

Fulstow Parish Council Minutes

Location: Fulstow Village Hall

Date: 15th December 2022

Time: 7pm

In attendance: Rob Lawson, R MacDonald, Stuart Flinn, Cllr E Mossop, Cllr A Hall

Minutes taken by: Michelle Lawson

1. Apologies received from Nigel Larder, Fred Butt, Martyn Leonard & Nicola Pike were accepted by the committee.
2. Declaration of personal/prejudicial interest: none were received.
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2023 were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Vice Chairman R Lawson
4. Matters arising including updates on the following action points.
 - a) N Pike to pass ground maintenance tender/contract to M Lawson - Completed
 - b) M Lawson to submit application for online banking - Completed and set up
 - c) M Lawson to submit comment on planning application N/133/01945/22 - Comments were submitted but did not appear online, this was chased with planning who after 2 prompts added the comment manually, the comment was added but e-mail address and telephone number was not redacted. M Lawson reported ongoing problems with the planning portal not linking to the Parish Council Account, despite reporting this problem nothing had been done regarding this. E Mossop suggested contacting Claire Massey to assist with these problems.
 - d) M Lawson to report repairs done to the pavement in Cassbrook Drive as dangerous - A Hall had kindly reported the state of the footpath to the highways manager directly, they are going to follow up and have the work completed to a satisfactory standard.
 - e) M Lawson to chase street lights not working on Main Street - R Lawson received a complaint from a resident concerned about the lack of lighting and the length of time the lights have been broken. M Lawson has chased again but the problem is with the electricity board who need to come and repair the electric feed. M Lawson to continue chasing LCC.
5. Financial planning & estimated budget for 2023 - 2024

- a) M Lawson put to the committee the estimated budget for 2023 - 2024. She explained that due to the current financial crisis & rates of inflation, where exact increases were not known, she had set a 10% increase on services from the previous year. The following points were noted by M Lawson
 - Estimate of water supply substantially lower as it was due for disconnection.
 - No invoice had been received for the hire of the village hall for 2022 - 2023 - NL to query.
 - Recommended internal audit fee increase to £60 as it had not increased in a number of years
 - 2023 was an election year so election cost are included

The committee queried the following points.

- The CPRE annual subscription was challenged and it was agreed to discontinue this subscription.
- The committee asked how long it had been since the Clerk & Responsible Finance Officers Salary had been increased and suggested M Lawson find the National Joint Council (NJC) for Town and Parish Clerks salary scales. R Lawson abstained from this discussion due to potential conflict of interest.

The committee unanimously accepted the estimated budget put forward for 2023 - 2024.

- b) Setting precept for 2023 - 2024 - M Lawson recommended that due to the council's finances and the cost of living crisis there should be no increase in the precept for 2023 - 2024. The committee accepted the recommendation to set the precept at £4100. M Lawson to submit precept documentation to ELDC

- c) Expenditure from this year's Parish Council budget - M Lawson explained that a sum of money was available for projects in the village. This will be discussed further at the next Parish Council meeting where ideas discussed will be looked at. M Lawson advised that all projects and events going forward will need to be costed and final amounts agreed before they go ahead.
- d) Bullgrass financial accounts - M Lawson gave an update on the Bullgrass finance and advised the following
 - The bank balance has increased from Feb 2016 to date by £1.99 from £747.93 - £749.92
 - The Current Tennant had not had a rent increase since 2002
 - The current Tennant has had the tenancy since 1960

The committee discussed the Bullgrass land and its objectives as a Charity. They discussed the rent and queried if it was a fair rent for both the tenant and the charity and what should be done with the land going forward. It was suggested that as a starting point M Lawson look into the land registry and obtain more information on the land itself as documentation regarding the land could not be found.

- e) Business instant access accounts - The account has a fund of £1760 as of 15th December 2022

6. Certification of payments - The Committee approved the certification and issue of payment of

- a) £147.54 payable to LIVES
- b) Contribution to newsletter costs of £30 payable to N Pike - carried forward to next meeting.

7. Request from LCC requesting information about Fulstow emergency plan - The committee agreed that Fulstow does not have an emergency plan. M Lawson to respond as such and query if we need to have an emergency plan.

8. Approve meeting dates for 2023 - The committee approved the following meeting dates proposed by M Lawson

- Thursday, 2 February 2023
- Thursday, 23 March 2023
- Thursday, 11 May 2023 AGM
- Thursday, 22 June 2023
- Thursday, 3 August 2023
- Thursday, 14 September 2023
- Thursday, 26 October 2023
- Thursday, 7 December 2023

9. No Planning applications for the committee to discuss.

10. A.O.B

- a) The Council have received a request from Lincolnshire Wolds Railways who are required by Lincolnshire County Council to have their Brown tourism signs re-vetted. To do this they are wanting a letter from the Parish Council to say they approve the signs. The signs have been in place a number of years and have not changed. It was agreed that M Lawson would send an email approving the signs.
- b) The Council have received notification that Fulstow School have moved to phase 2 of becoming a Church School. No action is necessary but the committee agreed that an email of support would be sent to the relevant parties.

Action Points

1. M Lawson to contact Claire Massey to assist with Planning portal problems
2. M Lawson to chase street lights not working on Main Street again
3. M Lawson to find the National Joint Council (NJC) salary scales for Town and Parish Clerks
4. M Lawson to submit precept documentation to ELDC
5. M Lawson look into the land registry re Bullgrass
6. M Lawson to respond to LCC re emergency plan
7. M Lawson to email Lincolnshire Wolds Railway approving the signs
8. N Larder to query Village Hall committee on Parish Council hire of hall