

FARLOW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Zoom meeting held on 7 January 2021 commencing at 8 pm

Present	Parish Councillors	Geoff Wadsworth Chairman/Clerk Neil Sutton Vice Chair Ann Broomhall John Derricutt Stephen Jones
	Unitary Councillor	Gwilym Butler

1 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Clerk to the Council Derick Bromley and Unitary Councillor Madge Shinton (could not join meeting due to technical issues).

2 **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest**

Councillors were reminded of their obligation to declare any pecuniary interest they might have regarding any item on the Agenda.

3 **Public Open Session**

No parishioners joined the meeting.

4 **Approve The Minutes of The last Meeting**

At Para 5, bullet 5 - the location of Tansley was mentioned. This location should read Tasley.

Other than the above correction, the Minutes of the Zoom meeting held on 26 November 2020 were approved and sanctioned to be posted on the Parish website.

5 **Report by Unitary Councillor**

Unitary Councillor Gwilym Butler addressed the meeting saying that his next written report would be at the end of January, but gave an interim update as follows:

- Council Tax would see a 4% increase in 2021 with 2% for Shropshire Council and 2% for social care. The Council did not wish to impose a 5% rise that it was entitled to do.
- Local plan accepted for Tasley, but a judicial review (TBC) is likely to cause a delay and could mean that the local plan will time expire.
- With regard to the current lockdown, there is support and grants for individuals and businesses that have been impacted. Cleobury Mortimer Council can also give local advice.

6 **Update on Council Vacancy**

Derick Bromley has to date received 3 volunteers for the single vacancy with the closing date for nominations being 26 January 2021. An interview program will be issued in due course.

Gwilym Butler mentioned that we might consider waiting to the council elections, although the current lockdown might restrict these elections.

7 **Lengthsman/Highways**

The 2021 grant of £1000 for the Lengthsman has been received and Gwilym Butler confirmed that County was looking into the aspiration to give training to Lengthsman to allow the repair of potholes.

Anthony Harman will give the Lengthsman report at the next meeting on 28 January 2021.

A letter had been received from a parishioner regarding a landslide of mud between Well Farm and The Glebe on 21 December 2020. Detail was given of the work undertaken by Stephen Jones and John Derricutt with their own equipment to clear the road. The Chairman thanked them on behalf of the Parish Council not only in this case, but in the many other times they had of their own accord sorted out problems that were to the benefit of the Parish. A note of thanks would be added to the Parish website to ensure parishioners were made aware of their efforts.

Potholes continue to be an issue across the Parish with the current cold weather adding to the problem. The meeting were advised to use 'My Shropshire' on the Shropshire Council website to report highways issues as they occur.

8 **Planning**

Temporary storage of caravan Mr and Mrs Preece 20/05114/FUL raised no objection.

No update available on the appeal against refusal of residential development of 5 units North of Boulangerie Oretton (20/01535/OUT). Gwilym Butler mentioned that there were currently delays in the reporting system due to COVID.

No update regarding the enforcement proceedings on Moors Lane for unauthorised erection of building. Gwilym Butler stated he would seek information on progress from planners.

9 **Correspondence**

Non received.

10 **Finance**

1) Bank Balances:

Current a/c - £28750.22

30 Day a/c - £719.93

2) Precept 2021/22. As confirmed by Gwilym Butler at Para 5 above, County Council Tax element would be rising by 4% in the coming financial year. The Chairman stated that we should, if possible, reduce our precept to reduce the Council Tax burden on parishioners at this time of hardship during the pandemic.

Discussions followed over the budget summary for the Parish precept over the past 3 years and the provisional figures for 2022. While noting the planned reduction for the coming year, the meeting felt we could reduce further particularly with the high 'brought forward figure' of previous years. Agreement was reached to reduce the General precept for 2021-2022 to £2000 plus £1,000 for match funding Lengthsman Scheme making the Precept in total of £3,000 for 2021/22

3) Donation Hope House to be discussed at the next meeting.

4) Clerks Salary/Disbursements 3 months to December 2021 agreed at £296.37 and the charge of £21.91 to Wheathill noted.

11 **Meetings Attended**

Chairman attended the Police Commissioner's Zoom meeting on 3 December 2020. Particular mention was made of an increase in rural crime and the measures that were being taken to combat criminals and support local communities across the West Midlands. The offer of 'Smart Water' had been taken up by a number of parishes to mark equipment and was proving a good deterrent. The Police Commissioner stated that he was in a position to discount the purchase of Smart Water to help local communities. The chairman stated that he would follow up with the Police on gaining further details on the actual costs of procuring for the Parish.

12 **Bridleway Group**

Nothing to report.

13 **Items to Put on the Agenda for the Next Meeting**

No items were identified to specifically include on the next Agenda.

14 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 28 January 2021 and will be a Zoom meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:46 pm