

Foulden Parish Council

MINUTES

Parish Council Meeting held at Foulden Village Hall

13th January 2020 at 7:00 pm

Present: Councillors Stephen Parker (chairman); Stephen (Billy) Pye (vice-chairman); Jayne Winterbone; Neil West; Marianne Christian and Richard Cooper
Claire Prentice (Parish Clerk)

In attendance: 13 Parishioners

1. Chairman's opening remarks

The chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year. He then announced that the Clerk may leave early due to child being ill. In that event, the meeting will be recorded on Cllr Wests voice recorder. Meeting will be recorded as usual for the purposes to help with the notetaking.

2. To receive apologies and approve absences

Cllr Fabian Eagle may be late due to another meeting.

3. To accept resignation of vice chairman

The chairman has received a letter of resignation as vice-chairman from Cllr S Pye, who confirmed at the meeting that this remained the case. The chairman expressed that with regret it has been accepted.

4. To appoint new vice chairman

The chairman expressed that historically the position of vice-chairman of Foulden Parish Council is offered to the longest standing councillor.

- Cllr Winterbone to become vice-chairman

Proposed: Cllr Christian

Seconded: Cllr Cooper

5. To receive declarations of interest from members in any items to be discussed.

Cllr Parker has a registered interest in agenda item 15 and will step down from chairman in that agenda item.

6. To receive expressions of interest for the vacancy of Parish Councillor

Received and Cllr R Pye was appointed.

For: Cllr Winterbone, Cooper, West, and Christian

Against: None

Abstaining: Cllr S.Pye

Cllr R Pye will continue as acting Village Hall Manager on a voluntary/unpaid basis and her contract of employment will cease with immediate effect.

Declaration and registration of interests were signed and completed.

7. Public Participation. (max. 15 minutes)

A question was raised regarding the community speed watch group. Parishioner was advised that all responsibility was passed over and is now outside the realms of the council. Parishioner raised the issue of flooding and drainage at Becketts End. They have reported it to highways and sent a copy to the Parish Clerk.

8. To receive reports from

a) Cllr Fabien Eagle

To report once he arrives.

The forthcoming budget of the County Council, there has been some delay to the consultation due to the election. They are proposing to raise £427 million in council tax receipts for this year, this will be a total rise by 3.99%. 1.99% of that is for general council tax and 2% under the government audit - social care. Last year £427million was spent on adult social care alone, to put it in context the council tax is paying just for adult social care without getting to the potholes at Becketts End. Then there is £200 million a year on children's services. County Council are spending over a billion pounds a year on services and that needs funding from the government, rental income from County Council firms, shares and companies that they own. If they don't get that money this is the position, we are in. The government is now giving an extra £1 billion to councils. County Councils share of it is 17.6 million shared between children and adults social care services. Due to risings, there are increased pressures as they have got to find an extra £34 million. For every penny on the national living wage puts £200 million on their care budget. So what the government gives in one hand is taken away another way. They are spending a lot more with capital and borrowing more money to try and do things smarter and save money by continued reinvestment. They have lost since 2010/11 £200 million from government funded council allowance.

Coming back to roads, County Council receive half of what any metropolitan borough would receive and are in same situation as any other rural county. The infrastructure of their roads are better than in this area, which are essential old cart tracks with a layer of tarmac over. In this day and age, with heavier vehicles and continual use there is a need for more money to be spent on them than a metropolitan borough, so it should really be the other way around.

When questioned Cllr Eagle went on to report that the pothole trial was shelved due to insurance issues. However, should it become an issue he may push for the project to be revisited as he had the highest turn out in Norfolk.

b) Cllr Mike Nairn

The long-awaited Local Plan which has been in formulation and formation since 2014 and was finally adopted on the 28th Nov. It does not sit exactly where they would like it to sit. Theoretically as of the 28th November, until October 2020 they have their 5-year land supply. However, the planning inspectorate insisted that as soon as the plan is adopted, they start reviewing it. That review must be completed by 2023, effectively that means they have their land supply until 2023. There is HOU4 and HOU5, Cllr Nairn felt they were abused to the point that they are not fit for purpose, but they conform to the national planning bureau. It is available online and there is a possibility that parishes may be getting a hard copy.

Breckland are still finalising their budget and precept, it has been before overview and scrutiny committee and has been before cabinet. There is no doubt it will be coming forward before full council towards the end of this month. He thinks it will be the normal raise, which is £5 on a Band B per annum which is the legal maximum. He gathers that the police precept is going up and the County precept is going up proportionately as well.

c) Parish Clerk

Read and published separately

d) Village Hall Manager

Read and published separately

Cllr R Pye elaborated on the point of dykes to say that today she had contacted county council regarding the verge on Vicarage Road. She reported it in July last year and they informed her they were trying to locate the owners of the land adjacent to the dyke. Anyone who has walked along there will be aware that it is grossly overgrown - there is rubbish, debris and other things. The chap she spoke to was shocked that nothing had been done and he will chase it and let her know the outcome in the next few days. She hopes that they will get some men. It is no good just pruning the trees it is the actual dyke that needs sorting and she believes there is a covert that is broken halfway up on the verge.

Cllr Parker informed everyone the route the ditch follows. This then led Cllr R Pye to say that a resident along that route had spoken to her of issues with it. The dyke at the back of her cottage has not been addressed since she moved in and it is affecting her land

A parishioner raised the issue of sewerage and it is overflowing into the ditch at Tallons End, especially in regard to approx. 3 weeks ago.

- Cllr Cooper to write to Anglian water and send a copy to the Clerk to help build a case.

e) Councillors

Cllr Christian reported that she had received a call from County Council that they are going to extend the pavement to the soft road outside 60 School Road. Where a resident had a nasty fall and where a resident also has to wheel her relative along the road instead of on the footpath as it is so unsafe. So, County Council have looked back on their mapping service and it appears that there was a soft constructed area there leading to the driveway, so will make good as before. It has been programmed as a low priority but will be installed in the near future. Cllr Christian will monitor and chase as necessary.

9. To decide on any points to be taken forward to the next meeting from the reports.

- Cllr S Pye to look into the mould issue in the parish council notice board.

10. Minutes of the last meeting of council held on 11th November 2019.

a) To approve request to amend 9th March to 2nd March and 9th November to 2nd November

Approved.

- Minute in this meeting

b) Cllr S Pye to continue responsibility for recreation ground (for information only)

Apologies given.

- Minute in this meeting.

c) To amend and approve minutes accordingly

Approved and signed. No amendments.

Proposed: Cllr West
Seconded: Cllr Christian

11. Recreation Ground

a) To decide if height of new posts should remain or be adjusted

To be addressed if, as and when damage occurs.

b) Discuss any other issues

Bottom of fence posts are suffering damage from strimmer
People are continuing to take dogs on the recreation ground.

- Cllr Pye to inform clerk who has been seen on the rec. ground and clerk to send out letters.

12. Village Hall

a) To discuss and approve maintenance agreement for CCTV following from previous meeting

Not approved

- Cllr S. Pye just to clean cameras when required.

b) Subsidence and insurance following previous meeting.

Assessor appointment arranged for 23rd January.

c) Electricity renewal

- Change supply to EDF energy

Proposed: Cllr West
Seconded: Cllr Winterbone

d) To receive costs and approve purchase of a dishwasher.

- Cllr R Pye to purchase dishwasher not exceeding £350

Proposed: Cllr West
Seconded: Cllr Winterbone

e) To receive costs and approve purchase of installation of an external tap.

- Cllr S Pye to purchase and install tap which can be turned on/off internally at an approximate cost of £10

Proposed: Cllr Christian
Seconded: Cllr Winterbone

13. Update re. Land Registry Documents – Recreation Ground

Awaiting land valuation.

14. War Memorial restoration

a) Update

Instructed restoration firm and are awaiting them to commence.

b) Discuss and decide on celebrating completion of restoration.

- Cllr R Pye to arrange community event in line with grant available, but not marking restoration. (item to fall under village hall in future agendas)

15. Former Highways Surveyors Land. To discuss and decide on any action to be taken.

Item chaired by Cllr Winterbone.

- Permanent endowment to be £21'650

Proposed: Cllr West
Seconded: Cllr Christian

- OS 191 to be removed from asset register and village hall land to show under FHS only
- No other action to be taken

16. Village Sign, to discuss and decide on action to be taken.

- Cllr S Pye to repair

17. Budget and precept – to discuss and approve the budget and precept figure.

- No amendment made to budget
- Precept set at £8400

Proposed: Cllr Winterbone
Seconded: Cllr West

18. Policies and procedures

a) VH Terms and Conditions and Hire agreement

- Amend wording to terms and conditions.
- Pending amendments all documents approved and accepted

Proposed: Cllr Cooper
Seconded: Cllr Christian

19. To receive such communications as the person presiding wishes to lay before the Council for information only

None

20. Finance: -

a) Agree financial statements, bank reconciliation and authorise signing of orders for payment.

approved and signed

21. To consider planning applications.

a) Proposed footpath relating to School Road development

Cllr Christian expressed concern over the construction of the path, as she is aware that this construction has proved challenging and costly for the National Trust.

Those in favour for the path to follow the route as shown?

For: Cllr Winterbone, Cooper, West, S.Pye and R.Pye

Against: None

Abstaining: Cllr Christian

Those in favour of the path being fenced?

For: Cllr S.Pye and R.Pye

Against: Cllr Winterbone, Cooper, WestCllr

Abstaining: Cllr Christian

- Developer to address the following:
 - a. Material to be used on path, preferably hard and long lasting
 - b. How the path would be lit
 - c. Where the money could be reallocated (from the path not being fenced)

b) Other

None

Meeting Closed at: 8.35 pm

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 2nd March 2020

Signed

Date