

FRECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Meeting of Freckenham Parish Council on
Monday 13th January 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, Nick Woolley, and 8 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 11th November 2024 from those members present at the meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes from the parish council meeting on Monday 11th November 2024 with no changes. Proposed by Cllr. Tucker, seconded by Cllr. Brooks. All in favour.

5. Public Participation

A parishioner asked why planning application DC/24/1634/VAR was not on the agenda for consideration. The Clerk explained that the consultation expiry date ended before this meeting date and Councillors were consulted on whether they wanted to call an extraordinary meeting to discuss the application and it was not deemed necessary.

1 member of the public and Cllr. McCoig joined the meeting.

6. District Councillors Report

Cllr. Taylor has £200 of his locality budget remaining for anyone looking for funding. He reminded that there is also funding available through the Communities Capital Grant Fund.

He asked if the EV chargers had been considered; it was felt by the Village Hall Committee that the Village Hall was not a viable location due to not being accessible 24/7 and that a public house or other amenity may be a better option.

As part of devolution there is a proposal to elect a Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk as a Strategic Authority with Unitary Authorities such as East and West being formed in the tier below. This would potentially result in Town and Parish Councils taking on more responsibilities.

7. County Councillors Report

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

Suffolk County Council are increasing their council tax by the maximum of 4.99%.

8. Planning Consultations

8.1 DC/24/1595/TPO – TPO 182 (1972) tree preservation order – one Ash (T1 on plan, within area A1 on order) pollard to seven metres above ground level – Freckenham House, Flat B, Mildenhall Road, Freckenham

It was **RESOLVED** to make **NO OBJECTIONS**. Proposed by Cllr. Tucker, seconded by Cllr. McCoig. All in favour.

8.2 DC/24/1538/VAR – Planning application – variation of condition 1 of DC/23/1713/RM to allow use of amended plans for construction of one dwelling – Rectory Farm, Elms Road, Freckenham

It was **RESOLVED** to make **NO OBJECTIONS**. Proposed by Cllr. Tucker, seconded by Cllr. McCoig. All in favour.

9. Parish Matters

9.1 To receive a verbal update on the Neighbourhood Plan

Nick Woolley gave an update on the Neighbourhood Plan; it has been approved by West Suffolk Council and the Inspector and the next step is the referendum.

Freckenham will be in a better position when considering future developments and proposals with an adopted Neighbourhood Plan and residents are urged to vote in the referendum.

West Suffolk Council have stated that as the village want development, they are to remain a Type A classification; however there appears to be some miscommunication as the village do not want any further development and should therefore be recategorised as a Type B to reflect this. Nick requested that the Clerk send the objection from Ian Poole to Cllr. Taylor. Cllr. Taylor will contact Cllr. Thorndyke to confirm Freckenhams position that they do not want any development.

1 member of the public left the meeting.

Nick advised that if the Neighbourhood Plan was approved by the community, it would sit alongside other Neighbourhood Plans and the Local Plan and act as a statutory document when considering planning applications; this also includes the Landscape Appraisal that has been carried out.

1 member of the public rejoined the meeting.

There will be a drop in tomorrow evening at the Village Hall 5pm – 7pm for anyone who has any questions on the Neighbourhood Plan.

A date for the referendum is to be confirmed by West Suffolk Council; once this has been announced we will enter Purdah and be unable to advise on the plan.

Nick was asked if the Neighbourhood Plan could be amended after being adopted if the village classification is changed. He will check this with Ian Poole.

Cllr. Taylor, Nick Woolley and 2 members of the public left the meeting.

1 member of the public rejoined the meeting.

9.2 To receive an update on the pavement parking

The Clerk advised that a notice had been published in the Parish Pump. A letter was drafted to send to offending properties but was not sent due to not having the addresses; this information was requested again in order to send.

West Suffolk Council are unable to enforce as there is no Traffic Restriction Order in place.

The Police will only challenge this if the vehicles are parked unsafely.

1 member of the public rejoined the meeting.

9.3 To discuss the management and updating of the website

It was confirmed that the Parish Council is responsible for the entire website; the Clerk requested contact details for other areas of the website where they do not have the information or knowledge to update to enable them to tidy the website.

10. Financial Matters

10.1 To receive the monthly bank accounts

It was **NOTED** that there is currently £527.22 in the current account and £18,974.22 in the business account.

10.2 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>
25/11/2024	Gipping Press - Parish Pump	£282.00	£0.00	£282.00
To be approved				
10/12/2024	ICO data protection	£40.00	£0.00	£40.00
05/01/2025	A Smith expenses	£71.99	£0.00	£71.99
07/01/2025	Clerk expenses	£37.91	£0.00	£37.91
09/01/2025	Places4People Ltd	£422.50	£84.50	£507.00
		£854.40	£84.50	£938.90

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

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

It was **AGREED** to delegate to Cllr. A Smith to obtain quotes for the cutting of the vehicular access to the playing field. Proposed by Cllr. Brooks, seconded by Cllr. Tucker. All in favour.

10.4 To approve the purchase of some new goal nets for the playing field

It was **AGREED** to delegate to Cllr. A Smith to purchase some new goal nets for the playing field at a maximum cost of £100. Proposed by Cllr. Brooks, seconded by Cllr. Tucker. All in favour.

10.5 To approve the obtaining of quotes for the repair/maintenance of the play area identified during the inspections

It was **AGREED** to delegate to Cllr. A Smith to obtain quotes for the repair/maintenance of the play area identified during the inspections. Proposed by Cllr. Brooks, seconded by Cllr. Tucker. All in favour.

10.6 To consider a homeworking allowance for the Clerk

A proposal to pay a homeworking allowance to the Clerk was considered. It was **AGREED** for the Clerk to obtain tax relief from HMRC rather than claiming through expenses.

11. Staffing Matters

11.1 To agree an appraisal process for the Clerk

It was **AGREED** that Cllr. Brooks will send an appraisal form to the Clerk and follow up with an online 1:1 to discuss progress.

12. Exchange of information

The hedging along Mildenhall Road and Elms Road needs cutting; a request was made for the Clerk to contact Suffolk Highways to action this.

There are a number of potholes on Elms Road; the Clerk advised that these can be reported online via the Suffolk County Council website.

Cllr. Tucker is in the process of obtaining a quote to replace the broken village sign with a metal one. A request was made for the possibility of having more than 1 made. Once a quote is received, it will be added to an agenda for consideration and approval.

A request was made for a speed reduction system as the village is entered along Elms Road, similar to that of Worlington (from Red Lodge).

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

The meeting closed at 8.53pm.