

FRECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Meeting of Freckenham Parish Council on
Monday 10th March at 7.30pm at Freckenham Village Hall

MINUTES

In attendance:

Cllr. Brooks
Cllr. McCoig
Cllr. A Smith
Cllr. S Smith
Cllr. Tucker

Also in attendance:

Clerk Naomi Alecock, District Cllr. Taylor, Vicar Mark McCaghrey, and 4 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

There were no declarations of interests or dispensations.

4. To receive approval of minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 13th January 2025 from those members present at the meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes from the parish council meeting on Monday 13th January 2025 with no changes. Proposed by Cllr. McCoig, seconded by Cllr. A Smith. All in favour.

5. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

6. District Councillors Report

West Suffolk Council have agreed a balanced budget with a 2.99% increase equating to 17p a week with no services being cut. Parking fees are being increased in Bury St Edmunds and Newmarket. There will be major infrastructure investment if devolution goes ahead.

Three options are being considered for devolution. SCC's preference is one unitary authority whereas WSC favours three unitary authorities consisting of Greater Ipswich, West Suffolk and East Suffolk.

7. County Councillors Report

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

The Clerk has received correspondence from Cllr. Stanbury informing that following the meeting between Cllr. Brooks and Andrew Moore from SCC 15 orders for works to Elms Road have been placed. The concern over speeding along Elms Road requires a speed survey which Cllr. Stanbury has agreed the funding for.

8. Parish Matters

8.1 To receive a verbal update on the Neighbourhood Plan referendum

The Neighbourhood Plan was voted on with 67 votes for and 14 against. This will now be considered at West Suffolk Council's meeting on 18th March for them to adopt.

1 member of the public left the meeting.

8.2 To discuss pavement parking and speeding issues

Letters have been sent out to offending properties who are parking on the pavements. A response had been received from one resident who has said that they park on the pavement due to speeding vehicles. The Clerk has contacted the Police who carry out speed watch and confirmed that there are few vehicles caught speeding and there isn't cause for concern so it is unlikely that any speeding restrictions would be implemented.

It was raised that some cars park in the opposite direction to the traffic which is an offence and is enforceable by the Police. The CCTV from the pub could possibly capture any collisions and the re-introduction of SID's could alert drivers to the speed limit.

8.3 To review the management of the website

Cllr. Brooks explained that the Clerk is paid for 4hrs work a week and maintaining the non-council pages on the website is taking a lot of her time. It was **AGREED** that administration permissions be given to both the Village Hall and the Church for a representative to update their pages accordingly. Proposed Cllr. Tucker, seconded by Cllr. A Smith. All in favour.

8.4 To discuss VE 80 and VJ Day

It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council would not arrange any events for VE 80 Day on 8th May and VJ Day on 15th August. The Vicar, Mark McCaghrey informed that the church could possibly organise a commemoration in the form of a service.

9. Financial Matters

9.1 To receive the monthly bank accounts

It was **NOTED** that there is currently £370.32 in the current account and £18,490.47 in the business account.

District Cllr. Taylor left the meeting.

9.2 To agree payments and expenses

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Total</u>
05/01/2025	A Smith expenses	£28.34	£0.00	£28.34
07/01/2025	Clerk expenses	£45.96	£0.00	£45.96
		£74.30	£0.00	£74.30

The Clerk explained that she had received today the streetlighting estimated figure for 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025 totalling £1276.65+VAT. She needs to check the information prior to payment but asked for delegation to pay the invoice once received to ensure it is paid prior to the next meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the above payments and expenses and to delegate responsibility to the Clerk to agree and pay the streetlighting invoice. Proposed by Cllr. Brooks, seconded by Cllr. Tucker. All in favour.

9.3 To consider a quote for the cutting of the vehicular access to the playing field

A quote of £250 + VAT was discussed and it was **AGREED** to **ACCEPT** this. Proposed by Cllr. S Smith, seconded by Cllr. McCoig. All in favour.

9.4 To consider a quote for the repair/maintenance of the play area identified during the inspections

A quote of £3,097.30 + VAT for the works to the playground and a quote for the repair to the outdoor gym equipment were discussed. It was **AGREED** to **ACCEPT** the quote of £3,097.30 + VAT for the works to the playground. It was **AGREED** to remove the outdoor gym equipment rather than repairing as it is not well used and will need replacing soon. Delegated responsibility was given to Cllr. A Smith to obtain a quote for the removal and to accept and proceed with works if the cost falls within what had already been received and considered at the meeting. Proposed by Cllr. Brooks, seconded by Cllr. S Smith. All in favour.

1 member of the public left the meeting.

9.5 To consider a quote for the repair of the village sign

One quote of £1000 - £1200 has been received for a metal sign with similar features to the current one. Cllr. Tucker is awaiting a further quote. Given the time it has taken to receive quotes, it was **AGREED** to **ACCEPT** the quote received. Proposed by Cllr. McCoig, seconded by Cllr. A Smith. All in favour.

10. Staffing Matters

10.1 To agree job description for the Clerk

It was **AGREED** to **APPROVE** the job description for the Clerk. Proposed by Cllr. Brooks, seconded by Cllr. S Smith. All in favour.

1 member of the public left the meeting.

11. Exchange of information

Cllr. McCoig advised that he had been contacted by WSC as the contact for the Emergency Plan. It was last reviewed in 2023 and needs reviewing. It was agreed to add to the next agenda.

Cllr. Brooks informed the Council that he would be resigning with immediate effect due to moving from the area. He was thanked for his time on the Council.

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

The meeting closed at 8.28pm.