

Foulden Parish Council

MINUTES

Parish Council Annual Meeting held via zoom

(remote meetings are permitted until May 2021 under THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND POLICE AND CRIME PANELS (CORONAVIRUS) (FLEXIBILITY OF LOCAL AUTHORITY AND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETINGS) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2020)

11th May 2020 at 7:00 pm

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

In attendance: 7 Parishioners

1. Election of chair (council may decide to refrain from this agenda item under the new coronavirus legislation)

- All councillors agreed to elect chair and vice-chair.
- Cllr Parker to continue as chair

Proposed: Cllr S. Pye
Seconded: Cllr Christian

2. Election of vice-chair (council may decide to refrain from this agenda item under the new coronavirus legislation)

- Cllr Winterbone to continue as vice-chair

Proposed: Cllr West
Seconded: Cllr R. Pye

3. Chairman's opening remarks

Welcomed all present and made everyone aware that not all were familiar with using zoom. He went on to ask that anyone wishing to speak, if they could raise their hand and he would try and bring them in accordingly.

4. To receive apologies and approve absences

Cllr Cooper due to technology issues.
Cllr Nairn may not attend due to being unwell

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

Cllr Parker declared an interest regarding item agenda 10b and 11. Cllr Winterbone to chair these items.

6. Public Participation. (max. 15 minutes)

A parishioner wished to make everyone aware of where they were in regard to keeping the pub open. Cllr Parker handed meeting over to vice chair due to declared interest.

Five parishioners have got together and formed the White Hart Inn Community Asset Group. From that they are setting themselves up as a beneficial society, which will be the instrument to make the bid and hopefully buy the pub on behalf of the village. Their basic aim was to keep the pub open and they strongly believe the pub has the means to pay its way. They have shown this to themselves based on the evidence other people have given them, (previous landlords) that this can be done. Removing the middleman makes this more of a complete case. They are currently having an independent valuation done, as they believe the current price is in error and has been based on a domestic dwelling not a commercial premises. Due to the current Covid-19 an onsite valuation is not possible. So, two members have that morning (adhering to social distancing) taken photos and videos to submit, to allow for a desktop valuation. They believe the next stage, already having over 27 households supporting an application for asset of community value which should buy them some time. After that they will be looking for additional members to join the beneficial society and start raising finances from various sources, to buy the pub and get it back open again. They believe that this venture is supported by various councils (Breckland etc.) and hopes this is the case. This is very much a pub for the village and would like to make clear it is not in competition with the village hall.

Cllr R Pye responded that whilst she supports the pub and the village, she will not do it to the detriment of the hall.

No further comments

7. To receive reports from

a) Cllr Fabien Eagle

Absent, none received

b) Cllr Mike Nairn

Cllr Parker reported on behalf of Cllr Nairn due to absence. Cllr Nairn has opened up a facebook group - Bedingfeld Ward BDC, which he is keeping updated with information from government and other sources as it comes in.

c) Parish Clerk

Published separately.

d) RFO

Published separately.

e) Village Hall Manager

Published seperately

Went on to say the situation with the hall floor. It was omitted due to waiting for the subsidence report. Once the work for subsidence is completed, we can move on to the floor. An independent builder came and had a look at it, he has suggested that it is a very expensive job because the flooring should be removed to look underneath. If it is serious it would mean the whole floor would have to be dug up, which could amount to thousands and thousands of pounds. The VHM is of the mind to wait until the subsidence work is done and get two or three people in and maybe a structural engineer and maybe give us some more details.

f) Councillors

Cllr West gave an update report on highways from the minutes of the last meeting. Even though highway services did not feel that the road surface warranted repair between the two bridges in Didlington, they went ahead and done it anyway. Cllr West believes there is some more work there planned due to markings on the road. He followed up with the highways engineer regarding road markings between the A134 and Oxborough. There was no progress on this as the road is too narrow in most places to have a central marking. In addition to this Norfolk Council have adopted the findings from a transport for London survey which suggests removing markings can reduce speed by 30%.

Cllr Christian reported regarding the footpath outside no 60 School Road. It has now been repaired

g) Webmaster

Published separately

- Flyers to be circulated around the village to promote the website at a later date.
- Documents on site to be changed to un-editable

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

None

9. To approve minutes of: -

a. meeting of council held on 2nd March 2020.

approved – to be signed at the next ‘physically’ held meeting

Proposed: Cllr West
Seconded: Cllr Christian

b. Extraordinary meeting which was not held in public due to outbreak of covid-19

approved – to be signed at the next ‘physically’ held meeting

Proposed: Cllr West
Seconded: Cllr R Pye

10. White Hart Pub, discuss and decide on any action which may be required (Cllr West and Cllr Winterbone)

Cllr West asked for this item on the agenda for two reasons.

Firstly, to give the community group a chance to give some information to see what they were doing and he is very pleased they are moving forward with it.

Secondly, he was concerned by some of the responses he got from Foulden tweets as it seemed to suggest that the Parish council were lacking in moving this forward previously. He just wanted to comment that immediately after the pub closed last March there was a parish council meeting and it was thought that it would be raised then by the public and was not. There was another parish council meeting in May as well as the parish meeting which was an ideal opportunity for it to be raised by residents who may have wished something like this to be progressed. In fact there were a further two meetings last year, the first time the issue was raised was January this year when Cllr Nairn suggested registering it as a community asset

might be something the council look at. It was then put on the agenda for March and you can see from the minutes that there was no correspondence suggesting the Parish council should progress this, so the parish council quite rightly put that one to bed. He just wanted to make that clear and put on record that the council can only do what people ask them to do. If no one asks, we can not do it.

Cllr Christian is abstaining from supporting the pub. This is because it is a pub and she is a safeguarding trustee for a charity which supports vulnerable families and she feels it would not be right to support a pub.

11. New notice board, to receive updates (Cllr West)

- Cllr S Pye to cost and propose design of notice board, similar to the one sited on the village hall and send details to clerk.
- Clerk to contact owners in regard to notice board proposal.
- Clerk to apply to county council for permission to erect board.

12. Neighbourhood plan and parish plan, to receive updates (Cllr West & Cllr Christian)

Due to current situation there has been little progress and may be a while until there is.

13. Audit to discuss and decide on actions to be taken (Clerk)

- Cllr Parker to contact internal auditor to allow them to liaise directly with clerk.

14. Bi-monthly meeting, to discuss and decide on a meeting in July (Cllr Christian)

- Monday 6th July 2020 meeting agreed
- July meeting to be included on an annual basis.

15. Village Hall

a. Licences going forward - to receive report and recommendations from working party and decide on action/s to be taken (Cllr West)

- In future a community music license can be applied for under ppl prs exemption that the running of the hall is not a statutory duty of the parish council. Cllr West to forward all correspondence to clerk including a letter from county council stating the hall is not a statutory duty of the council.

Proposed: Cllr Winterbone

Seconded: Cllr R Pye

- Premises license to not include alcohol.

Proposed: Cllr West

Seconded: Cllr R Pye

b. Celebratory event commemorating the 75th anniversary of VE Day to receive updates and decide on use of grant funds (Cllr R Pye)

- Defer decision until next year depending on deadline date for the grant

c. Loss of income, to discuss and decide on any action to be taken.

- Clerk to apply for Covid-19 business grant

d. Risk Assessment to discuss and approve

- Clerk to make council aware when the partnership grant becomes available – this is in regards to the village hall car park.
- Amendment to be made regarding chair trolley. This should now reflect that it has a capacity of 10 chairs.

16. Insurance, to discuss and approve

- 3 year contract approved at a cost of £580.53 per year.

Proposed: Cllr Winterbone
Seconded: Cllr West

17. Covid-19 to discuss and decide on any actions to be taken in response to covid-19

Cllr Winterbone felt it should be recorded that the parish council haven't made a separate response as there has been so much on offer from Breckland council, other charitable organisations and statutory organisations, that Foulton parish council would only have duplicated what was already available. Apart from disseminating the information we have received, it is felt the council has made a suitable response.

Cllr R Pye just wished to make it known that she has been a point of contact from the village to the covid-19 co-ordinator at Breckland council.

- Discuss action to be taken regarding the panto at the July meeting.

18. Policies and procedures

a. Standing Orders to approve, adopt and set a review date

Approved and adopted. To be reviewed May 2021

Proposed: Cllr West
Seconded: Cllr Winterbone

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

20. Finance: -

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

Approved and signed.

21. To consider planning applications.

None

Cllr West informed the council that there is a delay regarding the change of use for the pub, mainly due to the public notice only recently being put up.

22. To decide by resolution to exclude public for agenda item 23

"Pursuant to section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960 it is resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press leave the meeting during consideration of item 23

Meeting closed to public at 8.15pm

23. Clerk holiday and sickness to discuss and decide on procedures (Cllr Christian)

- Cllr Christian to be emergency contact in the clerks absence with an out of office response on clerks e-mail. Cllr Christian to also be able to agree emergency expenditure in the same period with chair (this is inline with the councils adopted financial regulations)
- Clerks holiday to be agreed with chair via e-mail.

Meeting Closed at: 8.21 pm

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 6th July 2020

Signed

Date

DRAFT