

FARLOW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Zoom Meeting held on **28 January 2021** commencing at 8 pm

Present	Parish Councillors	Geoff Wadsworth Chairman Neil Sutton-Vice Chair Stephen Jones Ann Broomhall
	Clerk to the Council Unitary Councillor(s)	Derick Bromley Madge Shingleton Gwilym Butler
	Lengthsman	Anthony Harman

1 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor John Derricutt (unable to connect to Zoom Meeting) Jim Workman (technical problem connecting to Zoom)

2 **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest**

Councillors were reminded of their obligation to declare any pecuniary interest they may have regarding **any** item on the agenda.

3 **Public Open Session**

No Parishioners attended the Meeting

4 **Approve Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the Zoom Meeting held on 7 January 2021 were approved and sanctioned to be posted to our website.

5 **Co-option of New Councillor (occasioned by the resignation of Pete Brown)**

After due consideration of the two interviews conducted at the Zoom meeting immediately preceding this meeting, by a show of hands Ian Elwell was appointed as a Councillor by a majority vote. The meeting also thanked Helena Hale for her attendance for interview. Two excellent candidates-only one could succeed.

6 **Unitary Councillors**

Unitary Councillors Madge Shingleton and Gwilym Butler attended the Meeting. Both of their most recent reports had been posted to our website in accordance with the accepted practice.

Madge Shingleton expanded on her report as follows:

- Covid infections in the County appear to have plateaued.
- Cleobury Medical Centre is being considered as a vaccination centre.
- Highway problems latest hotline reporting vehicle is Customer First.
- There is a proposal to sell Shire Hall.
- Changes are afoot for the rubbish collection service.

6 **Unitary Councillors (continued)**

Gwilym Butler expanded on his report as follows.

- He requested the Parish Council instigate enforcement proceedings in connection with the agricultural building in Moors Lane erected without Planning Permission. *This is somewhat of a surprise. See Minute 8 below.*
- He spoke about the availability of 'kissing gates' and other footpath equipment.
- Shropshire's Land Supply is at 'risk' leaving to door open for developers due to the issues with the land at Bridgnorth (going to a further review).

7 **Lengthsman/Highways**

The Grant monies for 2020/21 have now been received in the sum of £1,000.

Anthony gave a resume of the recent work he had carried out and jobs needing doing, mainly ditches and gullies. He submitted an Invoice for his work to date in the sum of £957.60 gross of vat which was agreed for payment.

Stephen Jones reported on work he had carried out on the Lowe Road. It was reported there was an awfully bad pothole on the Catherton road in urgent need of attention. There was general comment about poor standard of works being carried out on our roads in general and potholes in particular. Not to mention the increasing cost of returning to repair work previously carried out unsatisfactorily. The lack of repair activity is being ascribed to the Covid problems but as Neil Sutton commented some of these jobs needing readdressing were carried out well before the pandemic. Gwilym Butler commented that there were some 7,000 outstanding Highways issues in the County and some £5m of dedicated Highways funds were being diverted to social care annually.

8 **Planning**

Moors Lane Enforcement.

Referring to Gwilym Butlers report see Minute 6 above, we were surprised to be asked to instigate Enforcement proceedings. This item concerns an agricultural building erected without Planning Permission. The Clerk was reminded this has been on the Agenda and regularly discussed every month since July 2018 and the Minutes of 30 August 2018 intimate Enforcement proceedings had commenced.

9 **Correspondence**

There was no correspondence to consider this month.

10 **Shropshire Community Governance.**

The email which engendered this Agenda item was relatively vague, but Gwilym Butler outlined its true implications. Local Government Parishes were established in the 1890's and it is felt it is time for change. This has been spoken of previously that some Parishes are struggling with numbers of representatives to act for their parishioners. Amalgamation of Parishes by boundary changes may address these problems and also have financial saving benefits but economies of scale may not be as significant as first supposed and enlarging Parishes can dilute democracy.

At first there will be a softly softly approach commencing after the May Elections (if they go ahead) but nothing concrete will be achieved until 2025, at the earliest, the time of the next election.

11 **Finance**

- 1) No Bank Balances received this month due to lack of transactions.
- 2) Donation to Hope House were deferred into the next Financial Year. *The previous donation, of £100, was made on 23 January 2020-the previous financial year so we could consider the request next month.*
- 3) No other Invoices for payment had been submitted.

12 **Meetings attended.**

No meetings attended.

13 **Items to be put on Agenda for next Meeting.**

- Hope House request for Donation.

14 **Date of Next Meetings**

The next Meeting will be held on Thursday 25 February 2021 in all probability by Zoom.

The Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.