

FRECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**The Meeting of Freckenham Parish Council on
Monday 13th July 2026 at 7.30pm at Freckenham Village Hall**

MINUTES

In attendance:

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

Also in attendance:

Clerk Naomi Alecock, District Cllr. Taylor, County Cllr. Busuttil and 3 members of the public.

1. Welcome

Cllr. A Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence & approval of reasons tendered

Apologies were received from Cllr. McCoig.

3. Declarations of members interests and dispensations

There were no declarations of members interests or dispensations.

4. To receive approval of minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11th May 2026 from those members present at the meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes from the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Monday 11th May 2026 with no changes. Proposed by Cllr. Burrows, seconded by Cllr. S Smith. All in favour.

5. Matters arising from the previous minutes

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

6. Public Participation

No members of the public wished to speak.

7. District Councillors Report

Better Recycling is going well with 85,000 bins delivered and 100 tonnes of food waste being recycled weekly.

WSC made a motion 2 weeks ago regarding the proposed housing at RAF Barnham; a letter has been sent to the Secretary of State to state that the site is not suitable.

The unitary council is now uncertain as it is being challenged at a cost of £1½m.

WSC cabinet recently met at Mildenhall Precinct and are working with Panther for the site to be improved.

The banking hub at Mildenhall Bus Station should be opening next year; there will not be the facility of a Post Office.

8. County Councillors Report

SCC are pushing back on the Local Government Review; papers were served on the Secretary of State last Friday and it is hoped that it will be concluded by the Autumn.

There was a demonstration of more than 600 people from Thetford to Barnham regarding the proposed housing at RAF Barnham. SCC have met with the Head of Barnham Primary School.

SCC are also pushing back on the Western Mildenhall Development and Sunnica. Jessica Wright and the Say No To Sunnica group are setting up a meeting with councillors and Nick Timothy MP.

SCC have their 2nd Full Council meeting on Thursday 16th July where they will be pushing back on net zero and undoing the state of emergency climate crisis. The Greens are putting a proposal forward to review the bus services to ensure there is a service at least once a day from each village to a small town.

The Chair proposed to bring forward item 10.3, seconded by Cllr. S Smith. All in favour.

10.3 – Sunnica

An update has been received from Jessica Wright informing that Sunnica is being sold. The non-material change request to amend and include further land in the Sunnica Scheme at Burwell Substation has been approved by the Secretary of State for DESNZ and following this a letter has been submitted by Say No to Sunnica (SNTS) to begin the process of a legal challenge to this decision.

Cllr. Busuttil advised that there are concerns over the defence of RAF Mildenhall due to the boundary being moved which could leave the base open to a drone attack. The Fire Service are concerned over fire safety and are not confident that they could extinguish a fire of this type; a concentration of these hazardous substances would cause a plume of toxic smoke in the event of the fire.

District Cllr. Taylor and County Cllr. Busuttil left the meeting at 7.56pm.

9. Planning Consultations

9.1 DC/26/0839/FUL – Planning application – subdivision of land and conversion of cartlodge to form a self build two bedroom dwelling, including reconfiguration of parking and access arrangements and associated external works – Hall Farm, Church Lane, Freckenham

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

10. Parish Matters

10.1 To consider a response to the WSC 2045 Local Plan scoping consultation

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

10.2 To consider a response to the Barton Mills Neighbourhood Plan consultation

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

10.3 To receive an update on Sunnica

This item was brought forward.

10.4 To confirm details on a Village Clean up event

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** Friday 21st August 2026 for the village clean up event with volunteers meeting at the bus shelter on The Street at 10am. Tasks will include weeding, gardening, painting and litter picking. Cllr. Tucker will provide the tools and materials. It was agreed to ask RAF Mildenhall for 6 personnel to attend as well as inviting the public. Proposed by Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. Tucker. All in favour.

10.5 To discuss the Parish Pump advertising charges

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** an increase of £5.00 on each advertising charge from the November issue with these being reviewed on an annual basis. It was also **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** that registered charities receive half page in black and white free of charge with the option to pay for an upgrade to colour. The charges apply to anyone else wishing to advertise. Proposed by Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. Burrows. All in favour.

10.6 To receive an update on the new website

The new website has been built and now needs reviewing with the aim of going live in September. The Clerk asked if the Council wanted to retain the church page as this is information only. It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** retaining the church page on the new website. Proposed by Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. Tucker. All in favour.

10.7 To discuss the damaged dog bin post on Elms Road/ Badlingham Road

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the removal of the dog bin from Elms Road/ Badlingham Road. Proposed by Cllr S Smith, seconded by Cllr. Burrows. All in favour.

10.8 To discuss maintenance of the Memorial Garden

No volunteers have come forward to maintain the Memorial Garden. This will be included in the Village Clean Up event and then reviewed.

11. Financial Matters

11.1 To review the Internal Controls

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the internal controls. Proposed by Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. Burrows. All in favour.

11.2 To review the earmarked reserves

The Clerk proposed leaving 6 months expenditure of £11,175.00 in the contingency earmarked reserve and moving £1,000 to the play park and £495.00 to speed guns/SIDs reserves. It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE**. Proposed by Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. S Smith. All in favour.

11.3 To note the dates of the Notice of Public Rights

The dates of the Notice of Public Rights were noted as being 10th June – 21st July 2026.

11.4 To agree the debit card users

The Clerk explained that the bank had sent a bank card for each bank signatory; however, she advised that it would not be best practice for this to happen and it was not needed. She recommended that the Clerk and Cllr. A Smith holds debit cards as they are the only ones who submit regular expenses. Cllr. A Smith maintains the mower and has to purchase fuel on a regular basis and this will make that process easier. It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE**. Proposed by Cllr. S Smith, seconded by Cllr. Tucker. All in favour.

Cllr. Tucker left the meeting at 8.39pm.

Cllr. Tucker rejoined the meeting at 8.42pm.

11.5 To receive Q1 cashbook

The quarter 1 figures and bank reconciliations were noted.

11.6 To receive the monthly bank account balances

It was **NOTED** that there is currently £567.93 in the current account and £34,615.87 in the business account.

11.7 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>
19/05/2026	Clerks salary - May	£413.63	£0.00	£413.63
01/06/2026	Microsoft 365	£1.99	£0.00	£1.99
08/06/2026	A Smith expenses	£65.72	£0.00	£65.72
08/06/2026	Vehicle insurance	£141.98	£0.00	£141.98
19/06/2026	HP Instant Ink	£13.99	£0.00	£13.99
23/06/2026	Clerks salary - June	£301.10	£0.00	£301.10
02/07/2026	Microsoft 365	£1.99	£0.00	£1.99
		£940.40	£0.00	£940.40

To be approved

30/06/2026	Attend site for clearance	£135.00	£27.00	£162.00
08/07/2026	Gipping Press	£287.00	£0.00	£287.00
08/07/2026	Clerk expenses	£73.85	£0.00	£73.85
10/07/2026	Annual domain renewal	£100.00	£20.00	£120.00

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

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** 4.35 hours overtime for the Clerk at £21.65 per hour. Proposed by Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. S Smith. All in favour.

12. Governance Matters

12.1 To review and approve the Code of Conduct

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Code of Conduct with no changes. Proposed by Cllr. S Smith, seconded by Cllr. Burrows. All in favour.

12.2 To review and approve the Publication Scheme

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Publication Scheme with no changes. Proposed by Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. S Smith. All in favour.

12.3 To review and approve the Transparency Code

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Transparency Code with no changes. Proposed by Cllr. A Smith, seconded by Cllr. S Smith. All in favour.

12.4 To review and approve the Emergency Plan

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Emergency Plan with the removal of Natalie Caves and Kay Gee from the First Aid Assistance. Proposed by Cllr. Tucker, seconded by Cllr. Burrows. All in favour.

13. Clerks Report

There was nothing to report.

14. Parish Councillors Reports

Cllr. Tucker presented a prototype of the dog poo bag dispensers that will be installed on the playing field; they will be installed next week.

Cllr. Burrows sorted a fallen tree on the playing field.

SCC are still being chased regarding the removal of the SID's.

15. To discuss the content for the next Parish Pump

It was agreed to include the below in the Parish Pump:

- Village Clean Up event
- Dog poo bag dispensers
- New prices for advertising in the Parish Pump

16. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

**17. Date and time of next meeting – Monday 14th September 2026 at 7.30pm in
Freckenham Village Hall, Fordham Road, Freckenham, IP28 8JB**

The meeting closed at 8.56pm.