

Minutes of Fawley Parish Meeting - AGM

Friday 26th April 2024 – 7:30pm

Attendees: Mark Turner (Chair), Margaret Hope, Sarah Ronan, David Burton, Hilary Beck-Burridge, Nick Sargent, Wendy Sargent.

Apologies: Paul Vye

Mark opened with the meeting with a quick run down of the agenda mentioning the SIL monies spending and proceeding with the first point of business below.

Election of Committee:

All roles approved, only change was Sarah Snow resigning from position. Judy McAlpine appointed to the committee.

Finance/AGAR:

- The AGAR form is required to be completed as we had received funds from the SIL payment for the pub in the village.
- For 2023/24 an income of £8549.23 was received, with a total expenditure of £16,269.00 for 2023/24, with £829.58 remaining.
- FPM260424 – This form was produced and allowed for inspection by the village and certificate of exemption was approved.
- FPM260424/2 - The annual governance statement was read and approved at the meeting.
- FPM260424/3 – Accounting statements was read and approved at the meeting.
- FPM260424/4 – Expenditure no greater than £25,000, certificate of exemption approved.

Village Hall:

- It was noted by a villager that the refurbishments of the village hall look very smart and make an impact.
- Mark noted that the curtains are yet to be replaced and will be funded by the Village Trust for these. Makes it a nice place to be which hopefully attracts more people for use and brings in more income.

Pub Update:

- The pub burnt down and now there is just a green field.
- The planning had been cemented as the gateway was built with brick and flint for the planning officers.
- The question was asked if planning runs out.
- Mark advised no as a start has been made and CIL payments received.
- It was then asked if the owner could be forced to complete the build.
- Mark advised no. But what had been agreed in the planning application has to be built. New planning would be needed for anything else.
- No further updates noted for the Pub site.

Roads:

- Work had been done on Benhams to fix potholes etc but it was noted that not much was actually achieved other than a few cleaned gulleys.
- Mark advised that FixMyStreet is the way to go about getting the roads fixed. They are very good at getting things sorted. It can be used for anything, graffiti, fly tipping etc. Not just potholes.
- Sarah Ronan noted that it is a very easy site/app to use.

Speed Limit:

- Ben has taken up the mantle for the speed limit campaign within the village. Having contacted and had several articles in various media outlets, GMB on TV and Henley Standard, Daily Mail etc
- He has setup a petition for this and has approximately 9000 signatures at last check.
- Mark noted that with the noise being produced from this he was hoping to get a safety officer down to show some of the key areas in the village, blind bends, potential accidents etc.
- Judy noted Mark had been working on this for some years now with no thanks and would like this to be acknowledged for the work he has done on this issue.
- Mark advised things had changed considerably since Councils given blanket permission to change speeds in 2012.
- Mark noted Buckinghamshire council doesn't acknowledge 20mph limits in villages nor Quiet Lanes, only 20mph outside schools. possible
- The cost to change all signage etc was estimated to be £60,000 to £70,000. The average speeds on the roads were between 17-28mph. So well below the current 60mph, and seen as a waste of money when the average speed is already below 30mph. The highways guidelines is for a 30mph limit outside churches and schools. Every village is 30mph, except ours.
- Other alternative options like stickers on bins, 20 is plenty etc.
- Judy commented that having spoken with delivery drivers they believe they can do up to the 60mph limit on the roads.
- Mark advises hopefully the safety officer will come and take another look. The petition could be used which could go to the community board to see what happens next.
- The question was asked if unsuccessful could we use other things, like speed bumps?
- Mark advised bumps not allowed on 60mph roads. Signage could be looked into, quiet lanes initiative, green signs up and shared pedestrian access signs to be looked into. All will help make villages not made to feel vulnerable when walking on our lanes.
- The question was asked if there was any data available for the quiet lanes initiatives.
- Mark noted there was none available at the moment but could be looked into.
- Judy asked if we could make our own signs for the village.
- Mark noted they could not look exactly the same as this would be illegal.
- Mark advised that the previous PIDs price document advised it would be £12,000 just for the signage. Potentially funds could be raised for this. But all this takes time and a consultation process which can take some time.
- It was then commented that repeater signs would also be required along the route of the 30mph zone.
- Mark noted that this would be our third bite at the cherry.

- It was then asked if signs could be erected at the bottom of Benhams Lane to indicate no access for low loaders or long vehicles.
- Mark advised only signs indicating it would be unsuitable for HGV, not a no entry.
- It was asked if a sign could be made to indicate this, and to have a think about design to run past the village.
- Mark made a note to ask the question of the council of what, if any restrictions could be put in place.

AOB:

- Mark noted that there would be measuring traffic flow in the village, not necessarily for the speed.
- It was asked if we got a speed limit would it be enforced.
- Mark noted that the Police would not have the manpower to enforce a 30mph speed limit in every village location but rather it should be self-regulating by law abiding citizens.
- Fawley could get an MVAS speed limit sign, if there was a speed limit to deter errant drivers.
- The question was turned to asking about the Jubilee Tree in the rec ground.
- Mark noted that an alternative is looking to be sourced with a local oak tree a possibility.
- With the potential offering of a 3/4ft Oak tree in the rec being supplied.
- Mark noted with a guard around to protect it the oak would gratefully accepted.
- The question was asked about the possibility of a pedestrian gate into the rec.
- Mark noted that a lot of the village funds had been used on the village hall.
- It was noted permission had been granted to use the field for parking for church events.
- It was asked if the bench that is in the field could be potentially recovered from the undergrowth.
- Nick gave a quick update on the strange lining bubbles in the village pond.
- 40 years ago it was lined in clay as was traditional for the times. It was then required to be re-done. Best idea was to get it dredged and a proper liner put in. The proper liner was put in but then these "Hippo" like protrusions arose. These were caused by the ground water rising and forcing air up through the ground which hits the liner and causes these humps.
- Pipes are looking to be paid to bleed air from the liner to remedy the situation.
- The fencing is ready for installing but just awaiting the "Hippo" issue to be solved.
- Mark asked about the trees around the pond and Nick advised they are allowed to sort what they can but some have TPO's and cannot be touched.
- Wendy advised this is an ongoing project.
- Philip Maskel wanted a note to be made thanking the committee for their yearly working.
- Sarah Ronan also expressed what a great job has been done on the village hall.

Next Meeting Date:

- 6 months from this date, approx. 26th October. Date TBC nearer the time.