

**FRECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**The Meeting of Freckenham Parish Council on**  
**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.30 pm at Freckenham Village Hall**  
**MINUTES**

Present: Cllr G Tucker, Cllr F McCoig, Cllr T Smith, Cllr P Brooks, Cllr S Smith

In attendance: District Cllr D Taylor, Parish Council clerk Jadi Coe and two members of the public

Cllr G Tucker welcomed everyone to the meeting

**23/11/01 Apologies for absence & approval of reasons tendered**

County Cllr L Stanbury sent his apologies for the meeting.

**23/11/02 Declaration of interest in any items on the agenda**

None

**23/11/03 Members of the public are invited to give their views on any item within the agenda**

None

**23/11/04 To receive reports from the County Councillor, District Councillor and to receive the Police Reports**

District Cllr D Taylor reported that planners had rejected the application for the dog exercise park and he has advised the applicants on how to move forward.

Cllr G Tucker asked about the campaign for a 20mph speed limit in villages. Cllr D Taylor confirmed he would find out more information on this and forward to the clerk.

**23/11/05 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023, proposed by Cllr A Smith seconded by Cllr P Brooks, all in favour

**23/11/06 Planning**

**6.1 Village classification update**

The clerk confirmed that she had written to Cllr Jim Thorndyke in October asking for the village classification to be amended. His response was as below:

*Looking back Freckenham had a site for development which meant an A type village, if you now want no development you can move to B village and we will have to find location that wants the 10 homes currently allocated to Freckenham. I am waiting officers sorting out this allocation that is no longer required.*

**6.2 Freckenham Neighbourhood Plan update**

The drop in event had a poor attendance of just 18 people.

Cllr G Tucker advised those present to complete the questionnaire.

**6.3 The Neighbourhood Plan for Soham and Barway Pre-Submission Consultation**

The draft plan has been published for consultation.

Freckenham Parish Council agreed to not comment on the plan.

**6.4 To consider any planning applications**

DC/23/1713/RM – reserved matters application, submission of details under outline planning application DC/21/0471/OUT for one dwelling at Rectory Farm, Elms Road, Freckenham, IP28 8EW.

It was proposed and agreed that Freckenham Parish Council have no objections to the application.

**23/11/07 Recreation Ground and other assets**

Cllr A Smith reported the following:

*The play equipment is inspected monthly and the inspector produces a report on the risks found and repairs required. The report usually runs to approximately 50 pages and the clerk sends it to me.*

*A number of issues have been reported over many months, possibly years and these need to be addressed or there is a real risk that the equipment will become unsafe.*

*The findings range from tree branches being too close to the equipment to some quite extensive repairs required.*

*While I am happy to attend to the majority of the points raised, there are things that will require a contractor.*

*You all have extracts from the report and I will go through these in the order you have them.*

*The gate to access the main play equipment area does not self-close within the required 8 seconds, in fact it does not self-close at all.*

*The closing mechanism is contained within a tube arrangement you can see to the left of the gate and is part of the gate itself.*

*This will require repairs, possibly by the company that installed it.*

*The next page refers to the swings. The inspector has highlighted minor damage to the swing seats which was mentioned briefly at the last meeting, I don't feel this is as much of a risk factor as the second point on that page which refers to the safety matting and the distance between the swing seat and the ground. That distance is meeting, I too great, it is required to be 800mm. The*

first picture on the next page also refers to the state of the ground and the safety matting beneath the swings. To rectify both of these issues will require lifting of the mats, the ground re levelled and the mats refitted or replaced.

Pages numbered 22 and 31 also highlights the poor condition of the safety matting under the seesaw and the basket swing. There are a number of other items such as wear to the chains on the swings, signs of rot in some of the wooden equipment and the condition of the rope on the rope bridge. These can remain as is for the time being and can be dealt with over the medium term.

In terms of the remaining jobs, these include some attention required to fixings on all of the wooden items, removal of the tree branch that overhangs the basket swing, minor repairs to the fence around the play equipment and repainting of the rocking horse.

This deals with inspection of equipment, in terms of what isn't covered by that, the grass cutting is up to date and there is some minor tidying up required of the small trees particularly on the church meadow side of the field.

New goal nets were mentioned at the last meeting but they would not be installed until the spring of next year at the earliest so they can wait for a decision to be made.

The following was agreed:

-To inform residents via social media and The Pump that the park inspector has noted many low-risk areas which will quickly become high risk if they are not dealt with. This will cost the Parish Council a lot of money so the post would ask residents their thoughts on this and whether the park equipment was used often enough and warranted such expense.

-To obtain quotes for the work required ahead of the January meeting.

-To obtain quotes to install the memorial bench

-To set up a Parish Council FB page

The clerk reported that she received an email from a resident over concerns of a fallen tree and garden waste which has been dumped along their fence near to the wooded area of the park.

It was agreed to obtain quotes to clear this, and if the best quote was under £500 then the quote could be accepted so the problem could be rectified as soon as possible.

### **23/11/08 West Suffolk Decarbonisation Initiatives Fund**

West Suffolk County have now released details of their Decarbonisation Initiatives Fund. The first call on this fund is for parish and town councils to upgrade their remaining streetlights to LED in order to obtain the environmental benefits. The grant can be paid in relation to any LED upgrades carried out since 1 April 2022. The grant will cover 100 per cent of the cost of works.

It was agreed that the clerk would send councillors a list of street lights and then they would determine which require upgrading to LED so that the clerk could complete the application form.

### **23/11/09 Review into the grass cutting and wider grounds maintenance service carried out by West Suffolk Council**

West Suffolk Council are inviting parish and town councils to share their views as part of a review into the grass cutting and wider grounds maintenance service carried out by West Suffolk Council by 24<sup>th</sup> November.

It was agreed that the clerk would ask WSC what they are responsible for to determine what comments should be made. Comments to then be agreed via email.

### **23/11/10 Highways issues, including SID update**

Cllr G Tucker reported that he and Cllr P Brooks had been around the village and noted that there was a SID on Fordham Road but it was not working, they would look at this in more detail.

They also reported that there were posts in other location in which a new SID could be fitted.

### **23/11/11 Financial Matters:**

#### 11.1 To consider any quotes received

None

#### 11.2 To confirm payment of invoices

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Payee	Detail	Amount
Places4People	NH Plan consultancy	£4,338.00
Jadi Coe	Clerk salary (Apr to Sep)	£1,760.00
Jadi Coe	Clerk expenses	£68.94
SALC	Payroll service	£22.80

#### 11.3 Receive and review draft budget for 2024/25

The first draft on the 24/25 budget was distributed to all members.

It was agreed to finalise at the January meeting and any questions/thoughts in the meantime to be discussed via email.

#### 11.4 Agree annual donations

The following donations were agreed:

Payee	Details	Amount
Alzheimer's Society	Donation	£50.00
The Samaritans	Donation	£50.00
British Legion	Donation	£75.00
EA Childrens Hospice	Donation	£50.00

EAAA	Donation	£50.00
St Nicholas Hospice	Donation	£50.00

**23/11/12 Correspondence Received**

None that had not been discussed within other items.

**23/11/13 Parish Pump**

Cllr G Tucker to provide a statement ref the park.

**23/11/14 Urgent Business**

None

The meeting closed at 20:45

*Jadi Coe,*  
Clerk to the Council