

THE FRECKENHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
held on Monday 11th May 2026 at 7.30 pm at Freckenham Village Hall

MINUTES

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. A Smith, the Vice Chairman of Freckenham Parish Council. The minutes were taken by Naomi Alecock, the Clerk of Freckenham Parish Council.

Also in attendance were 6 electors of the parish, District Cllr. Taylor and County Cllr. Busuttill.

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

2. Approval of minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 12th May 2025

The minutes were presented and it was agreed that they were a true record of the meeting and therefore **ADOPTED**.

3. Chairmans Annual Report

Cllr. A Smith read out a report from Cllr. G Tucker.

Sorry I am not there as I am out of the country. I would just like to say thank you for all the great work and help over the past year; thanks to Naomi for all the time and effort she puts in, to Tony for all the work he does on the recreation ground and to John Hadley for his work on Speedwatch.

We have finally got all the lamp posts changed to LED's which should save us some money in the future.

Tony has sorted out the removal of unused equipment on the recreation ground.

One SID has been purchased but not been installed yet, a new bench in East View, new road markings on Elms Road to try to reduce speed. Speedwatch has started again so if anybody wants to volunteer see John Hadley.

As I am stepping down as Chairman I wish my successor well. Thanks again.

4. District Councillors Report

District Cllr. Taylor gave an update. Better Recycling starts 1st June with the commercial scheme coming into effect from 2027.

There is £600 - £700 available in his locality budget and he asked for consideration of where this can be spent by November 2026.

District and County Councillors will be in post until May 2028. In May 2027 the new shadow unitary council, referred to as Western Suffolk will be elected. They will start to set the political structure for the new council whilst the existing council continues.

Work has started on the canopies to cover the car park at Mildenhall Hub which will have solar panels installed on them. West Suffolk will then sell the power to the Hub.

Mildenhall Bus Station will house the new banking hub for the town and is being progressed as quickly as possible.

Funding may be available from WSC for play equipment and benches.

5. County Councillors Report

Cllr. Busuttil was elected on Friday and is currently undergoing training; the Judicial Review undertaken by Reform forced the SCC elections. The unitary authorities look like they will be Western Suffolk, Eastern Suffolk and Ipswich with the election of the Mayor taking place in 2028; the Reform group are working with their candidate who is working to learn the residents' concerns.

He is working on local priorities:

Sunnica – supporting Nick Timonhy MP

Potholes – looking for additional funding for the repair of bridges and potholes

Western Mildenhall development – objecting to the building of new homes without a relief road and public services such as doctors and dentists

The public services don't support the population which is nearing £70m.

6. Reports from community groups

Jane Leitch from the Village Hall Committee gave a report. She advised that their AGM is upcoming. Steve Hurton has stepped down as Chair but is continuing his work with the Church. Jane has been on the committee for 30 years and would like further involvement from others.

The film nights have a loyal following; live events have been held and the committee are looking at further events. Weekly activities remain popular.

Amanda does an amazing job and Trisha Audus who does the invoicing and hall cleaning.

The Village Hall has a healthy bank balance; however, the hall now needs maintenance including works to the car park lights and gate posts.

Open Gardens have been postponed as a suitable date was unable to be agreed.

7. Any other issues that parishioners' wish to raise

Comments were raised on the survey of the Parish Pump; it was felt that a separate leaflet would have been better than an inserted form. The Parish Council have not published anything and the Annual Meeting of the Parish was not advertised in it.

A parishioner would like to carry out some works to the land between the river and the Golden Boar.

A parishioner requested a path from the bus stop on Elms Road to the dell. It is thought that Richard Rout or SCC is the landowner. The Clerk will make some enquiries.

Tasks need to be identified for the USAF to carry out.

8. Close

The meeting closed at 20.06pm.