

## FOXLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of FOXLEY PARISH COUNCIL on **Thursday 11 January 2024** at 7:00 pm in FOXLEY VILLAGE HALL

Present: Nicky Mears (NM) Chair, Mark Watson (MW), Gillian Blyth (GJB), Linda Rose (LR) also fulfilling role of temporary clerk at the meeting, Gordon Bambridge (GB) District councillor.

Members of the public: 1

1. Apologies for absence: Giles Blatchford  
Did not attend: Bill Borrett.
2. Declarations of Interest of Council Members were recorded for Linda Rose on items concerning St Thomas' Church
3. Following the resignation of Ali Blatchford as Parish Clerk, Councillor Linda Rose has offered to cover temporary until a replacement is found. Ali Blatchford will continue as RFO and to do most of the work of the clerk until year end.
4. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 October 2023 were signed and approved.  
Proposed: MW Seconded: GJB
5. Report on the progress of items from the previous meeting not on this agenda:
  - 5.1. Drains on The Street opposite Lawrence Place; this is being dealt with, waiting on a repair to the drain which will mean the closure of The Street and they hope to do this in the early part of the new year.
  - 5.2. Lay-by on A1067 going towards Fakenham. Highways have come back with a quote of £2353.00 which is to be paid by Foxley Parish Council for the cutting back of the vegetation to make the lay-by less visible and therefore less likely to attract fly tipping. We may have missed applying for the parish partnership to help towards this cost. It was felt the cost was too much for Foxley and it would need re-doing in a couple of years as the vegetation grows back. There was surprise that Foxley Parish Council have been asked to pay for this. Action: clerk to contact Bill Borrett to check if local council would have to pay.
  - 5.3 Straw and Mud on the Street. Mentioned about the straw coming off at certain properties where the hedges are over hanging "The Street" and dragging straw from passing vehicles. Highways have been notified that we still have one issue and awaiting on St Thomas Church to apply for planning permission to trim back the yew and holly trees in the church yard that overhang "The Street". Permission has been obtained from church authorities for this and planning permission is now awaiting approval
  - 5.4 Dog Fouling and Fly tipping Signs, NM and GWB erected a post in each layby awaiting the Fly tipping signs to be put up, Breckland have been advised. We are now awaiting the signs to be delivered/erected by Breckland. Clerk to chase this again.
  - 5.5 Mobile Surveillance Cameras – Breckland District Council have been advised regarding that we are very keen to have these cameras in our laybys – Breckland advised this is still in the early stages. More fly tipping at the layby heading to Fakenham. Clerk to contact Breckland. NM Considers this is the most likely way to deter fly tipping on the lay-by. GB will investigate this. It was suggested that it might be worth contacting the landowner to erect a fence , as most of the fly tipping is not on council land.
  - 5.6 Highways and the government grant to deliver local highway improvements of which the grant would pay up to 50% of the costs. Giles Blatchford has advised that Highways have costed the two proposed trods. Which are: Along the B1145 from Mill Road to the Fakenham Road A1067 totalling £87,168.49 and along the Fakenham Road to the Lay-by totalling £34,873.61. They have put down that they would need to put in curb stones on each case, which seems excessive considering they are only trods and not actual pavements. A great idea but sadly something that Foxley Parish Council could not afford without further government or outside help with.



- 5.7. "The Street" sign has gone missing from the triangle by the Main Road – Highways have been asked if the posts can be removed, again this does not meet their intervention criteria. GB considered that road signs are Breckland's responsibility. GB will investigate.
- 5.8 Leeds Trust – NM updated the council. The committee have asked for applications from the 2023 and 2024 leavers and several applications have been received. There was concern that the 2022 leavers had been left out and questioned whether applications from this year group could be reconsidered. Also concern expressed that parents have been asked to apply for this as those who need it most may not do so, but it was explained that the committee have no other way of finding the names of those pupils who qualify.
- 5.9 Free Wi-Fi at the village Hall – the equipment has now been installed and free Wi-Fi is now available in the village hall for all to use.
- 5.10 Memorial to the Airman who died in Foxley – no further action to report.
- 5.11 Following a resident's concern over the traffic and their speed down Mill Road once out of the 20mph. Parish Clerk contacted Highways and they did not feel that there was enough traffic travelling down Mill Road to warrant extending the speed limit or to make it Residents and Service Access only. Traffic calming measures would need a survey costing £7,000 -£20,000.

## 6 Planning applications:

- 6.1. **Church View, Chapel Road, NR20 4QS - 3PL/2023/0825/HOU** - Conversion of garage attached to dwelling for use as self-contained annexe- family use only. **Permission granted**
- 6.2. **Platinum Farm, The Street, NR20 4QP – 3PL/2023/0898/HOU** - Single storey rear extension and first floor rear extension – **Permission granted**
- 6.3. **Kingsmead House Old Fakenham Road NR20 4QJ -3PN/2023/0036/PNE** Prior approval for the proposal to erect a single storey orangery extension to the rear of the property. Flat roof with lantern, white PVC windows and bifold doors projecting from the original rear wall by 4.70m deep, with a maximum height of 3.10m and eaves height of 2.60m The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended)- Schedule 2, Part 1, Class A 05-12-23 Prior Approval Status not required.
- 6.4. **St Thomas Church, The Street Foxley NR20 4QP TPO 1985/08** reduction to branches over the road back to the boundary wall, approximately 1.5 meters and to reduce branches back on the church side by 1.5 meters access to church on the pathway. **Undecided** Discussed; all in favour.

## 7. Finance

- 7.1. Clerk salary. Hours worked:  
 1 October 2023 to 31 December 28 hours  
 Total salary for the period £397.88
- 7.2. To approve and sign the Summary of Accounts for the period from 1 October 2023 to 31 December 2023. Proposed by GJB Seconded by MW
- 7.3. Additional Payments:  
 7.3.1. Ali Blatchford for the purchase of Posts for fly tipping signs - £140.90  
 7.3.2. Breckland District Council – uncontested elections held in 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023 - £75.00  
 7.3.3. Village Hall - C Ledbury Plumbing and Heating - repair to the water leak in the village hall £319.20  
 7.3.4. Foxley Village Hall: Final donation payment £295.90 to go towards Robin Taylor – Hearing Aid Loop and PA system £888.91
- 7.4. Authorise payments:  
 Clerks Salary: £397.88

Clerk for the purchase of posts for fly tipping signs	£140.90
Breckland District Council:	£ 75.00
Village Hall Committee:	£319.20
Village Hall Committee:	£295.90
Breckland District Council: for signages	£199.20 already paid
Proposed by MW	seconded by LR

8. Budget for 2024/25 to be consider and approved, including the precept for 2024/25:
  - 8.1. Precept for 2024/25  
Option 4 was agreed. To increase budget to £5540, with Council Taxpayers in a Band D property would look at paying £2.36 extra per year.  
Proposed: MW seconded: GJB
  - 8.2. Budget. Three versions submitted for consideration. This is due to the keeping the precept low for Council Taxpayers but there is a deficit on each one, the only way to remove the deficit would be to increase the Precept. This led to a lot of discussion, but it was felt that the budget information, whilst guiding the setting of the precept should not hold the councillors to individual items at this stage. The decision on what amount to spend on each item should be made at the time that they are requested.
9. Should we organise another Litter Pick, yes. LR agreed to contact Breckland Council and organise the litter pick.
10. Could solar lights with PIR be fitted to both bus shelters, to help keep pedestrians safe at night. Is this something the Council could do with Highways approval? This was to be a good idea.  
Action: Clerk to explore cost of installation and maintenance.
11. Highways matters. Recently a long vehicle was stuck on The Street at the bends by the farm and eventually had to reverse back to the A1067. Would it be possible to have a sign warning drivers that the road is unsuitable for long vehicles. Clerk to contact highways.

Date of the next meeting. 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7 pm in Foxley Village Hall

Meeting closed at 8:50 pm.

Signed Chair .....  ..... Dated .....9/05/2024 .....