

Fovant Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 29.11.2024 at 19:00hrs.

Venue: The Waterside, Fovant Youth Club, High Street, Fovant, Salisbury, Wiltshire
Present: Cllr. Phillips (Chair), Cllr. Horne, Cllr Wallis, Cllr Hobbs, Cllr. Page, Cllr Cousley
Cllr. Najar (will report remotely as unable to attend in person)
Attendees : Julie Wallis (clerk)

01.29.11.2024 - Apologies

Cllr. Ellis, Cllr, Coxe.

02.29.11.2024 - Declarations of Interest

None declared.

03.29.11.2024 - Resolution of minutes and outcomes

A) Ordinary Meeting date 28.09.24

08.28.07m – Cllr Coxe not at meeting – To carry over – Meeting agreed Chair to write to previous provider thanking him for his service

09.07.24c – Cllrs Wallis and Cousley reported not completed to carry over

07.09.24 – Clerk to scope use of .gov.uk emails in isolation of a new website and feedback before next meeting.

08.09.24 a– Clerk reported FOI complete no further contact with enquirer.

08.09.24g – Completed

08.09.24 h – Carried over for meeting agenda.

08.09.24i - Clerk confirmed payment made from training budget

Minutes of previous meeting unanimously agreed by members and signed by chair

b) Extraordinary Meeting date 14.10.24

Action points

Clerk to make agreed comments on planning applications - complete.

Minutes of previous meeting unanimously agreed by members and signed by chair

c) Extraordinary Meeting date 18.11.2024

Action points

Clerk to make agreed comments on planning applications - complete.

Minutes of previous meeting unanimously agreed by members and signed by chair

04.29.11.2024 - Chairmans Introduction

Chair gave an overview of a recently attended LHFIG meeting and expressed his concern over the lack of funding moving forward for highway and footpath safety. He reported that the LHFIG meeting discussed that there was little money moving forward for this fiscal year with a third of the groups budget being spent on the expected build out in Fovant at the entrance to the village at the Greater Good public house. He concluded that Fovant as a village is unlikely to benefit for future funding for projects next year.

05.29.11.2024 – Governance

- a) Delegation and planning policy – **unanimously agreed and adopted by Council.**
- b) Standing orders policy – **Unanimously agreed and adopted by the council.**
- c) financial regulations policy – **Unanimously agreed and adopted by the council.**
- d) Adoption of the Code of conduct by councillors – **Unanimously adopted by the council.**
- e) External audit outcomes – **Outcomes explained by the clerk with a view to improving on all aspects in 2025/26, audit unanimously accepted by the meeting.**

06.29.11.2024 – Report from Wiltshire councillor Nabil Najjar

Cllr Najjar reported that there will be no significant increase in council tax for the year 2025/2026. He fed back from the SWWAB meeting that the area board had been able support the village hall with some funding for the floor and the carers café in Tisbury which some Fovant residents attend. Planning was discussed with some emphasis on construction company behaviour. He further fed back that a speed review will be published in April 2025.

Following questions Cllr Najjar discussed the delay with the Clays Orchard project he explained their had been some hold up with the planning department which is now resolved and ther had been some concern about costs however it is expected to be fairly quiet on the run up to Christmas but there should be forward movement in the new year.

The chair expressed his concern over the LHFIG funding and Cllr Najjar responded in saying that LHFIG as a model does not seem to be functioning well and moving forward it needed to focus on safety priorities within the villages. Cllr Wallis stated some of the Fovant projects have been waiting more than 2 years.

Cllr Najjar agreed that prior to the next meeting he would prioritise the meeting for public safety. He also stated he would arrange a meeting with planning for councillors in January to discuss the disparity in planning decisions. Cllr Najjar was thanked by the chair for raising Fovant’s issues.

07.29.11.24 - Planning matters

No new matters to discuss.

08.29.11.2024 – Financial matters for consideration/resolution

Income and expenditure report for the period to:

- a) September 2024 reconciliation of bank – **Agreed and signed by Cllr Horne**
- b) October 2024 reconciliation of bank – **Agreed and signed by Cllr Horne**
- c) November 2024 reconciliation of bank – **Agreed and signed by Cllr Horne**

Reports circulated to members for consideration/resolution.

- d) Summary of receipts and payments to date – **Accepted and noted by council.**
- e) Net position from start of fiscal year – **Accepted and noted by council.**

Other financial matters for consideration/resolution

- f) Review of finance spend/Scribe this fiscal year – Short presentation given by Clerk with discussion regarding the budget spend in relation to the budget set last year. Clerk predicts there is potential for an underspend of around £13,200 at the end of the 24024/2025 fiscal year.

Meeting agreed to move underspend to areas of unexpected overspend, clerk to feed back to next meeting.

Action: Clerk to action changes and feed back in January meeting.

- g) Draft financial budget and precept for 2025/2026

- I. **Budget** – The clerk gave a presentation of the draft budget and explained it had been drawn together from a zero net position building on last years spend and including 2.5% on all lines (utilising current expectation of the inflation rate at the end of December 2024.) Councillors contributed to additional lines of funding and activity. Total draft spend £25,717.00

Following discussion, the draft budget of £25,717.00 was unanimously agreed by the meeting and will be adopted for the fiscal year 2025/2026.

Action: Clerk to set up new fiscal year in SCRIBE utilising the budget presented to the council today

- II. **Precept** – Clerk gave a presentation proposal of the precept based on the draft budget giving three options of:
 - Precept based on full budget – increase of 43.5% - YR £22.65 on band D rating.
 - Precept based on utilising 0.5 of reserve – increase of 6.22% -Yr £3.24 on band D rating.
 - Precept based on utilising 2K of underspend–increase of 24.96%-Yr £13.00 on band D rating.

After discussion of the three presented options the meeting unanimously agreed to set precept based on full budget of £25,717.00.

Action: Clerk to formally set precept with Wiltshire council based on the meeting resolution.

h) Sharing of access to Scribe to councillors – clerk suggested that the councillors all have read only access to Scribe to improve accountability, transparency, and support to the councils' financial regulations.

Council unanimously agreed to the change.

Action – Clerk to arrange read only access to Scribe to all councillors.

i) Purchases by clerk for office supplies – Clerk had made purchases of £99.98 –

Meeting unanimously agreed the spend.

j) Purchase of petrol cans for the emergency hub £39.99 – Cllr Wallis made the purchase

Meeting unanimously agreed the spend.

k) Clerk attended Walc election training - £48.00.

Meeting unanimously agreed the spend.

l) Additional hours for clerk – Spreadsheet circulated to chair and vice chair, meeting informed that additional hours of September 8 hours, October 21.5 hours and November 18 hours were accrued.

Meeting unanimously agreed the spend to be paid in December salary.

m) Wreath purchase £21.50 – Clerk purchased wreath for Remembrance Day (Sec 137 monies)

Meeting unanimously agreed the spend.

n) Additional hall hire for police drop ins – Cllr Wallis informed the meeting that three drop ins had been arranged at a cost of £36.00 for the hall hire. The meetings would be for residents to meet with local police and discuss their issues with security, speeding etc.

Meeting unanimously agreed the spend.

09.29.11.2024 – Other matters requiring consideration/resolution

a) Reports from portfolio holders - Chair

- Cllr Cousley reported on the Defib checking was going well, chair received reports of when the defibs are used and reports on.
- Cllr Hobbs reported no updates but informed that a tree of footpath five following Storm Bert had been dealt with by the landowner, Cllr Hobbs will look at in the new year.
- Cllr Wallis reported excellent links with the parish steward who is reactive to needs of the villagers, he further reported he is meeting with Wessex water over an ongoing issue in a property in Church Lane.
- Cllr Horne reported a three-month delay in siting the new SID due to requirements by the Police as it is not allowed to be sited near a speed change area, both the A30 and the Dinton road proposal fall into this category.

b) Review of portfolio holders - Chair

Meeting agreed to move this to next planned meeting when all councillors could be present.

Clerk to place on next meeting agenda.

c) Youth Initiative – Clerk/ Cllr Wallis

Members approached from Karen Lineker about youth engagement in the village with a view to 50/50 funding with the SWWAB in collaboration with Broadchalke to arrange some pop-up events with young people to potentially kick start future planning.

Initiative unanimously supported by members and to move forward with funding in 2025/2026.

d) LHFIF report – Chair

Previously discussed in chairs introduction and the report from Cllr Najjar.

e) public consultation on Remote Attendance – Chair

Consultation document introduced by chair and members encouraged to take part.
Consultation noted by members.

f) Constructing a case to move the 20mph limit sign on Dinton Road - Chair

Chair discussed the speed at which vehicles approach the entrance to the village and would it be safer to move the sign back along the road toward Dinton to enhance pedestrian safety. Discussed siting SIDS at entrance to the village at this point to encourage driver to reduce their speed using it to deter speeding and not collect data.

Action – Cllr Wallis to erect SIDS on the existing post at this point on Dinton Road

g) Risk assessments for physical activities by councillors and public – Chair)

Use of risk assessments emphasised, clerk has the template, and all activities should be risk assessed before they take place.

Action: Clerk to scope new Risk policy document and potential risk template

h) Updates on SIDS data and police actions – Cllr Horne

Cllr Horne reported that police had been in action on the Tisbury Road with twelve persons stopped at excess speed and were given advice. Cllr Horne continues to chase data. Also discussed at point (f)

i) SIDS installation at the A30 – Cllr Horne

Discussed in (f) and (h)

j) Dates for annual parish meeting – Chair

After discussion agreed to a date in April 2025 due to the impending election

Action: Chair to arrive at suitable date

k) Update on Sutton Road land transfer – Clerk

Clerk reported she had spoken to the solicitor this week and they were awaiting documentation from Wiltshire council; she will continue to chase.

Action: Clerk to chase further

l) Update on Clays Orchard land – Cllr Wallis and Horne

Discussed in item 06.29.11.2024.

12.29.11.2024 - Date of next meeting – Tuesday 28th January 2025

Meeting closed at 21:30