

Minutes (draft unless signed) of **Foulsham Parish Council** Meeting  
held on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023** at **19:30**  
in the **New Frost Hall**

<b>CLLrs Present:</b>	G. Fearn (chair)	L. Riddett	C. Taylor	J. Duck
<b>In attendance:</b>	Parish Clerk	Cllr G. Peck	Cllr D. Thomas	1 local resident
<b>Apologies:</b>	M. Payne	C. Ferris	PC Colin Bailey	S. Stilgoe

**42/23 Declaration of Interests:** None.

**43/23 Minutes of previous meeting, held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023:** Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting was proposed by Cllr Riddett and seconded by Cllr Taylor.

**44/23 Matters Arising**

**Willow tree, Station Road.** The Clerk reported that he had acquired a copy of the lease between the Parish Council and the New Frost Hall Committee and that it indicates that responsibility for maintenance of the “property” (which includes the land on which the New Frost Hall sits) lies with the New Frost Hall Committee and not the Parish Council. The Clerk will raise this with the Committee when it next meets on 11<sup>th</sup> December. Cllr Peck confirmed that the drain had been cleared of all roots and that Highways would continue to monitor the drain and clear it as necessary.

**45/23 Accounts**

**EXPENDITURE**

-	E.On – electricity for pavilion (01 – 31 Oct 23)		£ 28.31
-	Westcotec – Lantern replacement and re-wire of column		£ 300.00
-	M Smith Clerk’s salary (26.10.23 to 06.12.23) (6 weeks)	£ 360.00	
	Internet and phone expenses (Nov)	£ 10.00	
		↳	£ 370.00
-	nPower – electricity for street lights (Oct 2023)		£ 330.15
-	Cozens (UK) Limited – call out to make safe damaged lamp post		£ 402.00
-	Leeroy’s Services – grounds maintenance #3 of 3		£ 1,633.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£ 3,063.46</b>

**EXPENDITURE**

-	Royal British Legion – 2 x wreath and donation		£ 50.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£ 50.00</b>

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

**46/23 Lamp Post on Marketplace**

The Clerk reported that one of the Victorian style lamp posts on the marketplace had been damaged by a vehicle and that the column had been removed and made safe by Cozens.

The quotation to replace the damaged lamp post is £5,034. It was noted that the total cost to replace a similar lamp post last year was £1,120.

**Action:** Clerk to query quotation with Cozens and seek alternative prices.

#### **47/23 Precept for 2024/25**

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council has been invited to submit its application for the 2024/25 precept. There had not been time to produce detailed figures, but it was noted that basic annual spend was in the region of £14k and that the current precept is £11.5k. Applications must be submitted by 12<sup>th</sup> January.

**Action:** Clerk to prepare and circulate detailed figures for consideration.

#### **48/23 Football Pitch Enquiry**

The Clerk reported that a request to use the football pitch for training had been received from the Fakenham U11 team, but they have subsequently found alternative premises for the current season. They may wish to use the facilities next season.

**Action:** Clerk to review electricity costs

#### **49/23 Grounds Maintenance Contract**

The Clerk reported that the quotation for next year's contract from Leeroy's Services was £5,100 to maintain the same level of service. It was noted that the Parish Council had received interest from another contractor. It was suggested that the football pitch would benefit from being rolled a couple of times.

**Action:** Clerk to request quotation from alternative contractor and request price for rolling the pitch

#### **50/23 Comments from the Public**

A suggestion was made to move the glass recycling banks from their current location on Station Road to the Queen's Head car park, thus making them more accessible and increasing usage and recycle credits. It was also suggested that a cardboard facility might be more useful than a paper facility.

**Action:** Clerk to investigate moving the banks

#### **51/23 Any other business**

Cllr Peck advised that the County Deal had been accepted but was subject to a final vote on the 12<sup>th</sup> December. As part of the deal there will be an elected leader and this will be timed to coincide with the 2025 elections.

Cllr Peck advised that central Government had agreed to fully fund the Western Link, but that delays due to legal challenges could result in the County Council still having to find funding.

Cllr Thomas reported that 3 parishioners had attended his surgery and subjects for discussion included the TH Blythe site development and drainage/blocked drains.

**Meeting closed at 20:15**

**The next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 19:30**