

FRECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
The Meeting of Freckenham Parish Council on
Monday 8th January 2024 at 7.30 pm at Freckenham Village Hall
MINUTES

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

In attendance: Parish Council clerks Jadi Coe & Naomi Alecock, and five members of the public

Cllr G Tucker welcomed everyone to the meeting

24/01/01 Apologies for absence & approval of reasons tendered

Cllr F McCoig sent his apologies

Apologies were also received from District Cllr D Taylor and one parishioner.

24/01/02 Declaration of interest in any items on the agenda

None

24/01/03 Members of the public are invited to give their views on any item within the agenda

No members wished to give their views.

24/01/04 Introduce new clerk

The Chairman welcomed Naomi Alecock who has been appointed clerk and RFO. Naomi will work alongside the current clerk Jadi until she resigns on 16th February.

24/01/05 To receive reports from the County Councillor, District Councillor and to receive the Police Reports

Cllr G Tucker read the report sent from Cllr D Taylor:

Local Plan: WSC voted for the local plan to be put forward for review at the last full council meeting 18th December. The plan will be challenged as no document of this importance, effecting so many and with differing priorities would be expected to be accepted without any issues. I fully respect people raising their objections and these will be considered before the plan is submitted.

Dog exercise park: I am not sure if the parish council is aware be the decision was deferred to 7th Feb as 13 for it and 2 opposed. There were a couple of issues, I believe to do with the colour of the fence and establishing a higher hedge. However, I do believe this will go through.

Please feel free to email or call me with any issues.

Cllr L Stanbury confirmed he had sent his full report via email and he continued to report on the increase in the precept and SCC expenses within their budget.

Cllr G Tucker asked Cllr L Stanbury about the position of the Post Office in Mildenhall, as it is an important service to have. Cllr L Stanbury responded stating a new post master is required, this vacancy has been advertised and although there was interest in the position, Heron Foods requires works carried out to house the Post Office facility and this wasn't viable to the applicants. He reported that SCC do not have money to support such works required however, Mildenhall Town Council have more freedom to fund such works and that they have been approached and asked this.

A member of the public reported that there were post offices facilities housed with Morrisons at St Johns Close, Mildenhall.

24/01/06 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2023

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th November 2023, proposed by Cllr A Smith seconded by Cllr P Brooks, all in favour

24/01/07 Planning

7.1 Village classification update

No update.

7.2 Freckenham Neighbourhood Plan update

Cllr G Tucker reported that he public consultation on the draft plan ended 4th December, approximately 30 responses were received from parishioners, the plan should be submitted to WSC in March and if everything goes accordingly it would go to a referendum in July.

7.3 To consider any planning applications

DC/23/2079/TCA - Trees in a conservation area notification - two Limes (T14 and T15 on plan) raise crown to three metres above ground level; one Sycamore (T16 on plan) reduce five Southwest side laterals by 1.5 metres to balance crown, remove epicormic growth up to five metres from ground level at Linden House, Elms Road, Freckenham, Suffolk.

It was proposed and agreed that Freckenham Parish Council had NO OBJECTIONS to the application.

DC/23/2078/TPO Tree preservation order - a. seven Lime (T1-T7 on plan within G1 on order) raise crown to three metres above ground level; b. one Yew (T17 on plan within A3 on order) remove co-dominant stem at 1.5 metres from ground level and reduce overall crown by one metre; c two Lime (T18, T19 on plan within A3 on order) raise crown to three metres above ground level at Linden House, Elms Road, Freckenham, Suffolk, IP28 8JG

It was proposed and agreed that Freckenham Parish Council had NO OBJECTIONS to the application.

DC/23/2050/VAR - Proposal Planning application - variation of condition two of DC/22/1832/FUL to enable use of amended plans for a. one dwelling b. vehicular access at Land North of Horseshoe Barn, 5 Mortimer Lane, Freckenham, Suffolk. It was proposed and agreed that Freckenham Parish Council had NO OBJECTIONS to the application.

23/01/08 Recreation Ground and other assets

The clerk confirmed that following the last meeting the quote from RH Landscapes to clear the debris was accepted. Cllr G Tucker read a letter from a parishioner in response to the Parish Pump article in relation to the park. It was confirmed that all responses in regard to the park were in favour of keeping the park and noted the importance of the park especially for younger children. Cllr A Smith confirmed he was meeting a contractor on site in view to them providing a quote for the works required. Cllr A Sith confirmed that the lawnmower required a service and it was agreed he would contact CW Kirk to arrange this.

23/01/09 West Suffolk Decarbonisation Initiatives Fund

Cllr G Tucker and Cllr P Brooks confirmed they would look at the remaining lights in Mildenhall Road, North Street, Church Lane and East view to determine if they required upgrading to LED units. It was agreed that 'WSC will procure condition surveys and upgrade works on behalf of the parish or town council using that parish or town council's existing maintenance contract with Suffolk County Council'. The clerk to complete the form and submit before the deadline.

23/01/10 Highways issues, including SID update

Cllr G Tucker reported he had been quoted £195 for the existing SID to be looked at. He agreed to look at this himself.

23/01/11 Financial Matters:

11.1 To consider any quotes received including:

Replace unit 11, Church Lane

SCC have informed FPC this unit needs replacing. A quote has been received from SCC and K&M Lighting. A has been requested from Pearce and Kemp however they have yet to provide one.

K&M - the cost of removing and disposing of the existing lantern, supply and fit new LED lantern would be £230.00 net

SCC - to replace the above obsolete lantern which is now beyond repair with a new LED type for £565.01 net

It was proposed and agreed to accept the quote from K&M Lighting and to look to reclaim this expense via the decarbonisation scheme.

Installation of memorial bench

Three quotes have been received to install the memorial bench on the playing field:

SP Landscapes - £600

RH Landscapes - £450

Zion - £1150

It was proposed and agreed to accept the quote from RH Landscapes.

11.2 To confirm payment of invoices

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Payee	Details	Amount
Jadi Coe	Salary	£880
HMRC	Clerk salary	£220
ICO	Data protection fee	£40
FVH	PC meetings hall hire	£100

11.3 Receive and review draft budget for 2024/25

The draft budget was reviewed.

The draft budget showed a precept of £15,050 and other income of £1,180 totalling £16,230.

Budgeted expenses in the year totalled £18,247, of which £2,017 is brought forward from 2023/24 reserves.

It was agreed to increase the precept figure and expenditure total by £750.

It was resolved to agree the amended budget detailing precept of £15,800 and total expenditure of £18,997, proposed by Cllr P Brooks, seconded by Cllr A Smith and agreed unanimously.

11.4 Approval of 2024/25 precept amount and complete and sign application form

The precept application form detailing a precept of £15,800 (5% increase to tax payers) was approved and signed by the Chairman and clerk.

24/01/12 Correspondence Received

None

24/01/13 Parish Pump

Deadline for the next edition is 8th March

24/01/14 Urgent Business

It was agreed that a new laptop could be purchased for use by the clerk up to a value of £400.

The meeting closed at 8:13

Jadi Coe,
Clerk to the Council