

FRECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Meeting of the Annual Freckenham Parish Council Meeting on
Monday 12th May at 8.00 pm at Freckenham Village Hall

MINUTES

In attendance:

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

Also in attendance:

Clerk Naomi Alecock, District Cllr. Taylor and 7 members of the public.

Annual Business

1. Election of Chairman and receive Chairmans Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr. Tucker was proposed for the position of Chairman by Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. S. Smith. All in favour. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed and Cllr. Tucker was elected Chairman.

2. Election of Vice Chairman and receive Vice Chairmans Declaration of Office

Cllr. A. Smith was proposed for the position of Vice Chairman by Cllr. McCoig, seconded by Cllr. Tucker. All in favour. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed and Cllr. A. Smith was elected Vice Chairman.

3. Apologies for absence & approval of reasons tendered

There were no apologies for absence.

4. Declaration of interest and dispensations

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations.

5. Co-option of Councillor

We have received one expression of interest for co-option from Chris Burrows. Chris provided the Council with some information about himself. Cllr. Tucker then proposed to co-opt Chris, seconded by Cllr. S Smith. All in favour. Chris was invited to join the meeting as a Councillor and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by him and the Clerk.

6. Appointment of Councillor Representatives on outside bodies

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint the following Councillors to the following outside bodies:

- SALC – Cllr. McCoig
- Shores Charity – Cllr. S Smith
- Village Hall Committee – Cllr. Burrows

7. To confirm working groups for 2025/26

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint the following Councillors to the following working groups:

- Risk assessments – Cllr. S Smith
- Speedwatch – Cllr. Tucker
- Recreational field – Cllr. A Smith

It was **RESOLVED** to remove the following working group:

- Neighbourhood Plan

8. To approve the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2025

The accounts are still with the Auditor so it was **AGREED** to **DEFER** this item to the next meeting.

9. To approve the Internal Auditor for 2025/26

The Clerk explained that it is good practice to change auditors every 4 years and the current one has been used for longer than this. The Clerk proposed that a new auditor be appointed to carry out an interim and year end audit as well as a governance review to ensure that proper practices are in place. One quote has been received for £40 an hour with approximately 4 hours work. It was **AGREED** to appoint this Auditor as the Internal Auditor for 2025/26. Proposed Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. S Smith. All in favour.

10. To adopt the Standing Orders

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the standing orders with no changes. Proposed by Cllr. Tucker, seconded by Cllr. S Smith. All in favour.

11. To adopt the Financial Regulations

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the financial regulations with no changes. Proposed by Cllr. Tucker, seconded by Cllr. McCoig. All in favour.

12. To review and confirm the asset register

The asset register was reviewed. A question was raised over where the land adjacent to The Street that is held on licence is; the Clerk was instructed to look into this. Cllr. Tucker will speak to S Cornell regarding the location of the speed guns.

It was **AGREED** to remove the below as they have been disposed of:

- Paired Dip Bears
- Step Up
- Pull & Press Bars
- Leg Raise Rack

13. To receive the calendar of meetings for the 2025/26 civic year

The calendar of meetings for the 2025/26 civic year were presented and **AGREED**.

14. To resolve to use the General Power of Competence for 2025/26

It was **RESOLVED** to use the General Power of Competence for 2025/26. Proposed by Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. McCoig. All in favour.

Ordinary Business

15. To receive approval of minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th March 2025 from those members present at the meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes from the meeting on Monday 10th March 2025. Proposed by Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. Tucker. All in favour.

16. Public Participation

A question was raised over the woodland at the bottom of North Street. The Clerk was asked to look at the history.

17. To receive an update from the SNTS Group

Dr Katherine Jenkins gave a short presentation on the status of Sunnica following the approval last July and requested that the PC registers an interest to receive any consultations to discharge conditions with SCC, WSC and East Cambs.

Cllr. Taylor left the meeting.

18. District Councillors Report

Cllr. Taylor gave an update at the Annual Meeting of the Parish prior to this meeting.

19. County Councillors Report

Cllr. Stanbury sent his apologies.

20. Planning Consultations

There were no planning consultations to consider.

21. Parish Matters

21.1 To consider a revised design for the village sign

A revised design was viewed and **APPROVED** at a cost of £1299.00. It was noted that payment had been requested up front; however the Clerk was requested to ask if a deposit would be sufficient until the work is complete when full payment would then be made. Proposed by Cllr. Tucker, seconded by Cllr. A Smith. All in favour.

21.2 To discuss the footpaths in the village

Concern has been raised by a parishioner over a lack of footpaths on Mildenhall Road, particularly on the main road side of the triangle at the top of North Street. It was agreed to contact SCC.

21.3 To discuss speeding in the village

Volunteers are needed for Speedwatch to operate. 1 person volunteered and training will be arranged.

21.4 To discuss and receive an update on the SID's

It was noted that the 2 SID's are old and intermittent. It was agreed to look at replacing the batteries.

2 members of the public left the meeting.

22. Financial Matters

22.1 To agree the amended 2025/26 budget at year end

The Clerk stated that £17,899.37 had been carried over from 2024/25 with reserves now being:

Capital Expenditure	£1,664.00
Street Lighting	£986.00
Contingency	£14,882.37
Sunnica expenses	£367.00

The amended budget was **APPROVED**. Proposed by Cllr. Tucker, seconded by Cllr. A Smith. All in favour.

22.2 To receive the monthly bank accounts

It was **NOTED** that the precept of £16,715 has been received leaving a balance of £398.54 in the current account and £34,242.08 in the deposit account.

22.3 Agree payments and expenses

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Total</u>
23/03/2025	Suffolk Cloud	Website hosting and support	£120.00	£0.00	£120.00
31/03/2025	SALC	6 months payroll	£19.00	£3.80	£22.80
31/03/2025	R. H. Landscapes & Maintenance	Trim hedge b/w Chippenham Rd and field	£250.00	£50.00	£300.00
01/04/2025	SALC	2025/26 Membership	£219.85	£0.00	£219.85
01/04/2025	West Suffolk Council	Lease of playing field	£5.00	£0.00	£5.00
01/04/2025	West Suffolk Council	Emptying of dog bins 2025-26	£591.68	£0.00	£591.68
14/04/2025	Freckenham Village Hall	Hall Hire 2024-25	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00
30/04/2025	OLP	Playground repairs	£575.00	£115.00	£690.00
30/04/2025	OLP	Playground repairs	£3,097.30	£619.46	£3,716.76
11/05/2025	A Smith	Expenses	£78.68	£0.00	£78.68
11/05/2025	Clerk	Expenses	£37.86	£0.00	£37.86
			£5,094.37	£788.26	£5,882.63

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

23. Exchange of information

The works to the playground and the removal of the outdoor gym equipment has been completed.

24. Date and time of next meeting – Monday 14th July 2025 at 7.30pm in Freckenham Village Hall, 7 Fordham Road, Freckenham, IP28 8JB

The meeting closed at 21.02pm.