

FOULDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Ordinary Meeting held 10th March 2022

MINUTES

Present: M Christian, S McMahon, S Parker (Chairman), S Pye
Absent: R Cooper (see Item 1 below).
In attendance: Six members of the public; District Councillor Mike Nairn; J Taylor (Clerk)

1. To receive apologies and approve absences (LGA1972, s85(1)(2))

R Cooper (unwell). Apology accepted. County Councillor Eagle sent informal apologies.

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

None.

3. Public Participation

A resident queried why the Recreation Ground had been closed off. Cllr Pye explained that a tree had fallen and was dangerous. Cllr Parker suggested contacts who would be able to remove the tree – Cllr Pye to follow up.

ACTION: PYE

A resident noted a pothole in the village. Cllr McMahon recommended using the Norfolk County Council pothole reporting page on its website (under Roads and Transport – Report a Problem).

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

A request from a resident had been made, to discuss the road through Beckett's End. To be on next agenda.

6. To receive reports for information only

Cllr Nairn reported various initiatives relating to HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, 2nd-5th June, including Queen's Jubilee Grants (available to village organisations); also, the National Jubilee Big Lunch, the Queen's Jubilee Bursary Scheme (higher education access), the Queen's Green Canopy (at Attleborough, Dereham and Watton), the Shop Front Trail (Breckland market towns), the Breckland Beacon at the Swaffham wind turbine.

Cllr Nairn reported on initiatives to combat fly tipping – several enforcement officers were now in place; fly tipping can be reported online at Breckland District Council's website. He urged residents to take care if hiring a 'man with a van', to be sure that they have the correct waste carrier licences. *[Cllr Nairn left the meeting at 7.15pm.]*

Cllr Parker noted the SAM2 reports which had been circulated; both School Road and White Hart Street showed no significant speeding problems; Tallon End

appeared more problematic, as expected. Thanks were expressed to the resident responsible for moving the SAM2 unit.

A white car was reported as parked in a difficult location on Tallon End – it was suggested that a letter be placed on the car with a request not to do so.

Cllr Parker requested that the clerk check on any related actions outstanding from the November 2021 meeting.

ACTION: CLERK

7. To approve Minutes of the meeting held 13th January 2022

RESOLVED: 22/03/10/07.

8. To consider and decide upon tree planting, and other arrangements, to mark HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Cllr Pye had contacted Didlington Nurseries, which quoted £40 for an 8-10ft oak tree. Cllr Parker suggested this be re-visited nearer planting season.

9. To consider and decide upon action relating to the Great British Spring Clean

Cllr McMahan noted that this suggestion had featured strongly in the village questionnaire. He undertook to organise a litter pick and advertise it via the website. He noted that a resident had litter picking equipment available.

ACTION: McMAHON

10. War Memorial, to receive updates

Cllr Parker reported. Work has started and is scheduled to complete mid- to end-April. The proviso is that the memorial is very damaged, and has been repaired previously. The stonemasons advised that there were two options: to pin and repair the existing; to replace with a new cross. Cllr Parker consulted the War Memorial Trust (which is providing the funding). The Trust is committed to restoration rather than replacement, and is open to providing more funding in order to achieve that aim. The cost of repair is estimated at £940. The Trust will provide 76% of that figure. The Parochial Church Council had generously agreed to provide funding of £178 (raised a number of years ago, specifically for the restoration of the war memorial). Given this funding, it was AGREED that the war memorial be restored per stonemason's estimate. Cllr Parker agreed to confirm with the stonemasons. Cllr McMahan queried whether an 'unveiling' would be arranged. Cllr Parker suggested the Jubilee event would be appropriate. This was AGREED.

11. Parish Plan: 'Top 10' action points, to discuss and decide on further action, to discuss inclusion of streetlighting review

Cllr McMahan gave a summary of the origins of the village survey, its major findings, and emphasised the importance of following up where possible on the village's concerns and wishes.

In particular, he noted the following, amongst other items:

a low proportion of residents attended parish council meetings – it was observed that a pop-up stall at the Jubilee events may help in publicising the work that the parish council does;

the village hall is generally well-known and well-received;

the recreation ground is not well-used, but those expressing an opinion felt that if there were organised activities, that would encourage them to use the facility;

the church – although few attended religious services, there was a general feeling that it should be supported;
White Hart Pub – a general feeling that it should be supported by the parish council;
Foulden Common – the biggest recognition factor in the survey;
an annual village event – very strongly supported.

Cllr McMahon suggested the following next steps: a presence at the Jubilee celebrations, to review and update residents' opinions and publicise the work of the parish council; set up a Working Party to follow through on residents' concerns.

12. Emergency Plan/Community Resilience Plan/Welcome Pack

Cllr Christian reported limited feedback. Councillors were content with the suggested content as provided by Cllr Christian. Cllr Parker undertook to organise printing of the finished article, subject to costs of paper.

13. To note and/or consider planning applications (if any)

None.

14. Finance

a) to agree financial statements and bank reconciliation

AGREED.

b) to note payments since last meeting

Noted.

c) outstanding payments

The clerk noted a payment from the payroll company. Councillors discussed whether this represented good value for money for Foulden taxpayers. It was AGREED that the clerk should take over running of the payroll from the next financial year.

d) to confirm internal auditor for Financial Year 2021/22

A proposal from Ms J Groome was considered, at £30ph. It was AGREED that she be appointed internal auditor.

e) to confirm Asset Registers (parish council and village hall)

Approved.

15. To discuss extending Public Participation at parish council meetings

Requested by residents at previous parish council meeting. It was AGREED that an additional Public Participation session at the end of parish council meetings be instated from the next parish council meeting.

8. HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee – continued

Cllr McMahon added a number of points to the earlier discussion. Items were to be finalised in the coming weeks, but broadly:

it was suggested that a commemorative plaque be purchased to accompany the oak tree to be planted later in the year;

estimate for a Jubilee village celebration gathering on Saturday 4th June – food for 100 people, around £200;

beacon and fireworks;

a commemorative item (possibly a mug or a coin) for all village children under 16.

Total cost estimate: £563.24.

This was requested from the parish council, with the proviso that outside sponsorship and funding was also being sought.

It was AGREED that this support would be provided.

Also to be included on the next village hall meeting agenda.

16. Date of next meeting and items for the agenda

Thursday 12th May 2022; Annual Parish Council meeting, to follow the Annual Parish Meeting.

Meeting closed 8.04pm.