

# Foulden Parish Council

## MINUTES

Parish Council Meeting held at Foulden Village Hall

**11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7pm**

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Present: Mr. Stephen Parker; Mr. Stephen (Billy) Pye; Jayne Winterbone  
Mr. Richard Cooper; Ms. Marianne Christian; Mr. Neil West  
Mr. Mike Nairn (Breckland Council)  
Kathryn Cross (Parish Clerk)

In attendance: 10 Parishioners

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1. **Chair's opening remarks** Expressed shock and sympathy for the passing of Councillor Mike Cross and passed condolences on to the Parish Clerk and the rest of Mike's family. Also thanked Parish Clerk for being there at such difficult time. **ACTION**
  2. **Apologies for absence** Fabian Eagle who has a Charity Auction Meeting this evening.
  3. **Casual Vacancy** The death of Councillor Mike Cross has left a vacancy on the Parish Council. As there are elections to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, this does not need to be filled immediately. The redistribution of his tasks, i.e. Sewage, Street Lighting and Highways will be dealt with at the next meeting.
  4. **Parish Council Elections** These are to take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and anyone who wishes to stand, including present Councillors must submit their Nomination Forms by hand to Dereham any time from 20<sup>th</sup> March with deadline Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April for final submissions.  
The Parish Clerk confirmed that 'packs' including Nomination Forms had been sent to each Parish Councillor and these had also been circulated via Foulden Tweets. They are also available from the Parish Clerk.
  5. **Declarations of Interest** None
  6. **Minutes of Meetings** The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 were approved with a couple of provisos outlined by Neil West:-
    - a) Item 9: The Recreation Ground needs to be registered to the Recreation Ground Charity, *not* the Parish Council.
    - b) The Recreation Ground itself needs to be included on the Asset Register, not just the equipment as stated in the Minutes.It was agreed, that subject to the above being noted, the Minutes of Meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 were approved and passed and signed by the Chairman.

*Proposed: Jayne Winterbone*  
*Seconded: Neil West*
  7. **Public Participation** – Mr. Robin Mears stated that the Parochial Charity was now one person short. The Parish Council would normally nominate someone to sit on the Committee, not necessarily a member of the Parish Council.

## 8. Update from Mr. Mike Nairn – Breckland Council

- a) The budget has been set by Breckland. The Precept will be going up by £4.95; Council Tax bills will be coming out shortly – Norfolk Constabulary have put their charges up by 10%; the County Council have also increased theirs quite substantially.
- b) The consultation regarding the emerging Local Development Plan has come back from the Inspectorate with certain amendments. Foulton is covered by HOU5 and the following two points are disappointing:
  - i) *The sentence: “It can be demonstrated that there is appropriate support by the Parish Council” has been taken out.*
  - ii) *The sentence: “It is a minor development of appropriate scale and design to the settlement of up to three units” has been taken out to be replaced with: “it is of appropriate scale and design to the settlement”.*

One thing that is better and far more clearly defined is the sentence *“Opportunities of self-built dwellings that meet the criteria will be supported”.*

Mr. Nairn encouraged anyone who has any views or observations to communicate them to the Council.

Neil West stated that in the X125 they are predicting an increase in population in Breckland of 21,821. The average occupancy per dwelling is 2.3 which suggests the planning needs to allow for 9,487 houses, but in fact it has been decided to allow for 15,000. Mr. Nairn responded that this is something that is determined by the Building Inspectorate and also the DCLG.

9. **Recreation Ground:** Dog Fouling persists. Mr. Pye has been in contact with the Dog Warden who advises that the Parish Council has no legal right to put signs up as there has been no application for a Dog Control Order. He also advised that, as it was not a ‘right of way’ the gate could be locked to prevent access. However, it was considered that this would defeat the object of having a Recreation Ground.

The Dog Warden did visit the home of a person who Billy Pye and Richard Cooper had reported for failing to clear up after their dog. But he advises that the Parish Council needs to apply for a ‘Public Spaces Protection Order’ which would give the right to erect legal signs carrying penalties and fines. There would be a cost to this, which is presently unknown. Billy Pye to look into this and report back at next meeting.

There is also a problem with people taking a quad bike on to the grounds.

10. **Village Hall:** Rose Pye was absent from the meeting, but she had provided a written report which was read out by the Parish Clerk and is attached to these Minutes.

### Points arising:

- i) **Purchase of Paint agreed:** *Proposed Richard Cooper  
Secinded: Jayne Winterbone.*
- ii) **Handrail:** Jayne Winterbone’s partner to price up a metal handrail before making decision on which direction to take on this.
- iii) **Notice Board:** Quote received for £86.40 to erect new Notice Board in place of the one that has gone rotten and fallen down. Agreed to go ahead.  
*Proposed: Jayne Winterbone;  
Secinded: Billy Pye*
- iv) **Electricity Board:** There is no urgency to deal with this, it needs a cover which can be done next time any electrical work is undertaken.

Billy Pye

Rose Pye

Jayne Winterbone

Billy Pye

## 11. Land Registry Documents

**Village Hall:** Neil West had located the Title Deeds to the Village Hall which he passed to the Parish Clerk for filing away. (Note: Mr. Luc D’Lorio advised that the land on which the Village Hall stands was one of the parcels transferred to the Highway Surveyors Trust which may well mean that they have some claim over it; although this does not appear to be reflected in the Title Deed document).

**Recreation Ground:** Jayne Winterbone reported that to claim and register the Recreation Ground the Parish Council would have to do the following:

- i) Undertake a 'Land Charges Search' at a cost of £1.
- ii) Draw up a scale plan
- iii) Draw up, have witnessed and register Affidavits stating that the Parish Council are the rightful owners.
- iv) Produce documents proving that the Parish Council have maintained the land, provided equipment etc.
- v) Have the land valued.
- vi) Apply for a Possessory Freehold at a cost of between £30 and £200 (dependent upon the value of the land).
- vii) The Parish Council would hold the Possessory Freehold for twelve years. If in that time nobody else makes a claim then an application can be made for an 'Absolute Freehold'

Neil West queried whether the Conveyance that we hold would not be enough? Jayne Winterbone stated that it would not as we do not have the original. It is thought that 'Fields In Trust' would have the original as they provide the copy to the Parish Council. Mr. Luc D'Lorio stated that Andy Marrs transferred the land to the Playing Fields Association approximately 15 years ago. To his understanding they are therefore the Trustees of the land and as such, they have the legal title to the land. Mr. D'Lorio agreed to help Jayne Winterbone with this.

Jayne Winterbone

12. **Sewage Problems** A survey had been promised to be undertaken by the Water Board in August, to date only part of this has been done. They are planning to do a comprehensive survey and will send a report once complete. The main problem in Tallon End occurs when the manholes can't cope resulting in sewage over spilling with a danger of it entering the river. Anglian Water have advised that they are installing a warning system whereby if the pump stops they are notified straightaway.

Marianne Christian has received reports from a resident that this is not just happening when it is raining or when there is surface water. Problems are occurring even when it is dry. There was also a problem at no. 5 School Road, which resulted in a new lid on the inspection chamber.

13. **Street Lights:** Neil West picked up on Mike Cross' notes which confirmed that the sum of £2,385 for the installation of a street light in School Road near to the footpath from Walnut Close, had been agreed and included in the Precept. It was agreed that this should be progressed. Neil West to pick up. The Parish Clerk to allocate the original quote.

Neil West  
Parish Clerk

*Proposed: Neil West*

*Seconded: Billy Pye*

14. **Highways:** Hedges on Hythe Road that have been causing problems have been cut back and this problem is therefore now resolved.

15. **Defibrillator:** A Pro Forma invoice has been requested by the Parish Clerk; as soon as this is received a cheque will be raised for signature and the order will be officially placed.

16. **War Memorial restoration:** Jayne Winterbone reported that it is not Breckland Council who can take control, it is the County Council. She has been in touch with them in the hope that they will take responsibility; she is awaiting a response.

17. **To receive such communications as the person presiding wishes to lay before the Council, for information only.** None

18. **Finance:-**

- a. **Agree Financial Statements, bank reconciliations and authorise signing of orders for payment:** All reports and orders for payments approved by Neil West.

**Parish Council payments totalling £635.62 were approved**

*Proposed: Jayne Winterbone*

*Seconded: Richard Cooper*

**Village Hall payments totalling £299.19 were approved.**

*Proposed: Billy Pye*

*Seconded: Marianne Christian*

- b. **Internal Auditor:** The Chairman advised that Richard Chalkley from Gooderstone has agreed to take this on. He is an ex-bank manager and has undertaken this work before.
- c. **Bank Signatory:** A new signatory for the bank account is required to replace Mike Cross. It was agreed that Jayne Winterbone would take this on. The Parish Clerk will organise the Mandate to be completion and submission to the bank.

**Parish Clerk  
Jayne Winterbone**

*Proposed: Billy Pye*

*Seconded: Neil West*

**19. Planning**

**a. Consultation – Breckland Council’s Local Plan:**

Councillor Mike Nairn updated with reference to this in Item 8. It was agreed that the Parish Council should make representation. Marianne Christian and Neil West to draft a response on behalf of the Parish Council for distribution and approval to other members prior to lodging with Breckland.

**b. New Planning Applications:** None

**c. Planning Decisions:** An Appeal under Section 78 has been lodged in relation to 1 Beck Cottage application for proposed detached dwelling. A decision should be reached by 14<sup>th</sup> March.

**Neil West  
Marianne Christian**

**20. Any Other Business:** Carer’s Matter Norfolk is a service to support carers across Norfolk. The Parish Clerk had been asked by them to bring their support group to the attention of the Parish Council. Details will go on to the notice board.

**21. Date of Next Meeting:** To be advised.

Meeting Closed at: 7.55 pm

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019