

DRAFT MINUTES

**Ordinary Parish Council Meeting  
held at 7.00pm Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023, Foulden Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs Carole Balding; Joseph Green (Vice Chair, and in the Chair for the meeting); Simon McMahan; Bee Parnham; Billy Pye

In attendance: two members of the public; J A Lawson (Clerk).

1	<b>To receive and consider apologies (LGA1972, s85(1)(2))</b> R Cooper (unwell); S Parker (family/business commitment). Accepted.
2	<b>To receive declarations of interest in any items to be discussed and grant any dispensation requests</b> All declared on Precept decision; dispensations confirmed.
3	<b>To approve Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023</b> Minutes were approved.
4	<b>Reports</b> Norfolk County Councillor Fabian Eagle and Breckland District Councillor Ian Sherwood were unable to attend. SAM2: reports received. Thanks were formally noted to the resident responsible. Cllr Balding commented that it was gratifying that so few people appeared to be driving over the speed limit. Parish Councillors: Cllr Parnham reported on plans to set up a village hall management committee to run the hall, as the village hall manager role remained unfilled. She suggested a meeting be held after the Christmas break, to establish who might be interested and how best to split up the manager role between a number of people. Cllr McMahan commented that this would be a good way to get more people involved with the hall. <b>Action: Cllr Parnham</b> Cllr McMahan reported that the church's carol service was to be held the next Sunday, and a request had been made that a councillor give a reading. Cllr Balding agreed. <b>Action: Cllr Balding</b>
5	<b>Public Participation</b> A representative of the Fete organising committee requested that it be held on Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2024, with the facilities of the recreation ground and village hall made available. The request was noted and the booking made.
6	<b>Correspondence (if any)</b> A request to host metal detecting events was declined.
7	<b>Planning</b> A further application for change of use of the White Hart pub to residential had been submitted. It was noted that there was virtually no difference between this submission, and the ones previously rejected, which do not comply with national planning policy. It was AGREED that the parish council would formally object again. Cllr Green undertook to submit the objection. <b>Action: Cllr Green</b>
8	<b>To consider granting dispensation to councillors for non-attendance during six months (as required)</b> It was AGREED to grant a dispensation for non-attendance to Cllr Cooper, on the grounds of ill-health. It was AGREED to grant a dispensation for non-attendance to Cllr Parker on the grounds of family/business commitments.

9	<b>To note National Joint Council Pay Award for clerks and RFOs from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023</b> Increase of £1 per hour noted.
10	<b>To consider External Audit Report 2022/23</b> External Audit Report noted. No action required.
11	<b>To approve Payments and Bank Reconciliation to end November</b> Payments and reconciliation were approved and signed.
12	<b>To confirm Governing Document for Village Hall Charity with amendments for submission to Charity Commission re registration number 1205841</b> Confirmed.
13	<b>To consider and approve assets refurbishment/replacement 2024/25</b> It was noted that the noticeboards needed either refurbishment or replacement. A budget of £500 was suggested and agreed. Cllr Balding undertook to explore whether local businesses would be interested in sponsoring a noticeboard. <b>Action: Cllr Balding</b>
14	<b>To consider and approve Budget 2024/25</b> Approved.
15	<b>To consider and approve Precept Request 2024/25</b> It was proposed by Cllr Pye and seconded by Cllr Balding that the Precept request for 2024/25 be £9,122. Four in favour; one against. <b>AGREED.</b>
16	<b>To consider and adopt a policy to comply with biodiversity requirements for local authorities (Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006/Environment Act 2021)</b> It was <b>agreed</b> to adopt a policy appropriate to the land holdings of the parish council.
17	<b>To consider recruitment for Clerk to the Parish Council</b> It was <b>agreed</b> to engage Ms Sarah Hunt as a locum clerk from 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2024. Thanks were expressed by councillors to the current clerk for her service.
18	<b>Further Public Participation</b> None.
19	<b>Date of next meeting and items for next meeting</b> Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> or 27 <sup>th</sup> March was suggested. Later confirmed as 27 <sup>th</sup> .

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.