

FOXLEY GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

The parish council held its quarterly meeting on 3rd November. Before the formal meeting started PC Josh Kitchen, the Safer Neighbourhood Officer covering the Foxley area, gave a short presentation on the Safer Neighbourhood Team, its role, the team members and introduced the Neighbourhood Matters community messaging and alert service (www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk). This service allows you to sign up for local police alerts; receive information about crime in your area, find out about drop-in sessions, answer surveys, and more. There is also a function that allows residents to choose exactly the type of alert they wish to receive.

The main topic of the meeting itself was Finance. Decisions were taken on grants to support local causes and setting of a budget for next financial year including a decision on the precept. The precept is the principle means of funding the parish council and is collected as part of the council tax. The precept for 2022/23 was maintained at the same level of £2500 to cover the Foxley Group. More details of the grants, budget, precept and other matters discussed at the meeting can be seen in the draft minutes, published on the council website www.foxleygrouppc.org.uk.

Finally, there was a concern among some councillors some residents with “riparian responsibilities” were not fully aware of what they are. The following is an extract from information provided by Balfour Beatty:

The owner of land or property that adjoins a watercourse, such as a roadside ditch, is known as the riparian owner and as such:

- You must accept the natural flow of water across your land from an upstream neighbour and allow this, together with drainage from your property or land, to flow downstream.
- You must carry out necessary maintenance of the watercourse through or adjoining your property at your own expense, to the satisfaction of the local land drainage body which could be either Herefordshire Council, the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board or Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board.
- You must maintain the banks and bed of the watercourse, including any piped sections, to avoid any obstruction to the flow of water. This includes trees, shrubs, and litter.
- Before you build or alter any culvert, mill, dam, weir or other similar obstruction in a watercourse, you'll need to seek 'ordinary watercourse flood defence consent' from Herefordshire Council.
- Where a watercourse is sited between two or more properties, each owner is equally responsible.
- You must obtain land drainage consent for any building, planting or alterations within eight metres of the bank