

FRECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Freckenham Parish Council on
Monday 16th September 2019 at 7.30 pm in Freckenham Village Hall

Present: Cllr Pearson, Cornell, Douch

In attendance: Clerk, Jadi Coe, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Busuttil and 13 members of the public

In the absence of the Chairman, Vice Chairman Cllr Pearson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

09/19/01 Apologies for absence & approval of reasons tendered

Cllr Wheeler and Cllr Barton

09/19/02 Declaration of interest in any items on the agenda

None

Item 7.6 Update on Sunnica Solar Farm proposal was brought forward

09/19/07.06 Update on Sunnica Farm proposal

Cllr Pearson and Douch reported that at the current time the Parish Council are waiting for the official response from Sunnica, which is hoped will answer all the questions that were put to them by the Parish, District and County Council. The Parish Council Group are arranging a meeting on 25th September and it is hoped Richard Rout, the Cabinet Member for Environment will be attending.

A member of the Sunnica Community Action Group asked what the response from other Parish Councils and their residents in the area had been. Members of the council responded stating that 11 out of the 12 parish councils who had been invited to join the group had, however they have not, as Freckenham have, distributed any surveys to gather resident's views on the proposal but the general feeling from the majority of residents is that they are opposed to the proposal.

The member of the Action Group stated that although the Sunnica survey was good they had concerns that it was misleading due to the fact it only covered the issue of the size of the proposal, although this is not residents only concerns. Cllr Douch responded that the comment box was to add further comments in addition to the limited questions. This led the member of the Action Group to comment of the Neighbourhood Plan survey sent with the Sunnica survey which he felt was also misleading due to some of the questions, especially the question regarding cheaper electricity. He continued to state that the Parish Council and Action Group had planned to meet regularly to keep each other updated, but this had not yet happened, and that he would like to arrange a meeting soon in order to establish a timeline of events and future meetings. Cllr Douch responded by agreeing to meet with the member of the Action Group but confirmed he and Cllr Pearson have liaised with the members of the Action Group by attending the monthly Action Group meetings that have been held. He also voiced his concerns of future development and how the Parish Council should protect the village against future development. Cllr Pearson responded stating that this is hoped to be done via the Neighbourhood Plan.

A member of the public asked how much land was withdrawn by the owner of Freckenham Estates, Cllr Douch responded stating that this withdrawal was 800 hectares and the total original site was of 2600 hectares.

A member of the public asked if the Parish Council were going to be including in the 2020/21 precept the fees to hire a planning consultant, Cllr Pearson responded stating that this may be included, although nothing has been decided and the Parish Council may share this cost with the other Parishes in the Parish Council Group.

09/19/03 Members of the public are invited to speak on any item within the agenda

A member of the public voiced their concerns on planning application DC/19/0146/FUL on Ferry Lane. They stated that although the number of holiday homes had now decreased the other issues of the site still remained, including the access point onto the site, that the surrounding roads are not adequate, the loss of agricultural land and loss of wildlife habitats. Cllr Douch assured the member of the public that the Parish Council still opposed the application and still stand by original comments made.

A member of the public spoke about the lack of fibre broadband at his property although a Green Box had been installed nearly two years ago this has still not been connected. Cllr Douch responded stating he had looked at this on the Open Reach website which stated that it was in progress. Cllr Douch also suggested Mobile Broadband works well, which would give more speed than a standard ADSL connection.

09/19/04 To receive reports from the County Councillor, District Councillor and to receive the Police Reports

West Suffolk District Cllr Harvey gave the following report:

Good evening to you all my District Council report this month is:

- *The West Suffolk Council Leader is Cllr John Griffiths*
Main portfolio holders are:
 - a. Deputy Leader & Housing – Cllr Sara Midway-White*
 - b. Resources & Partnership - Cllr Sarah Broughton*
 - c. Governance - Cllr Carol Bull*
 - d. Regulatory - Cllr Andy Drummond*
 - e. Families & Communities - Cllr Robert Everitt*
 - f. Growth - Cllr Susan Glossop*
 - g. Leisure, Culture & Community Hubs - Cllr Jo Rayner*
 - h. Operations - Cllr Peter Stevens*
- *The first round of consultation for the proposed Sunnica Solar farm has now closed. There has been joint WS / SCC submission which is available via the planning portal. The next stage in this process will be for Sunnica to respond to these submissions. Once this is received, I will be in a position to advise further. The planning portal number is: - DC/19/0472/EIASCO – The joint SCC/WS Consultation Response dated 11th April 2019 has now been issued.*
- *As you may have seen in the local press WS have setup a Rural task Force and have requested that local residents complete the survey shown at: - <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ruralprioritiesresidents/>. Hard copies are also available to pick up at council offices and on request policy@westsuffolk.gov.uk 01284 757633. Organisations and business, please take part at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ruralprioritiesorganisations/> This survey will close on the 30th September 2019. There are several Public Meetings being held throughout the WS District the first of which was today at Freckenham Village Hall. Thank you to all the attendees.*
- *Residents may receive a survey form concerning the “Residential Waste Composition Analysis in the coming weeks advising that the council will be checking the contents of the Rubbish Bins. The letters went out early September 2019.*
- *The process for Planning application reviews has changed slightly. It is now very important if residents or PC’s do have any concerns to ensure that these are raised to the appropriate Planning Case officer with copies to myself at: brian.harvey@westsuffolk.gov.uk or on my mobile – 07801-472461 in order that I can present these issues at the “Revised Delegation Panel meetings”.*
- *Happy to take any questions*
Thank you, I’m also on Twitter @Brian4manorward

Members of the public voiced their concerns over the lack of advertisements asking residents and groups to complete the Rural Task Force Survey, the issue that paper copies were not readily available, the paper and online surveys appear to differ and that the public meeting held in the Village Hall was not as presented as well as it could of been.

Cllr Harvey responded stating that the survey has been advertised on the council’s website and in the local newspapers and it is hoped that at least 10% of the general public will complete the survey.

Cllr Harvey continued to state he has asked Sgt Duncan Steven to attend this evenings meeting but he has been unable to attend and had sent his apologies however, he had provided Cllr Harvey with the following advice following a recent burglary in the area:

Prior to SNT I worked in CID and was on the now disbanded burglary team for a while. Burglaries are getting more and more common place now especially in isolated rural areas and on fringes of towns/cities. Anywhere where offenders can easily “escape” prior to Police attending. We very rarely have targeted burglaries, most of the time they pass through an area one day and see a house with no cars on drive and clearly no one there. They will drive past the next day and if the same, then they will try their hand at burgling the location. It sounds as if it is a difficult offence to stop. However, there are many things that individuals can do and also Communities can do to avoid this.

- *Number 1 is CCTV. Without a doubt CCTV externally and also internally if possible, will deter burglars. Not a dummy camera and not a cheap £10 camera from e-bay, if it looks the part and covers the access areas, offenders move onto another address.*

- *Alarms sometimes work, if the house is not isolated but do not always put offenders off.*
- *Making the house look occupied. With the night's drawing in now, if an offender drives by an address at 19:00-20:00 hours and lights are off, it is likely that no one is there as opposed to in bed. Put lights on timers - do not leave on during day as they will pick up on this too. If on holiday, have a neighbour pop in to draw curtains, open them in morning. Have a vehicle on the drive so it looks as if someone is there.*
- *Look out for each other. 99% of the time burglaries occur and there is member of public in the area or walking past. No one calls us or sees anything. People need to be suspicious, take a sneaky picture or video of the vehicle or persons if suspicious. If innocent then it doesn't really matter. Report suspicious persons or vehicles to us or online to us. Neighbours and Communities need to talk and know when residents are out, on holiday at work etc. this is the biggest thing that has diminished in recent years.*
- *Don't assume burglars come at night. 80% (from my experience) are daytime or reasonable hours at least. As mentioned, if its dusk and your lights are off, chances are the house is empty rather than people in bed that early. If burglars enter an occupied house at night, if caught their sentencing is increased due to being at night in an occupied house. So, if they hit at day time when an empty house, the sentencing is lowered if caught. So, for residents and Communities, be suspicious at all times not just when its dark. In the past I convicted a burglar who drove through Alpheton village at 08:30 in morning on his way to probation. He stopped en-route to burgle a house as they had clearly gone to work.*
- *Burglars more often than not steal jewellery or small items. Items small enough to put in a pocket. If 2 men are walking away from a neighbour's house with nothing in their hands don't assume that they have not stolen anything. Frequently they will just fill their pockets. Gone are the days when burglars walk out with large TVs and computers, this very rarely happens.*

Cllr Harvey followed on to report on the public meeting due to be held by Suffolk Police:

Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore and Chief Constable, Steve Jupp are staging a series of public meetings across the county and are encouraging Suffolk residents to attend. There will be a meeting in each of the three policing command areas, in Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft. The meetings are an opportunity for the public to ask questions and to find out more about policing in the county.

Each meeting will involve a quick overview from the PCC and the Chief Constable, then the public will have an opportunity to ask questions. There will be a senior police officer, responsible for policing in the local area, to add operational context.

The west area meeting which covers the towns of Bury St Edmunds, Stowmarket, Sudbury, Haverhill, Mildenhall, Newmarket and Brandon and surrounding villages will be held at Bury St Edmunds Rugby Club, Southgate Green, Bury St Edmunds on Tuesday 24 September.

09/19/05 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 15th July and 23rd August 2019

The minutes of each meeting was proposed as a true record of the meeting held and the minutes were signed by Cllr. Pearson.

09/19/06 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered in the Agenda

None

09/19/07 Planning

09/19/07.01 To consider any planning applications:

None

09/19/07.02 To note applications pending:

DC/19/1444/FUL – 1 dwelling on land adjacent to Homefields, Fordham Road, Freckenham.

Noted

DC/19/1472/HH – 1 stable at Hill Cottage, Fordham Road, Freckenham

Noted

DC/19/0146/FUL - Planning Application - (i) change of use from agricultural land to accommodate 10 holiday lodges (ii) managers accommodation (iii) and open space for tourist accommodation and (iv) new access and associated parking. Ferry Lane, Worlington.

Cllr Harvey reported that the deadline for observation and submissions is on 19th September and he will keep the Parish Council informed when further information is known.

09/19/07.03 To note other applications

None

09/19/07.04 To note applications determined

None

09/19/07.05 Update on Neighbourhood Planning Process

Cllr Pearson reported that no meeting was held in August so there is no update but a meeting is due to be held in the near future.

Cllr Harvey asked if the Parish Council had a submission date, Cllr Pearson responded stating no submission date is planned but it is hoped this is before the end of the year.

Cllr Harvey continued to report on the pressure from West Suffolk District Council to provide more homes including affordable homes and that the Neighbourhood Planning committee must be aware of this, he also reported on the importance of SSIs and the possibility that the Mildenhall to the A11/A14 Relief Road could be through Freckenham.

09/19/7.06 Update on Sunnica Solar Farm proposal

This item was brought forward, and was reported after item 2.

09/19/08 Recreation Ground and other assets

09/19/08.01 Playground Report

Cllr Cornell stated that the Annual Independent Playground Area Inspection report had now been received and following the report being received, Cllr Wheeler has suggested for all Councillors to look at the report and visit the playground before arranging a meeting specific to the Playground Area.

09/19/08.02 Update on grass cutting

Cllr Cornell reported another volunteer had kindly taken this role as the predecessor can no longer continue due to work commitments.

09/19/08.03 Update on the wall between Chippenham Road & Shores Close

Cllr Cornell reported that no further work has taken place

09/19/08.04 Any other matters relating to the Recreation Ground

Cllr Cornell reported that various emails had been sent in regards to dogs being poorly in the area, which was reported on at the last meeting, but no further actions are required at this point in time.

09/19/09 Highways Inspection

Cllr Pearson reported that Cllr Wheeler has been corresponding with Suffolk Highways and they have confirmed they have a Line contractor who is due to begin work on the recently resurfaced roads in the village however this has been delayed. It was also made clear that Suffolk Highways may not replace the lines "like for like" in hope that the removal of some road markings can have a positive effect on road safety by reducing vehicle speeds.

A member of the public reported that they had been informed by Suffolk Highways that Fordham Road is not a HGV route, and that Suffolk Highways will look further into the report that HGVs are using the roads and if possible, stop this occurring.

09/19/10 SALC

The date of the Annual General Meeting was confirmed as 12th November 2019 at 1:30am and is to be held at Providence House, Princes Street, Ipswich.

Cllr Cornell stated she plans on attending the meeting.

09/19/11 West Suffolk District Council Town & Parish Forum

It was reported that the date of the next meeting is still to be confirmed

09/19/12 Financial Matters

09/19/12.01 To confirm payment of invoices

There were no payments to approve.

09/19/12.02 To consider any invoices received after the Agenda was issued

The following payments were approved for payment:

J Coe	Clerk expenses	Chq 1035	£108.68
Red Lodge Mill. Centre	Hall Hire - Sunnica	Chq 1036	£25.00
J Coe	Clerk salary	Chq 1037	£749.90

HMRC	Clerk PAYE & NI	Chq 1038	£187.60
------	-----------------	----------	---------

09/19/12.03 Clerk to update on bank balances held

The clerk reported at date £2,795.93 was held in the current account and £20,054.23 in the deposit account. The clerk also distributed copies on the accounts to date and compared the figures to the budgeted figures to the members of the council

The clerk highlighted the following figures:

- Other Income was £6,348.00 more than budgeted, this is due to a grant being received in respect of the Neighbourhood Plan but this money will be spent on the consultant's fee.
- Capital Expenditure was £530.50 more than budgeted, the clerk pointed out that the cost of the bench was funded by locality grants from both the District and County Council but the grant income was received in the accounting year 2018/19.
- Maintenance costs are currently £118.68 more than budgeted. Currently maintenance costs include several items but a large cost to note is £223.20 was spent on replacement batteries for the defibrillator.

09/19/13 Working Groups Report

09/19/13.01 Circular Walk

No update

09/19/13.02 Emergency Plan

No update

09/19/13.03 Defibrillator monthly check Report

Cllr Pearson reported the defibrillator area was clean and is tidy

09/19/13.04 Community Speed watch

Cllr Cornell reported that she is no longer the coordinator but a resident from the village has kindly taken this role on, who will keep Cllr Cornell informed of statistics.

The Community Speed watch coordinator who was in attendance at the meeting as a member of the public, distributed the following report:

I took over as the speed watch coordinator on the 27/08/2019 from Sue Cornell. We had a meeting to hand over all the paperwork and information. I have contacted the speed watch team to inform them of the change of coordinator.

I would like to put an article for Freckenham Parish Pump to raise awareness of the amount of traffic speeding through the village. Also, to ask for volunteers to help with sessions in the village. This will take the pressure off those who are currently doing it. When I get volunteers, I will arrange some training.

The figures are:

-27/08/2019 time 07.00 to 08.00, location number 261 Fordham Road just past the village hall, weather dry cloudy.

Number of vehicles over the speed limit 16, speeds from 38 to 44.

-29/08/2019 time 07.00 to 08.00, location number 261 Fordham road just past the village hall, weather dry with sunny intervals.

Number of vehicles over the speed limit 25 speeds from 38 to 50.

-10/09/2019 Time 07.00 to 08.00, location number 261 Fordham Road just past the village hall, weather dry and cloudy,

Number of vehicles over the speed limit 17 speeds from 37 to 53

-Today we recorded a high number of vehicles passing through the village with 237 cars, 6 HGVs, 4 motorcycles. The average is around 160.

I am working on a spread sheet to collate the above figures this can then be reported to the PC.

The concerns we have are:

-The number of vehicles speeding through the village with no regard to the speed limit.

-Just up from the position we record speeding offences is a children nursery.

-We have had the road resurfaced and the road marking have not been installed, with no road markings vehicles cross to the wrong side of the road

-On the crossroads of Fordham road and Chippenham road there is a slight S in the road, this causes vehicles to hit the curb if they are moving at speed. We have two helpers who live in the houses just up from the crossroads and are always hearing tyres hitting the kerb.

-The number of HGVs coming through the village

-Vehicles very close to other vehicles.

Note, it would be nice to have a visit from the speed watch officers when we are doing sessions. We would be able to carry out session at other times if we had more helpers.

09/19/14 Correspondence Received

None.

09/19/15 Urgent Business

None

07/19/16 Future Meetings

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 18th November 2019.

The meeting closed at 8:43pm.

Jadi Coe

Clerk to the Council