

Minutes (draft unless signed) of **Foulsham Parish Council** Meeting  
held on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024** at **19:30**  
in the **New Frost Hall**

**Cllrs Present:** G. Fearn (chair) L. Riddett C. Ferris M. Payne J. Duck  
C. Taylor

**In attendance:** Parish Clerk Cllr G. Peck Cllr D. Thomas

**Apologies:** S. Stilgoe

**10/24 Declaration of Interests:** None.

**11/24 Minutes of previous meeting, held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024:** Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting was proposed by Cllr Ferris and seconded by Cllr Duck.

**12/24 Matters Arising**

**Grounds Maintenance Contract:** It was confirmed that, as no competitive quotations had been received, the contract has been awarded to Leeroy's Services.

**Marketplace Lamp Post:** The Clerk advised that Zurich Insurance have agreed to pay the £4,430 (exclusive of VAT and £100 policy excess) for the replacement of the marketplace lamp post. They have advised that the Parish Council should review the streetlight values on the asset register to ensure that they are not underinsured.

**Street Light Energy Costs:** The Clerk advised that the latest electricity invoice of £425 was likely to be the highest and that invoices from the following month should begin to fall in line with seasonal variation. The Clerk has requested quotations from three alternative energy providers. It was noted that the unmetered supply certificate had not been updated since 2005.

**Action:** Clerk to liaise with Westcotec to update the UMS certificate in line with LED upgrades.

**13/24 Accounts**

<b>EXPENDITURE main account</b>			
-	E.On – Electricity for pavilion (01 – 31 Jan 24)		£ 28.28
-	URM (UK) Ltd – Glass collection		£ 46.08
-	M Smith Clerk's salary (18.01.24 to 28.02.24) (6 weeks)	£ 360.00	
	Internet and phone expenses (Jan/Feb)	£ 20.00	
	Postage stamps (8 x 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	£ 6.00	
		↳	£ 386.00
-	nPower – electricity for street lights (Jan 2024)		£425.21
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£ 885.57</b>

Approval of the accounts was proposed by Cllr Riddett and seconded by Cllr Ferris.

#### 14/24 CPRE Membership

Having enquired of CPRE, they advise that the benefits of membership include:

- Membership of local group
- Countryside Voices magazine twice a year
- Discounted entry to over 100 houses, gardens and attractions

The cost of membership is £60 per year.

Cllr Peck added that they can also provide free advice and support with difficult planning applications. The councillors were asked to consider whether membership would benefit the Parish Council with a view to making a decision at the next meeting.

**Action:** Clerk to circulate email from CPRE

#### 15/24 Comments from the Public

The Clerk advised that the following matters had been raised by residents:

**Skateboard facilities.** Parents of children at Little Acorns feel that their older children would benefit from improved skateboarding facilities. It was noted that the Parish Council had no available funding, but had no objections in principle. It was suggested that there may be grants available and the parents may wish to form a small working group to explore and progress this. It was also noted that Reepham and Cawston are currently undertaking similar projects.

**Speeding Traffic on Wallers Lane.** Concerns have been voiced about vehicles using Wallers Lane as a rat run since the cutting back of foliage along the lane and it has been suggested that a 5mph limit be imposed. It was noted that speeding vehicles should be reported to the police.

**Lorries and Tractors on Station Road.** Concerns have been voiced about the size and weight of vehicles using Station Road and the High Street and the damage that is being caused to neighbouring properties.

**Use of Recreation Ground by Dog Walkers.** A resident of Bexfield has asked why dogs are not permitted on the recreation ground and whether this rule could be revoked or relaxed. It was noted that the recreation ground is intended for sports, exercise and play and, as such, not suited to the exercising of dogs. It was noted that the village is surrounded by ample footpaths and countryside suited to the exercising of dogs.

#### 16/24 Any other business

- The Clerk reported that the zip wire was due to be repaired on 29<sup>th</sup> Feb.
- The Clerk reported that there has been no interest from the public to help with the refurbishment of the pavilion.
- Cllr Peck confirmed that he had discussed the damaged hedgerow and street furniture with Sarah Price (NCC Highways) and that they will be replacing the footpath sign in due course. If this happens again, they will erect a metal post and will claim costs from the landowner.
- Cllr Peck reported that the CC budget had been agreed last week and would result in a 4.99% rise in the CC element of the council tax. The Highways funding allocation has reset and can now be used for environmental projects as well as highways projects. Councillors were urged to put in any requests for funding soon, before the allocation is depleted.
- Cllr Thomas reported the DC budget would result in a 3.8% increase in the DC element of the council tax (approx. £5 per year for band D). Reports of speeding on the high

street have been received from residents. A reminder that the member's grant is still available (details on noticeboard) and that the next surgery is to be held in the New Frost Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> March from 10am to 12 noon.

- Cllr Riddett reported that the pavement on Station Road (opposite Hendry Builders) is overgrown with brambles, as is the section of pavement near the electricity substation. It was noted that the annual litter pick is scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> March.
- Cllr Duck reported that there is an old Parish Council fly tipping sign on the corner of Peddlars Turnpike and Reepham Road. The sign has seen better days and would benefit from refurbishment.

**Action:** Chair to consider options for repair/replacement.

- It was noted that no further news had been received in respect of the proposed car parking at the rear of the school.
- It was confirmed that the cost of village gates was £3,000 and available as a parish partnership scheme. However, if the Parish Council were unable to fund their 50% Cllr Peck could fund this portion from the highways budget.

**Meeting closed at 20:00**

**The next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 19:30**