FOULDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on **Thursday 12th February 2026**
at **6.00pm in Foulden Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs C Balding, J Green, S McMahon, S Parker (chair), N West.
Clerk: Mrs Sarah Hunt
7 members of the public were in attendance.

1. Apologies.
   Apologies were RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllr B Parnham – family commitment. It was RESOLVED to extend the leave of absence for Cllr B Parnham to the next Parish Council meeting.
   Apologies were RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllr B Pye - work commitment.

2. Declarations of Interest.
   Cllr J Green declared an interest in item 7.8 as he is a Trustee of the Village Hall. He did not speak or vote on the matter.

3. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th December 2025 were AGREED as a true and correct record with the addition of the word 'extra' – item 6.1, between 'obtain two' and 'new' making it clear that the agreement was for an additional two noticeboards. The minutes, once that change was made, were signed by the Chair.

4. Public Forum.
   4.1 Members of the public raised concern over the Ash Tree work that had not yet taken place, and the need for additional noticeboards.
   4.2 District Councillor Mr Scott Hussey was not present.
   4.3 County Councillor Fabian Eagle reported on a number of matters including:
   There is village fete equipment (co co nut shy. Bar b q etc) available to hire free of charge for all parishes, contact Mr Eagle to book in the short term.
   There is funding available through the Highways Fund. This can also be used for environmental projects.
   There is a 'lost country houses of Norfolk' project and the Archive centre would like to hear from anyone with local information. In due course there will be an exhibition.
   It is anticipated that the mayoral election will take place in 2028, and will be on proportional representation.
   The Local Government reorganisation is due for a March decision on the number of Unitary authorities.
   The Rural Business awards were launched to celebrate economy in the rural areas. A new fund is available for young people and veterans setting up businesses.

5. Noticeboards.
   5.1 To receive an update from Cllr N West;
   One installed at a total cost of £763.84 (nett) (Village Hall location) headed 'Foulden Parish Council' – lockable. Previously RESOLVED that two further to be ordered. 1. To

replace existing board outside the woodyard on White Hart Street close to the village sign. 2. To replace existing board outside No. 24 School Road (in The Dip). Neither to be lockable. Noticeboard header 'Foulden Community Notices'. To note four donations received totalling £1,520.00. Highways surveyors donation not yet received at £775.85 as previously agreed – awaiting cheque to be signed.

6. Updates on previous matters.
   6.1 Migration of the website. Transfer has been completed. New site not yet live. This will be instructed shortly, and will be updated as a priority.
   6.2 Peadiatric defibrillator pads on order – delays currently on all Defibrillator pads.
   6.3 Bin installation at White Hart Street/School Road (depend/solutions/stooping). Completed – request has been sent for bin to be added to bin emptying schedule sent to Breckland District Council. Councillors please notify the Clerk if this is not being emptied.
   6.4 NOTED that the ordered treeworks have been completed at the Recreation Ground on 26th and 27th January 2026.

1. Finance

7.1 A bank reconciliation to the 31st January 2026 showing balance at bank of £5,946.03 was available to the meeting. Calculations on predicted upcoming payments show that the budgetary figure of an end of year balance of £1,700 looks to have been accurate.

7.2 It was RESOLVED to make the following payments and note receipts. PROPOSED Cllr Balding, seconded Cllr West.

Sarah Hunt Salary and Homeworking December (paid)	£729.24
Sarah Hunt Salary and Homeworking January (paid)	£612.04
Sarah Hunt Salary and Homeworking February	£612.04
Kingfisher – Litter Bin (£46.98 VAT) (paid)	£281.88
Greenbarnes Ltd – Noticeboard (£148.28 VAT) (paid)	£889.68
Sharon Sweet – December meeting cover (paid)	£114.35
HMRC liability Jan/Feb – not to be paid, account in credit	£ 50.72
Sarah Hunt – refund paediatric defib. Pads (24.80 VAT)	£148.80
Unity bank monthly fee*	£ 6.00
Village Hall December meeting	£ 15.00
Refund Mr N West – noticeboard expenditure (paid) (Tribal Signs, Wickes, Screwfix – VAT of £11.05)	£100.04
Foulden Village Hall – October meeting	£ 15.00
Treelink (3424 White willow, 3425 White Willow, 3426, White Willow, 3428 Weeping Willow) £340.00 VAT	£2,040.00
Refund S Hunt box of A4 paper	£ 21.56
Cozens (Dec, Jan, Feb)	

*Increases to £7.00 from February 2026.

   7.3 Budget against expenditure to date RECEIVED.
   7.4 It was RESOLVED to accept the software quotation from SCRIBE - £99.00 onboarding, £24.00/month. (£100.00 discount from original quotation). PROPOSED Cllr N West, seconded Cllr C Balding. To commence 1st April 2026.

7.5 NOTED Breckland District Council have agreed to pay the precept for 2026-27 (£26,932.00) in one payment in April 2026 to support cash flow for the Parish Council.

7.6 NOTED the reduction in interest rate from Unity on Savings Account from: 2.10 % to 1.95%.

7.7 It was RESOLVED to accept the quotation for necessary treeworks as requested - £1200 plus VAT, providing this can be completed prior to the start of the nesting season. PROPOSED Cllr J Green, seconded Cllr S McMahon.

7.8 Recycling:
The meeting considered ending the contract with Breckland District Council over the provision of Recycling bins located at the Village Hall
or
donating the income to the Village Hall committee for 2026-27.
It was RESOLVED to keep the contract and make the donation on an annual basis following budget agreement. PROPOSED Cllr Parker, seconded Cllr West.

7.9 NOTED that S Hunt now has internet administrative access to the Unity Bank accounts, and Cllr West has access to authorise payments and view the account.

7. Planning

8.1 To consider any applications received from Breckland District Council as consultee and note any responses sent between meetings: NONE

8.2 To note any decisions taken: NONE

8. Correspondence.

9.1 To receive email regarding noticeboard provision. Noted.

9.2 Kings Lynn and West Norfolk call for sites. It was AGREED to remain on the KLWN consultation database.

9. Highways Matters.

10.1 Speeding on Foulden to Didlington Road –Cllrs West and/or McMahon to arrange meeting with Highways.

10. Administrative matters.

11.1 The IT policy was AGREED following discussion, with amendments.

11. Invitation to Community Land Transfers – Breckland Workshop Wed 29th January.
The Clerk attended. The meeting considered the two separate pieces of land in the Parish and it was AGREED not to pursue taking over ownership.

12. Public Forum.
The Council was asked to follow up any funding opportunities.

13. To receive items for the next agenda.
To consider an investment account.
Damage to roadside verges (Cllr McMahon) – to report on any issues reported to Highways.
Streetlight maintenance works – to receive confirmation that the 6 brackets ordered September 2025 at a quoted price of £990 plus VAT have been replaced.

14. To note UPDATED future meeting dates:

April 9th, 6pm Parish Council, 7pm Annual Parish Meeting, Annual Meeting of Recreation Ground Charity (265977) and Highways Surveyors Allotment Charity (1105467)
May 14th, 6pm Annual Parish Council Meeting
July 2nd, 6pm Parish Council Meeting
September 3rd, 6pm Parish Council Meeting
November 5th, 6pm Parish Council Meeting

The meeting closed at 6.58pm.