

## FRECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**The Meeting of Freckenham Parish Council on  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm at Freckenham Village Hall**

### MINUTES

In attendance:

Cllr. Brooks  
Cllr. McCoig  
Cllr. Tucker

Also in attendance:

Clerk Naomi Alecock and 5 members of the public.

The Chair delayed the start of the meeting; it started at 7.41pm.

#### **1. Apologies for absence & approval of reasons tendered**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. A. Smith and S. Smith.

#### **2. Declaration of interest and dispensations**

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations.

#### **3. To receive approval of minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024 from those members present at the meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes from the parish council meeting on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024 with no changes. Proposed by Cllr. McCoig, seconded by Cllr. Brooks. All in favour.

#### **4. Public Participation**

A parishioner has been approached by the Say No To Sunnica Group about setting up a Friends of Green Lane Badlingham Group and a request was made for support from the PC. Cllr. Tucker advised that an article could be published in the next Parish Pump. The Clerk requested a proposal from the group in writing to the PC to clearly identify their aims and requirements of the PC. It was also suggested that contact be made with Cllr. Taylor as District Councillor as he may be able to make enquiries within West Suffolk Council and access funding for connectivity. Once more information is received this can be added to the next agenda for discussion.

#### **5. District Councillors Report**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Taylor. They sent a report giving an update prior to the meeting. WSC are looking at a balanced 2025 budget. There are a number of empty properties including Mildenhall Bus Station, if there are any suggestions of how these can be used, please contact Cllr. Taylor. They are keen to get the parishes within the Manor Ward together for a meeting. WSC are introducing an additional recycling bin in 2026.

## 6. County Councillors Report

Apologies were received from Cllr. Stanbury. They circulated their report prior to the meeting.

There is a highways capital fund available for works such as small potholes, signs. Suggested areas that could be considered are:

- Repair of small potholes in Mortimer Lane
- Repair of town sign
- Repair of bollards opposite Freckenham House
- Installation of pavement between North Street and Mildenhall Road
- Installation of signage on the blind corner
- Replacement of faded 30mph sign

## 7. Parish Matters

### 7.1 To confirm acceptance of the changes to the Neighbourhood Plan and to proceed to referendum

It was **AGREED** to accept the changes to the Neighbourhood Plan and to proceed to referendum. It was **AGREED** that the preference would be a referendum on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May to coincide with the County Council elections to encourage a better turnout; however, the PC would like to be consulted on any further changes prior to this.

### 7.2 To receive a verbal update on the village classification

The village classification was heard at a hearing session on 6<sup>th</sup> November. The PC were represented by their Neighbourhood Plan consultant who put forward a strong case that Freckenham was in the wrong category given the lack of services and facilities available. The whole Local Plan needs to be considered prior to a decision being met and the outcome will not be known until the Spring.

## 8. Financial Matters

### 8.1 To receive the monthly bank accounts

It was **NOTED** that there is currently £282.31 in the current account and £20,723.49 in the business account.

### 8.2 To agree payments and expenses

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Total</u>
30/09/2024	SALC Payroll service	£15.00	£3.00	£18.00
01/10/2024	Suffolk Cloud - new email addresses	£150.00	£0.00	£150.00
11/11/2024	Clerk expenses	£45.09	£0.00	£45.09
		<b>£210.09</b>	<b>£3.00</b>	<b>£213.09</b>

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the above payments and expenses. Proposed by Cllr. Brooks, seconded by Cllr. McCoig. All in favour.

### 8.3 To review and agree the 2025/26 budget

The draft 2025/26 budget was presented by the Clerk. They explained the areas where the costs have been higher than budgeted for this year and this has been taken into account for 2025/26 along with the plan to remove the outdoor gym equipment and these lines increased accordingly. The expected expenditure totals £17,945.00. It was **AGREED** to **APPROVE** the proposed 2025/26 budget. Proposed by Cllr. Tucker, seconded by Cllr. Brooks. All in favour.

The Clerk explained that with the forecast income of £1230.00 this would give a precept figure of £16,715.00, a 4% increase on last years precept. It was **AGREED** to **APPROVE** the precept figure of £16,715.00. Proposed by Cllr. Tucker, seconded by Cllr. Brooks. All in favour. The precept form was signed by the Chair and the Clerk ready for submission to WSC.

## **9. Exchange of information**

A question was raised over the upgrade of the streetlights as there are 3 on Mildenhall Road that have not been upgraded yet. It was also noted that streetlight 154695 on North Street has bushes overgrowing round it obscuring the light and the streetlight outside the Golden Boar is not working.

## **10. Date and time of next meeting – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.30pm in Freckenham Village Hall, 7 Fordham Road, Freckenham, IP28 8JB**

The meeting closed at 8.22pm.