

**FOULDEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Meeting held 28 July 2022**

**MINUTES**

Present: M Christian, R Cooper, J Green (from Item 4), S McMahon,  
S Parker (Chairman), B Parnham (from Item 4), S Pye  
Absent: None (see Item 1 below).  
In attendance: Eight members of the public; District Councillor M Nairn;  
J Taylor (Clerk)

**1. To receive apologies (LGA1972, s85(1)(2))**

None required.

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

None.

**3. Public Participation**

A number of residents expressed severe concern regarding speeding in the village, especially on the road leading from Diddlington/A134. It was noted that, while NCC Highways followed the principle that until a number of people had been killed, nothing would be done about reducing the speed limit, there was nothing in legislation which referred to that criterion. District Councillor Nairn sympathised, and explained that there was also the cost of a Traffic Regulation Order required (several thousands of pounds), and that changes to speed limits were rare unless there was a significant change in the 'street scene', usually extra housing. Cllr Nairn recommended strongly that as many residents as possible write to their County Councillor, Cllr Fabian Eagle (fabian.eagle.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk), and to their MP, the Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss, to lobby for safety measures to be considered in the relevant areas.

Cllr McMahon undertook to lead on this issue, and to arrange a conversation with the Highways Area Manager in the first instance. Cllr Parker suggested that the parish council call a single-item Parish Meeting for residents to discuss the issue.

Unanimously AGREED.

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

Two expressions of interest had been received. It was unanimously AGREED to co-opt Bernice (Bee) Parnham. It was unanimously AGREED to co-opt Joseph Green. Ms Parnham and Mr Green signed the Declarations of Acceptance of Office before the Clerk, and joined the meeting.

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

Cllr Parker reported that a resident had volunteered to take over the SAM2 unit monitoring and moving. He thanked the resident.

**6. To receive reports for information only**

**a. Cllr Fabian Eagle (Norfolk County Council)**

None.

**b. Cllr Mike Nairn (Breckland District Council)**

Cllr Nairn reported that Elm House in Thetford opened in June, in what was the old Elm School. It is designed to provide temporary accommodation for homeless single people, couples and families. Further dwellings are under way, in partnership with Mid Broadland Housing. The District Council is providing support to Ukrainian families.

Breckland DC will be focusing on mental health issues and support over the coming months, in association with MIND. Links are on the BDC website.

BDC is starting to look at the 2023/24 Budget. Cllr Nairn awaits details of funding to support residents with the cost of living.

**c. Parish Council Clerk**

None.

**d. SAM2**

Report submitted and attached. Cllr Parker reviewed the results. He suggested that previous months' figures be collated ready for the EGM. An issue was raised of a vehicle blocking the detection capability of the SAM2 unit – Cllr Pye undertook to address this.

**e. Councillors**

Cllr Pye noted that a number of trees infected with honey fungus were being removed, including one which had been planted as a memorial. He was arranging for the refurbishment of a bench which would take the place of the tree. A new memorial plaque was awaited.

Cllr McMahon reported a nuisance bird scarer on the east of Foulden Road. Clerk sending a letter to the landowner.

**7. To approve Minutes of the Annual meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

It was AGREED to approve the Minutes (five in favour, two abstentions).

**RESOLVED: 22/07/22/07.**

**8. Planning**

None.

**9. Grant request: village hall social evening**

Not required.

**10. To consider report and recommendations on future legal formation of village hall organisation**

It was AGREED to re-register the charity as recommended by the external consultant, and to engage the consultant for the purpose.

**11. War memorial, to receive updates**

Cllr Parker reported that the appearance of the memorial was much improved.

Grants totalling £5,920 had been received, including from the War Memorial Trust, the Parochial Church Council, and from Elizabeth Summers. A criterion for the WMT grant is that the memorial must be maintained in future. Cllr Parker suggested that Spectrum Stone, which did the work, be engaged to inspect the memorial biennially.

**12. Funding: to include Empowering Communities Fund (Winter Resilience) and others**

A grid of possible funding sources had been produced. It was suggested that the information be circulated within the village, including via Foulden Tweets, on noticeboards, and on the Facebook page. It was agreed that updating the grid regularly would be a useful exercise. Regarding the Household Support Grant, via Norfolk Community Foundation, it was felt that it would be impossible for the council accurately to identify those in need of assistance.

**13. To consider and decide upon provision of a parish council website**

It was noted that the current website was in need of refreshing. A quote had been obtained from Steve Jackman, the website provider associated with Norfolk Parish Training and Support, for providing an accessibility-compliant Wix site. It was AGREED that Mr Jackman be engaged for that purpose.

**14. Emergency Plan/Community Resilience Plan/Welcome Pack**

Defer to next meeting. Cllr Christian noted that a template Emergency Plan was available from Norfolk Association of Local Councils.

**15. To consider NCC Parish Partnership Scheme 2023/24**

Council asked that quotes be obtained for three sets of white gates for installation at the entrances to the village. To be on next agenda.

**16. Finance**

**a) to agree financial statements and bank reconciliation**

AGREED.

**b) to note payments since last meeting**

Noted.

**c) outstanding payments**

Noted. A payment taken by Microsoft from the former clerk for software used by the council was unexpected. It was AGREED to refund the former clerk, with the proviso that the payment be investigated and stopped in future.

**17. To review Asset Register**

Register, with addition of high-viz jackets and litter pickers, was noted.

**Further Public Participation**

None.

**18. Date of next meeting and items for the agenda**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022. Cllr Parker presented apologies.

**Press and Public Excluded**

**19. To discuss and decide upon the probation of the clerk/RFO**

It was AGREED to confirm the probation.

Meeting closed 8.07pm.

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**Chairman**

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**Date**