

FRECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Meeting of Freckenham Parish Council on
Monday 8th September 2025 at 7.30pm at Freckenham Village Hall

MINUTES

In attendance:

Cllr. Burrows
Cllr. McCoig (from 7.40pm)
Cllr. A Smith
Cllr. S Smith
Cllr. Tucker

Also in attendance:

Clerk Naomi Alecock, District Cllr. Taylor, County Cllr. Stanbury and 6 members of the public.

1. Welcome

2. Apologies for absence & approval of reasons tendered

There were no apologies for absence.

3. Declarations of members interests and dispensations

Item 10.3 – Cllr. A Smith

4. To receive approval of minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 14th July 2025 from those members present at the meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes from the parish council meeting on Monday 14th July 2025 with no changes. Proposed by Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. Burrows. All in favour.

5. Matters arising from minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 14th July 2025

The ACV application has been submitted to West Suffolk Council and there should be an outcome by 17th September.

Letters have been sent to the relevant authorities regarding consultation on the discharge of conditions for Sunnica. A standard response has been received from all authorities stating that we will be notified of a discharge of condition and we can submit comments, however as we are not a statutory consultee, they do not have to legally take these into account.

The Evacuation Plan has not been amended and sent to WSC yet as information is awaited from Cllr. McCoig.

Email addresses have been set up for Cllrs. McCoig and Tucker. Both have confirmed that they are set up and working ok.

A request for volunteers in an emergency was put on our Facebook page after the last meeting but no one has been in contact to add their details. The Clerk advised that this would also be published in the Parish Pump.

6. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

The Chair agreed for items 7 and 8 to be swapped.

Cllr. McCoig arrived at 7.40pm.

7. County Councillors Report

The plan for 1 Suffolk unitary authority has been released and would see a saving of £34.9m; planning would remain localised. The business case is to go to the Ministers for consideration.

Initial data from the speed survey carried out in Elms Road suggests speeding is above expected and Cllr. Stanbury is working with Highways to see what can be done including consideration of a 40mph zone.

8. District Councillors Report

A website has been set up for 3 Councils for Suffolk.

WSC have the least average debt out of the District Councils.

9. Parish Matters

9.1 To receive an update on Elms Road traffic survey and meeting

Cllr. Tucker met with Andrew Moore from SCC to discuss installing a footpath in Mildenhall Road. There are a number of issues including a mains man hole and telegraph pole which would need moving and a ramp would be needed either side of the road. A feasibility study would need to be carried out in the region of £3,000. A roundabout was discussed but this would cost £150,000.

An alternative suggestion was proposed for white lining along Mildenhall Road to form a demarcation was suggested which Cllr. Stanbury will look at.

District Cllr. Taylor and County Cllr. Stanbury left the meeting at 8pm.

9.2 To receive an update on the playing field and consider a proposed use

Cllr. A Smith informed that the wooden edging is failing and needs replacing. It was proposed to do it gradually as it fails; it was agreed that Cllr. A Smith would carry out this work and reclaim through expenses.

A request has been received to use the field for a boot camp. Concerns were raised as there is no lighting or parking and the ground is dry and cracked in the Summer and sometimes flooded in the Winter. Further information was requested in order to consider at the next meeting.

9.3 To receive an update on the phone box library

Cllrs. A Smith and S Smith gave an update; the library has been refurbished with new donations being received and the library being used.

9.4 To receive an update on the Russian Vine clearance

Cllr. A Smith informed the Council that stage 1 of the clearance has been completed, stage 2 should be carried out this week with 1 more stage to go.

10. Financial Matters

10.1 To consider quotes for new SID's

Quotes were considered for 2 new SID's. The Clerk advised that County Cllr. Stanbury would be able to provide £1,500 towards the cost, however due to a change in eligibility District Cllr. Taylor would not be able to offer any funding unless it was sited in a new location. Further funding needs to be looked into; however, the remaining cost may need to come from the contingency reserve in which there is currently in the region of £14,000; this would be at least 50% of this budget.

Consideration was made towards having the SID's inspected to see if they can be repaired. It was **AGREED** to **APPROVE** a cost of £500 maximum to carry this out. Proposed by Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. S Smith. All in favour.

Speedwatch now have 6 volunteers and the paperwork has been submitted to the Police to arrange training.

10.2 To receive the monthly bank accounts

It was **NOTED** that there is currently £502.80 in the current account and £23,892.11 in the business account.

10.3 To agree payments and expenses

Retrospective approval of invoices (subject to 5.5(a) of the financial regulations)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Total</u>
22/07/2025	Simon Cock - ACV documents	£21.00	£0.00	£21.00
04/08/2025	Gipping Press - Parish Pump	£284.00	£0.00	£284.00
To be approved				
31/08/2025	A Smith expenses	£17.87	£0.00	£17.87
31/08/2025	A Smith expenses	£61.25	£0.00	£61.25
03/09/2025	Clerk expenses	£44.66	£0.00	£44.66
		£428.78	£0.00	£428.78

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the above payments and expenses. Proposed by Cllr. Tucker, seconded by Cllr. Burrows. 4 in favour, 1 abstention.

11. Exchange of information

Cllr. McCoig asked if the village has a flagpole. Cllr. Tucker informed that there is one at the Church. Cllr. McCoig will approach the Church to ask if they require a flag.

The Clerk informed the Council that she had invited Tim Passmore to a meeting; he is willing to attend, however would prefer to meet with adjoining parishes. The PCC is holding

public sessions for people to attend to ask questions with one in Mildenhall in October. Cllr. Burrows said he would attend and any questions can be sent to him for him to raise.

The Clerk attended training today on updates to accessibility on the website. She advised that all Council's need to adopt an IT policy and she aims to draft this for the next meeting.

12. Date and time of next meeting – Monday 10th November 2025 at 7.30pm in Freckenham Village Hall, 7 Fordham Road, Freckenham, IP28 8JB

The meeting closed at 8.29pm.