

FOULDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Ordinary Meeting held 7.00pm, 13th October 2022

MINUTES

Present: M Christian, R Cooper, J Green, S McMahon (Vice Chairman, in the Chair), B Parnham
Absent: S Parker, B Pye (see Item 1 below).
In attendance: Eight members of the public; County Councillor Fabian Eagle; J Taylor (Clerk)

1. To receive and accept apologies (LGA1972, s85(1)(2))
S Parker (work commitment); B Pye (work commitment).

2. To receive declarations of interest in any items to be discussed and grant any dispensation requests
None.

3. Public Participation

Residents brought up a number of points:

Use of village hall when the heating was inadequate. The village hall manager noted the problems with the existing heating which is compromised by the current subsidence, and confirmed that she was arranging for an additional heater, and other strategies to deal with the issue;

Action Plan. Cllr McMahon confirmed that a summary had been presented to Council back in the summer, but did acknowledge that progress had been slower than hoped for;

Ash trees adjacent the village hall land. It was generally agreed that these appeared to be becoming unsafe. It was suggested that a quote be obtained for a tree surgeon to survey all trees on parish council-associated land. Cllr Cooper agreed to do this;

Recreation Ground and dog use. It was suggested that dogs should be banned, due to the antisocial element of dog owners. This would go forward to a meeting of the Recreation Ground charity; clerk to establish the current legal situation.

4. To receive communications as the person presiding wishes to lay before the Council
None.

5. To receive reports for information only

a. Cllr Fabian Eagle (Norfolk County Council)

Cllr Eagle reviewed the current Avian Flu situation, which was increasingly serious. He urged all to follow DEFRA advice when in the countryside, including disinfection of footwear between moving from one area to another.

A resident's question to Cllr Eagle led to a discussion on grants for 'hot spots' via Norfolk Community Foundation. The village hall manager agreed to apply, to enable the village hall to be available to residents and others during daytime in the coldest months.

b. Cllr Mike Nairn (Breckland District Council)

Cllr Nairn had provided informal apologies for being unable to attend, and supplied a brief report via the Clerk. Breckland District Council had set aside a budget of £1.6million for the purchase of unused domestic premises, to provide accommodation for those made homeless.

c. Parish Council Clerk

Nothing not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

d. SAM2

Report submitted and reviewed. No particular problems identified.

e. Councillors

Cllr Christian noted that the Condolence Book for HM Queen Elizabeth II was currently being circulated around the village to those who had difficulty in accessing the Book at the church. Once all who wished to had signed, the Book would be archived with other parish council documentation.

6. To approve Minutes of the meeting held 28th July 2022

It was AGREED to approve the Minutes (all in favour).

7. Planning

None.

8. To discuss and approve training courses

Training courses were available from Norfolk Parish Training and Support, and from Norfolk Association of Local Councils. Councillors expressed interest in attending. To be determined.

9. To discuss and approve replacement of parish council laptop

Laptop had been failing for some time, which had been noted by previous clerks. Example costs for a new laptop versus a refurbished laptop had been provided. It was AGREED that the laptop be replaced and further AGREED that a refurbished laptop be purchased. A resident noted the cost of a new laptop; it was mentioned that professional support for transfer of information and set up for the refurbished option would be an advantage.

10. To discuss and decide upon motion regarding Foulden Village Hall Charity

Clerk read the motion (attached) proposing an update to the Governing Document. It was AGREED that the Governing Document be updated as specified (Cllr McMahon proposing; Cllr Green seconding; all in favour).

11. To discuss support for village fetes 2023, including use of Recreation Ground and Village Hall

It was AGREED that full support be given to requests for fetes and other uses of village facilities, to include the Dog Show. It was suggested that a general calendar for events be added to the council website.

Cllr Parnham mentioned the village Santa event in December, when Santa Claus would visit children. She requested that the parish council give a grant towards the event. It was AGREED that a grant of £100 be made.

12. Funding: to review grants and decide upon applications

Previously covered at Item 5.

13. Emergency Plan/Business Continuity/Community Resilience Plan and correlation with Welcome Pack

Cllr McMahon agreed that it was necessary to revive this initiative. Cllr Parnham agreed to move the project forward.

14. To consider NCC Parish Partnership Scheme 2023/24 and decide upon applications

Suggestions were footpath signs; Cllr Christian to take this forward. White gates at the entrances to the village; quotes awaited. Cllr McMahon to review the Parish Plan to see what was requested there. To be on next agenda.

15. Action Plan 2023/24 – to inform Budget and Precept discussions

It was suggested that the Chairman lead this, and perhaps hold a briefing session prior to the next meeting.

16. Finance

a) to agree financial statements and bank reconciliation

AGREED.

b) to note payments since last meeting

Noted.

c) outstanding payments

Noted.

d) To discuss and decide whether to exempt from SAAA process to appoint External Auditors

It was AGREED that the council should not exempt from the SAAA process.

17. Public Participation

Request for signs on roads with 60mph limits to indicate no footpaths. Clerk to investigate with NCC Highways.

Litterpick 2023 – flag this early on.

18. Date of next meeting and items for the agenda

Thursday 17th November 2022.

Grants/donations.

Meeting closed 8.05pm.

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Chairman

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Date