

Minutes (draft unless signed) of **Foulsham Parish Council** Meeting
held on **Wednesday 15th February 2023** at **19:30**
in the **New Frost Hall**

Present: G. Fearn L. Riddett J. Duck C. Ferris
C. Taylor M. Payne

In attendance: Parish Clerk Cllr. G. Peck K. Vanham

Apologies: S. Stilgoe

059. Declaration of Interests: None.

060. Minutes of previous meeting, held on 4th January 2023: Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting was proposed by C Ferris and seconded by J Duck.

061. Matters Arising

062. Accounts

062.1 INCOME

-	None	£ 0.00
	TOTAL INCOME	£ 0.00

062.2 EXPENDITURE (MAIN ACCOUNT)

-	M Smith Clerk's salary (05.01.2023 to 15.02.2023) (6 weeks)	£ 360.00
	Internet & phone expenses (Jan)	£ 10.00
	Windows 10 Home product key for laptop	£ 8.89
	Collection of defibrillator from Longwater depot	£ 14.85
	Replacement battery for iPad SP1 defibrillator	£ 211.14
		£ 604.88
-	Leeroy's Services – Grounds Maintenance Q4 of 4 - 2022	£ 1,225.00
-	Mr G. Fearn – trees from NCC and padlock for memorial	£ 89.95
-	URM – collection of glass for recycling	£ 38.40
-	Npower – Electricity for street lights (Dec 22)	£ 180.55
-	Npower – Electricity for street lights (Jan 23)	£ 175.12
-	E.On – Electricity for pavilion (01 Dec to 31 Dec)	£ 28.30
-	E.On – Electricity for pavilion (01 Jan to 31 Jan)	£ 28.31
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE (Main Account)	£ 2,370.51

Approval of the accounts was proposed by C Ferris and seconded by J Duck.

063. Grounds Maintenance Contract

It was noted that the renewal quotation for the Grounds Maintenance Contract was £6,000 which represents an increase of over 22%. It was also noted that the contract price would remain unchanged at £4,900 even if the service level was reduced.

As the contract represents the Parish Council's largest expenditure at around 50% of annual budget, it was requested that the contract renewal be placed on hold whilst alternative quotations are obtained.

Action: Clerk to obtain alternative quotations.

M Payne requested a copy of the grounds maintenance contract.

Action: Clerk to circulate copy of contract.

064. War Memorial Maintenance

The Clerk reported that Jenny Guymer had agreed to voluntarily look after the gravelled area surrounding the war memorial and would be happy to clean the gravel before deciding whether more was needed. G Fearn confirmed that he would obtain a suitable sieve.

Action: Clerk to notify J Guymer and attach new padlock to memorial gate.

The councillors confirmed that they were happy for the maintenance of the marketplace flowerbeds to continue at £50 per month if Margaret is happy with this.

Action: Clerk to confirm with Margaret.

065. Pavilion Condition and Water Leak

The Clerk reported that there had been a leak on the mains water supply to one of the WCs in the pavilion. This is from a plastic elbow which has become displaced, possibly from freezing. It was also noted that there had been no response from the community to the calls for help with the pavilion reparations.

Action: G Fearn to obtain replacement elbow.

066. Comments from the Public

G Peck introduced Kelly Vanham who is standing as a candidate in the forthcoming District Council elections.

067. Any other business

The Clerk reported that the defibrillator had been used twice in January. After the first incident, it turned up several days later at the Longwater Ambulance Depot. Having had new pads and battery fitted, the defibrillator was called upon again within a couple of days, but had allegedly been stolen from its case. The empty case turned up at the Longwater Depot and the defibrillator reappeared in its cabinet 24 hours later without explanation.

Action: Clerk to investigate changing the security code.

The Clerk reported that the new sheeting on the skateboard ramp was beginning to warp and buckle, despite being less than a year old.

Action: Clerk to contact supplier.

The Clerk reported that one of the new "No Dog" signs which was recently fitted at the recreation ground had been stolen.

Action: Clerk to investigate cost of painting signage on the pavement.

It was noted that the local elections were due to take place on the 4th May 2023.

The Clerk reported that residents had commented about the timber and concrete rubbish which is still beside the pavilion.

C Taylor asked if the Parish Council would be prepared to fund the £22 cost of closing Claypit Road for the Coronation Street Party. This was agreed.

Action: Clerk to make payment for road closure.

G Fearn suggested that the bus shelter could be placed on the recreation ground and that a local builder could be asked to move it. Concern was raised about removing it from its current location and whether this would require permission from Highways.

Action: Clerk to ask Highways.

It was noted that several large “cash” expenses had recently had to be funded by members of the PC because it wasn’t possible to pay them by cheque.

Action: Clerk to enquire of the bank to see if there are alternative payment methods available to the PC for such purchases.

G Peck confirmed that Broadland District Council was not raising council tax this year, but that Norfolk County Council would be raising it by the maximum permitted 4.99%.

Meeting closed at 20:15

The next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 29th Mar 2023 at 19:30