

FRECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Meeting of Freckenham Parish Council on
Monday 10th November 2025 at 7.30pm at Freckenham Village Hall

MINUTES

In attendance:

Cllr. Burrows
Cllr. McCoig
Cllr. A Smith
Cllr. S Smith
Cllr. Tucker (Chair)

Also in attendance:

Clerk Naomi Alecock, District Cllr. Taylor, County Cllr. Stanbury and 5 members of the public.

1. Welcome

Cllr. Tucker welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence & approval of reasons tendered

There were no apologies for absence.

3. Declarations of members interests and dispensations

Item 13.3 – Cllr. A Smith

4. To receive approval of minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 8th September 2025 from those members present at the meeting

It was noted that the date of the last meeting is incorrect on the agenda and should read Monday 8th September and not Monday 16th September.

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes from the parish council meeting on Monday 8th September 2025 with no changes. Proposed by Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. McCoig. All in favour.

5. Public Participation

A statement was read out from a resident detailing damage to a property due to speeding vehicles in Elms Road.

The Chair proposed to bring forward item 12.2, seconded by Cllr. S Smith. All in favour.

Item 12.2 was then brought forward.

To receive and approve traffic calming proposals for Elms Road

The Council considered 5 traffic calming proposals for Elms Road from SCC which will be funded by County Cllr. Stanbury. It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** all proposals. Proposed by Cllr. Tucker, seconded by Cllr. S Smith. All in favour.

6. District Councillors Report

Cllr. Taylor advised that WSC are now working on the next Local Plan following the adoption of the most recent one. Discussions are still ongoing for the unitary authority with elections for a Mayor due to take place in 2026. Reminder about locality funding availability.

7. County Councillors Report

Cllr. Stanbury thanked the Committee for approving the traffic calming measures in Elms Road; he will contact SCC tomorrow to progress. SCC are working on the budget for next year. Reminder about locality funding availability.

District Cllr. Taylor and County Cllr. Stanbury left the meeting at 7.54pm.

8. To discuss any requirements of the next WSC Local Plan

Timescales were requested and it was **AGREED** to **DEFER** to a future agenda once this information is received.

9. To consider the proposed changes to the West Suffolk Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2026 – 2027

It was **RESOLVED** to **SUPPORT**. Proposed by Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. McCoig. All in favour.

10. Planning Consultations

10.1 DC/25/1586/ELEC – Application under the overhead lines (Exemption) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 – a. remove existing stay wire b. replace existing pole with stout terminal pole – Holmes Farm, Mortimer Lane, Freckenham

It was **RESOLVED** to make **NO COMMENT**. Proposed by Cllr. Tucker, seconded by Cllr. S Smith. All in favour.

10.2 DC/25/1714/TCA – Trees in a conservation area notification – one poplar (marked on plan) fell – Lane End, North Street, Freckenham

It was **RESOLVED** to make **NO OBJECTION**. Proposed by Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. Tucker. All in favour.

11. To consider the West Row Neighbourhood Plan

It was **RESOLVED** to make **NO COMMENT**. Proposed by Cllr. McCoig, seconded by Cllr. A Smith. All in favour.

12. Parish Matters

12.1 To note the ACV decision

The Clerk reported that the nomination to register The Golden Boar an Asset of Community Value was accepted by WSC on 16th September. This property is now on the ACV list and if it becomes available for purchase the community will be offered the opportunity to purchase.

12.2 To receive and approve traffic calming proposals for Elms Road

This item was brought forward.

12.3 To receive feedback from the Community meeting with neighbouring parishes

Cllr. McCoig gave an update on the meeting. He has also attended a meeting with the MP Nick Timothy. Barton Mills and Worlington Parish Councils are keen to join forces in order to spread costs and tackle issues. It was **AGREED** for Cllr. McCoig to pursue this. Proposed by Cllr. McCoig, seconded by Cllr. Burrows. All in favour.

12.4 To receive feedback from the Police meeting

Cllr. Burrows gave an update on the meeting. There were approximately 30 attendees and issues discussed included speeding and devolution.

12.5 To discuss the proposed letting of the woodland to the east and west of North Street

A proposal from SCC was considered to let the woodland to the east and west of North Street at a cost of £525.00 per annum. It was **RESOLVED** to **DECLINE** and to ask if the tree assessment could still be carried out in order to ensure it is safe. There was concern over the land being used for flytipping and the Council requested that a measure be implemented to prevent this. Proposed by Cllr. Tucker, seconded by Cllr. A Smith. All in favour.

13. Financial Matters

13.1 To receive an update on the SID's

The Clerk advised that the 2 SID's on Mildenhall and Fordham Roads were originally installed by SCC and now they are not functioning will be removed; any replacement will have to be carried out by the PC, however SCC will replace the posts and licences will not be required as they are already in place.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the purchase of 1 smile/ frown MSID for Fordham Road and to apply for funding towards this from District Cllr. Taylor and County Cllr. Stanbury.

13.2 To receive the monthly bank accounts

It was **NOTED** that there is currently £500.52 in the current account and £22,667.12 in the business account.

13.3 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>
16/10/2025	RBL Poppy Appeal	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00
To be approved				
<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Total</u>
30/09/2025	SALC - 6mths payroll	£19.00	£3.80	£22.80
01/10/2025	S.P. Landscapes & Tree Contractors Ltd	£1,195.00	£239.00	£1,434.00
05/11/2025	A Smith expenses	£113.00	£0.00	£113.00
05/11/2025	Clerk expenses	£28.36	£0.00	£28.36
		£1,355.36	£242.80	£1,598.16

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

13.4 To review and agree the 2026/27 budget

The Clerk presented the draft 2026/27 detailing an increased expenditure of £5,560 from £17,945 to £23,505, a 30.98% increase and an increased income of £25.00 from £1230 to £1255. The increase is due to incorrect advice being given in previous years and the budget being capped to under 5%. It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the draft 2026/27 budget. Proposed by Cllr. Tucker, seconded by Cllr. A Smith. All in favour.

13.5 To review and agree the 2026/27 precept

The Clerk advised that following the approval of the 2026/27 budget, the precept figure is calculated at £22,350 meaning an increase of £33.77 per Band D property to £145.97 per year, a 30.10% increase. It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the precept application and the application form was signed by the Chair and the Clerk. Proposed by Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. Tucker. All in favour.

14. To receive a verbal update on the Governance Review

The Clerk has met with the Internal Auditors who have undertaken a governance review. Policies for IT, FOI, Reserves, Risk Management, Data Protection and privacy notices need drafting and adopting. Internal controls also need to be implemented with transparency over bank reconciliations and invoice sampling. There are questions around the Clerks contract with an error being identified with the holiday entitlement.

The Clerk advised that she is contracted for 4 hours a week which she is already exceeding; this work is in addition to that; it was noted that failure to implement these would result in failure of compliance for the review and AGAR at year end. The Clerk requested the need for overtime to enable this work to be carried out with the agreement that it would be agreed at each meeting prior to being submitted to SALC for payment. It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE**. Proposed by Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. Tucker. All in favour.

15. Clerks Report

There was nothing to report.

16. Correspondence

A briefing note regarding a Community Governance Review that WSC will be carrying out and consulting on from December has been received. The Clerk will circulate with a view to adding to a future agenda when a formal consultation is received.

17. Exchange of information

A request was made to add consider quotes for the repair/ replacement of the bench at East View to the next agenda.

18. Date and time of next meeting – Monday 12th January 2026 at 7.30pm in Freckenham Village Hall, Fordham Road, Freckenham, IP28 8JB

The meeting closed at 8.54pm.