

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

FOULSHAM PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2024

Looking through recent past reports, it seems that this last year has seen little change or improvement since the start of COVID.

This last 12 months have been quiet, as in previous years, with very little to discuss or debate. Early on in this session someone managed to bend another Victorian lamppost in the marketplace. No witnesses as before. The cost of £5,034 for a replacement is to be largely borne by the insurance. This is the second time in 12 months we have had a lamppost damaged in the marketplace. Also, at some point during the last 12 months the internal fittings of a streetlight on Gun Street have been removed.

The marketplace flower beds have been renovated due to people trampling over the new plants. We also had the hedge and trees on Twyford lane damaged whilst being trimmed. This included the street furniture and stakes for the three young trees planted 2 years ago. These costs have contributed to an increase the precept this year.

After a survey of the village street lights, the PC agreed upon a phased programme of replacing sodium lights for LED lights. At the same time we looked at the power consumption. The old UMS certificate was based on 26W and 70W sodium lamps whereas the new LED lamps are rated 18W. The updated UMS certificate, backdated by 6 months, resulted in a rebate of £937 and reduced costs going forward.

As a PC we are still supporting the Campaign Against New Town or "CANT", although this has been rather quiet of late.

The recreation ground equipment has been inspected and serviced. Repairs and changes have been incorporated where needed, including a replacement zip wire.

We do need to have a small amount of maintenance work done on the pavilion if anyone would like to volunteer. Materials and tools will be provided.

We would like to thank the Hendry family for providing the village Christmas tree and also Paul Lake for decorating the tree with festive lights.

We would like to thank Will for cutting the grass on the Twyford Lane footpath and the litter picking group for their work and time in trying to keep our village clean and tidy. Also, thanks to Judy Levien who has retired from organising the litter picking after many years.

A word to dog walkers to please clean up after your dogs and a reminder that the recreation ground is out of bounds for dog walking. There are a number of walks within the countryside around the village which are suitable for dog walking.

Finally, can I remind parishioners that we have a bottle bank and a paper bank at the entrance to the village and I would ask you to please support these as they do bring in a small amount of money which can be used to help the community.

Thank you,
G. M. Fearn
Chairman of Foulsham Parish Council

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NEW FROST HALL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2024

This was the first year that the NFH had a new Chairman for many years. I was very pleased that John McManus agreed to continue to participate with the Committee activities in the role of Vice Chairman for this last period and I thank him for the support he gave me through the last twelve months, which helped the Hall to continue operating successfully.

This year also saw a number of new members onto the Committee, new members are always welcome. I would particularly like to thank Dan Lane for undertaking the training course to enable the NFH to continue to operate as a licensed premises going forward. Being able to offer a licensed bar during events provides an important source of funds for the Hall.

We continue to benefit from the new oil-fired boiler purchased last year, however, the impact of the global price of energy will continue to be a challenge for the Hall. With this in mind, the next area to be addressed will be a re-examination of the electrical installations at the hall to ensure we are getting the correct solution for our needs.

The successful creation of a fund-raising sub-committee has enabled more people to get involved in this very important aspect of running the NFH, allowing more people to share their ideas and to share the load.

On that theme, I am hopeful that the Community Cinema, although in its infancy, should continue to grow and give Foulsham more frequent community events. Providing an asset that serves the community of Foulsham is at the heart of what we do.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge a debt of thanks to the Committee for all their hard work during the last twelve months and wish them continued success in the coming year.

Robert Howells
Chairman of the New Frost Hall Committee

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FOULSHAM RELIEF IN NEED CHARITY REPORT 2024

The last year or so has been a time of big change for the Charity, with the death of our Treasurer, Hazel Saunders, and the retirement of 3 other long-serving Trustees, Mike Humphrey, Neil Walker and Andrew McNair.

Charlie Barter is now the Chair and Ann Barber is the Secretary. The remaining Trustees are Edward Fitzalan-Howard, Linda Jennings, Mark Stilgoe, Kirsty Prior, Kaite Lindley (Treasurer) and David Harvey.

It has been very much business as usual, with grants being made for the most part in November, but with ad hoc payments being made to meet specific needs throughout the year.

We have raised a meaningful amount of additional funds from the Village to supplement our rental income. These have come from individuals, the Queen's Head and the Baptist Church, for which we are very grateful. We intend this fund raising activity to be a continuing part of our programme.

The additional funds have enabled us to approach the Primary School to see if there is anything we can do to support its work, particularly in relation to the provision of breakfasts to the pupils. We await the School's thoughts.

Another key issue for the Charity is what appears to be relatively low levels of awareness of what we can do and for whom. For example there is an incorrect view amongst some that the Charity is only for older villagers. This is not right. It is for anyone in the Parish who has a demonstrable need for help. Anything that the Council can do to help in this respect would be much appreciated.

The Charity is up to date with its filings to the Charity Commission, but is having problems with its bank in getting new mandates and account details following the changes mentioned above. This is not a massive issue as yet, but is something we are having to work hard to resolve.

Charlie Barter
Chair of Foulsham Relief in Need Charity