

MINUTES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

FOSTON ON THE WOLDS

02 November 2011

in Foston Village Hall at 1900 hrs

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| Present: | Mr R Watts | Chair |
| | Mr T Sellars | |
| | Mr P Farnsworth | |
| | Mr K Tate | |
| | Mr J Tickle | |
| | Mr RL Mole | Clerk |
| Apologies: | Mr D Watt | Vice Chair |
| | Mrs J Foreman | |

Agenda Item 1 - Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. The Minutes of the last meeting of the Council held on **07 September 2011** were read and agreed a true record.

Proposed: Mr Tickle
Seconded: Mr T Sellars
Agreed: Unanimously

2. Minutes of August meeting - amended were signed off.

Agenda Item 2 - Matters Arising

3. A thank you letter from the Village Hall Committee was read out, and it was agreed that a good job had been done on the floor renovation.

4. Mandate Form Parish Council HSBC Accounts – awaits signature Cllr Watt before submission.

5. Tree trimming Brigham crossroads & Brigham Lane – the Clerk had been in touch with Mr O'Connor who had looked at the trees along Brigham lane. He considered no action was necessary here but informed Mike Brown of the Tree Section so that he could tell us the maintenance plan and schedule. The Chair added that Mr Plewes had asked Mrs Foreman whether some trimming of these trees would be acceptable to facilitate access to dyking. This had been agreed.

Mr O'Connor also kindly reviewed the trees overhanging the road from the Watts Quarry, and pointed out one bough that could do with attention. After discussion it was determined that no one had a special relationship with the company, and that the Clerk would write to their registered office to ask their opinion on the matter.

Action: Clerk

6. The Clerk had contacted ERYC to confirm a decision on the salt bins, reviewed as part of the winter study, expected to be complete by October. It had not been completed, but the meeting agreed to cover the Severe Weather Plan (sent under separate e-mail cover) within the context of this item. The latter plan outlined the conditions of payment towards local services, one being the requirement to have a winter plan in place as part an overall emergency plan. The merits and effectiveness of these plans were discussed, especially in light of recent flooding and last year's severe winter weather, and how they could be invoked. It was agreed not to develop such plans. It was also agreed that the Council should take action by purchasing 4 salt bins (one for Mill Lane, Foston, and three for Brigham), and that the Clerk could do so without further reference to the meeting up to the value of £500.

The clerk agreed to action the above, cancel any ERYC bin provision, and negotiate the filling of the bins with ERYC.

Proposed: Mr Farnsworth

Seconded: Mr T Sellars

Agreed: Unanimously

Action: Clerk

7. A number of points had been raised by Cllr Watt (*italicised*):

Agenda Item 1 - "The amended August minutes correctly reflect that the 'questionnaire had been completed by the Clerk prior to discussion at the meeting' but does not mention that this was a personal submission by the Clerk and not a submission agreed by the Foston Parish Council. Indeed a copy of the submission has never been presented to the Parish Council for discussion.

Attached you will find copies of the submission and a freedom of information response concerning the submission. As you can see from these documents ERYC are under the impression that this application is made on behalf of Foston Parish Council (ie 'attached is all the correspondence between Mr Mole, representing Foston Parish Council....').

I would therefore propose that an immediate communication is sent to ERYC explaining that the submission was a personal one made by Mr Mole, and not Foston Parish Council. I believe that any flood prevention proposal must be fully discussed by FPC with full open consultation with those parishioners affected.

These comments might also apply to Agenda Item 8 and any discussion arising from that item."

This item was dealt with as the Clerk was not content it be pending the availability of Cllr Watt (not present at this meeting and the Council was informed he would be absent in December, therefore satisfactory conclusion would not be possible until January 2012).

The two separate elements of the consultation submitted by the Clerk were reviewed, the first being "Flood Funding Consultation". The link to this consultation was sent to

all Councillors (see August Minutes, Agenda Item 6, Paragraph 9.) This permitted all members of the Council to respond to the consultation individually. There was therefore adequate provision for all to respond should they wish. There were no parameters set with the survey that required a joint/individual response. This was completed by the Clerk as an addressee of the Parish Council. There is no mention in the submission of his appointment as Clerk, only that he resides in Foston. All the questions were generic about ERYC distribution of funds within the County, not specific to an area. The Clerk was well placed to contribute to this survey from his experience with the Gembling flood relief programme.

The second part of the consultation was entitled "Initial Scheme Evaluation Form". This was quite a specific survey as explained by the Clerk at the August meeting, and all Councillors had been sent the link so that they could study the Form. There were no comments made at the August Meeting relating to the Clerk's response to this element. The Form sought proposed schemes. As we are part way through the Gembling flood prevention programme (Mason Clarke Associates on behalf of ERYC Engineering Department, and subsequent letters Parish Council ERYC relating to available funds for the definitive elements) already agreed by the Parish Council from 2007 onwards, the remainder of the scheme awaiting funding, the Clerk made reference to ERYC of the existing documents to enter it into funding consideration.

Once the Clerk had explained the above he asked the 4 Councillors who had been part of the process whether they considered his actions appropriate to the Survey or not.

Mr R Watts Chair
Mr T Sellars
Mr K Tate
Mr J Tickle

All these Councillors agreed the action of the Clerk appropriate.

Agenda Item 2 – "Has the Bank received and accepted the form completed in Black?" Mandate for HSBC, see Paragraph 4 above.

Agenda Item 3 – Precept 2012/13, copy requested. This will be attached to the distributed Minutes.

Agenda Item 9 – "Flood Liaison Group Meeting, is this notice of a future meeting? If so, please could I have details so that I can attend if possible?" See Item below, paragraph 19..

"Any Other Business" – "The dykes were strimmed as is our duty but vegetable matter resulting from the maintenance was deposited on the side of the dyke bank. Rather than being removed from the area of the common as is our legal obligation. This leaves the FPC wide open to the risk of legal challenge."

"Vegetation burning by a non commoner has taken place on the common causing stress to grazing animals. Witnessed by a member of the parish council who helped in the leading and removal of the distressed animals. This is a clear breach on the Common Law Act and FPC must consider writing to the parishioner in breach on the

Common Law Act to advise them of their duties.”

After some discussion it was agreed to hold an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council to cover these (Gembling) items under the “*Any Other Business*” heading specifically. The Chair will arrange the details after confirming availability.

Agenda Item 3 – Precept Forecast 2012-13

8. The Precept Forecast was distributed for discussion. The Council reviewed the forecast during including the impact of the regular income from the Lissett Wind Farm. Mr Tickle gave an update after his recent meeting with this Committee, clarifying that the £1000 had few restrictions applied to its expenditure, and outlining the programme for 2012 applications. It was agreed that all would advertise the availability of these funds for use in the Parish.

9. It was agreed to leave the precept at the same level as the last 4 years - £2330:00p.

Proposed: Mr Sellers
Seconded: Mr Tate
Agreed: Unanimously

Agenda Item 4 – Planning

10. DC/11/03430/PLF/EASTNN/KW1 Two storey extension to rear & front porch Orchard Croft, Mill Lane, Foston, ERYC agreed, and noted.

11. 11/03978/TCA Tree works Cross Keys House, Foston, ERYC agreed, and noted.

12. 11/03845/TCA Tree works Happy Cottage, Foston, ERYC agreed, and noted.

13. 11/04736/PLF Solar pv panels Southfield Farm, Kelk, considered, and agreed.

Agenda Item 5 – Drifffield Twilight Bus Service Grant Request

14. This grant application was considered and it was agreed not to make a grant this year.

Agenda Item 6 – Zephyr Community Energy

15. The offers made by this company for local communities to benefit from renewables was discussed and passed to the Village Hall for consideration.

Agenda Item 7 - 2013 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies & ERYC Review of Polling Districts

16. Notification of the first was passed to the Council, and the intention to keep the Village Hall as a Polling Station was noted.

Agenda Item 8 - Flooding Review ERYC Consultation

17. A letter outlining the current situation relating to the analysis of the data received and that more bids than funds have been identified, was read to the meeting.

Agenda Item 9 – Correspondence

18. The Conservative Group Planning Assistance letter was noted.

19. Flood Liaison Group Meeting - postponement of the scheduled meeting for 11 November 2011 was noted. Mrs Foreman, who kindly attends on behalf of the Council, had been informed. Mr Watt's intention to attend was noted.

20. History request Foston from an individual to the Clerk was passed to Mr Tickle.

21. ER Parish News was made available.

22. Invitation to Kilham Village Hall Tuesday 22 November 2011 by HWRCC Broadband Services in the rural environment – no takers.

23. Invitation to Drifffield Rugby Club Friday 2 December 2011 by HWRCC Fuel Poverty – no takers.

24. Local Development Strategy papers/change to Planning Law to Mr Tickle.

Agenda Item 10– Date of Next Meeting

25. The date of the next meeting is to be 07 December 2011.

26. There being no other business the meeting closed at 2115 hrs.

**RL Mole
Clerk**

**R Watts
Chair**