee was investigating options, including grants. To be on the next agenda. Cllr Christian noted that she had attended useful webinars on the practical arrangements for the Jubilee, and that further information would be available at the beginning of February.

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Chairman

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Date