

## FRECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Meeting of Freckenham Parish Council on  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026 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 and 2 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 10.7 – Cllr. A Smith

#### **4. To receive approval of minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 from those members present at the meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes from the parish council meeting on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 with no changes. Proposed by Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. Burrows. All in favour.

#### **5. Public Participation**

Speedwatch is starting again this week.

#### **6. District Councillors Report**

Cllr. Taylor has a meeting Wednesday evening regarding the emerging Local Plan; elected members are trying to take more control of this. He reminded the council about his locality budget if funding is needed for projects. WSC have acquired the land to the left of the Operational Hub in Bury due to the increase in staff for Better Recycling which is starting in June. The scheme is being funded by government using funds from EPR charges that manufacturers now have to pay. A letter has been sent to SCC to request effort in opening a recycling centre in Newmarket. A trampoline zone is planned for the Olding Road site in Bury. Cllr. Taylor may stand for SCC elections. WSC proposed a balanced budget; however, the Conservatives put in an amendment for free parking funded from reserves which will cost the council £600,000 this year and £600,000 next year. A vote of non-confidence of the current administration is expected at the next meeting.

*District Cllr. Taylor left the meeting at 7.48pm.*

## **7. County Councillors Report**

Cllr. Stanbury sent his apologies. He circulated his report ahead of the meeting.

*Cllr. Taylor left the meeting at 7.43pm.*

## **8. Planning Consultations**

There were no planning consultations.

## **9. Parish Matters**

### **9.1 To agree the date of the Annual Meeting of the Parish**

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the date of the Annual Meeting of the Parish as Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm. Cllr. Tucker sent his apologies for this date. Proposed by Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. Tucker. All in favour.

### **9.2 To note the changes to the playground inspections**

Playground inspections carried out by WSC will change from monthly to 3 monthly from April 2026.

### **9.3 To discuss the playing field lease**

WSC have asked if the Parish Council would like to continue with extending the lease of the playing field at five-year intervals or if it would be willing to consider a freehold transfer of the playing fields from WSC to the PC. The Clerk has requested further details of the proposed freehold transfer and once received will bring back to committee for consideration.

### **9.4 To discuss a dog fouling issue on the playing field**

An issue of dog fouling on the playing field was discussed. It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the purchase of 2 dog poo bag dispensers including doo poo bags at a maximum of £50.00 and install these on the playing field. Cllr. Tucker will look at getting the dispensers made and this implemented. Proposed by Cllr. Tucker, seconded by Cllr. A Smith. All in favour.

### **9.5 To consider the West Suffolk Public Space Protection Order Review 2026**

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOT COMMENT** on both the review of the West Suffolk Council (Dogs) 2020 PSPO and the Forestry Commission PSPO. Proposed by Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. Tucker. All in favour.

### **9.6 To consider the Barningham Neighbourhood Plan consultation**

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOT COMMENT**. Proposed by Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. Tucker. All in favour.

### **9.7 To consider the Planning Reforms consultation**

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOT COMMENT**. Proposed by Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. Tucker. All in favour.

### **9.8 To discuss details on a Village Clean up event**

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** a village clean up event with works and date to be confirmed and published. RAF Mildenhall have expressed an interest in volunteering, Cllr. Tucker requested that they call him to discuss what work they are able to assist with. Proposed by Cllr. Tucker, seconded by Cllr. Burrows. All in favour.

### **9.9 To discuss the Parish Pump**

The Clerk presented a report on the charges and circulation of 2 neighbouring councils' newsletters and recommended a review of the charges and charging process. It was **RESOLVED** to carry out a survey in the Spring edition of the Parish Pump to obtain feedback on the newsletter for consideration at a future meeting.

## **10. Financial Matters**

### **10.1 To appoint bank signatories**

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** Cllrs. A Smith, Tucker, McCoig and Burrows as bank signatories. Proposed by Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. Burrows. All in favour.

### **10.2 To appoint an internal controller**

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** Cllr. S Smith as the internal controller. Proposed by Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. Tucker. All in favour.

### **10.3 To discuss a quote for a new website**

A report was considered for a new website including a quote from Aubergine at a cost of £499 + VAT for the initial set up and first year with ongoing costs of £299 + VAT annually. It was **RESOLVED** to **ACCEPT** the quote from Aubergine. Proposed by Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. S Smith. 4 in favour, 1 abstention.

### **10.4 To discuss a debit card application for the Parish Council**

The Clerk requested consideration for a debit card for the Parish Council due to there being a number of payments that can only be made by a card; at present the Clerk uses her personal bank card and reclaims through expenses on a bi-monthly basis. It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** a debit card application for the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr. Tucker, seconded by Cllr. McCoig. All in favour.

### **10.5 To agree a reimbursement limit for Cllr. A Smith for fuel and sundries for Parish vehicle**

Cllr. A Smith purchases fuel and sundries for the Parish vehicle using his personal bank card and reclaims through expenses on a bi-monthly basis. It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** a reimbursement limit of up to £150.00 to enable him to reclaim costs between meetings. Proposed by Cllr. Tucker, seconded by Cllr. McCoig. All in favour.

## 10.6 To receive the monthly bank account balances

It was **NOTED** that there is currently £345.35 in the current account and £23,523.38 in the business account.

## 10.7 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>    |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 02/02/2026            | Website audit                  | £70.00           | £0.00          | £70.00          |
| <b>To be approved</b> |                                |                  |                |                 |
| 09/02/2026            | SID                            | £4,140.00        | £828.00        | £4,968.00       |
| 27/02/2026            | Village Hall hire for meetings | £100.00          | £0.00          | £100.00         |
| 04/03/2026            | A Smith expenses               | £53.59           | £0.00          | £53.59          |
| 04/03/2026            | Clerk expenses                 | £58.90           | £0.00          | £58.90          |
| TBC                   | Street lighting 2025-26        | £1,231.62        | TBC            | £1,231.62       |
| 03/03/2026            | Community Heartbeat            | £142.95          | £28.59         | £171.54         |
|                       |                                |                  |                | <b>£6,653.6</b> |
|                       |                                | <b>£5,797.06</b> | <b>£856.59</b> | <b>5</b>        |

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

## 11. Governance Matters

### 11.1 To review the asset register

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the asset register with the following amendments:

- To confirm that the land adjacent to The Street (held on licence) is near the war memorial between the bridge and the pub
- Speedwatch equipment is at John Hadley and Cllr. Tuckers home addresses, not Cllr. Cornells
- Add the house play equipment
- There is a spring horse not a motorbike mobile
- Investigate what equipment the Cat & Mouse is
- Add 2 Speedwatch signs at John Hadleys home address
- Add 2 Speedwatch signs at Cllr. Tuckers home address
- Add hedge trimmer stored at the garage at Shores Close

Proposed by Cllr. Tucker, seconded by Cllr. Burrows. All in favour.

## 12. Clerks Report

The Clerk reported that the SID has been received along with £1,500 funding from County Cllr. Stanbury. She is chasing SCC on when they will remove the current posts and SID's to enable us to install ours.

£350.00 funding was received from District Cllr. Taylor towards the bench approved at the last meeting. The bench has not been ordered as the Clerk was awaiting confirmation from Cllr. Tucker on delivery; this has now been confirmed and will be ordered.

The tree that is blocking the streetlight on North Street that was reported at the last meeting has been logged with SCC but they require further information. The Clerk requested this information from Cllr. Tucker who originally raised this.

### **13. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **14. Exchange of information**

There was no exchange of information.

### **15. To consider a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the press and public for the duration of the following items in view of the confidential and personal nature of the business to be transacted. If resolved, such items to be dealt after that confirms details of the next meeting.**

*2 members of the public left the meeting at 8.59pm.*

### **16. To receive a report from the Clerk's appraisal**

A report was received from the Clerk's appraisal.

Due to the length of the meeting, it was **RESOLVED** to **SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS** in order for the meeting to continue and for all business to be transacted. Proposed by Cllr. S Smith, seconded by Cllr. Burrows. All in favour.

### **17. To discuss the Clerk's hours**

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** 5.5hrs overtime above the agreed hours. The Clerk will continue to record their hours and claim any overtime above the contracted hours. Proposed by Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. Tucker. All in favour.

### **18. Date and time of next meeting – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 8.00pm in Freckenham Village Hall, Fordham Road, Freckenham, IP28 8JB**

The meeting closed at 9.37pm.