

**FRECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the meeting of Freckenham Parish Council on**  
**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7.30 pm at Freckenham Village Hall**

Present: Cllr Wheeler, Pearson, Cornell, Douch

In attendance: Clerk, Jadi Coe, Cllr Busuttil and 9 members of the public

Chairman Cllr Wheeler welcomed everyone to the meeting

**11/19/01 Apologies for absence & approval of reasons tendered**

Cllr Barton sent his apologies due to work commitments.

District Cllr Harvey

Apologies were also received from five members of the public.

**11/19/02 Declaration of interest in any items on the agenda**

None

**11/19/03 Members of the public are invited to speak on any item within the Agenda for a maximum time of three minutes.**

Cllr Wheeler invited the members of the public to speak on any item on the agenda excluding Sunnica (7.6) and SHELAA (7.7). The public would be invited to make comment on items 7.6 and 7.7 when they reached the agenda item.

**11/19/04 To receive reports from the County Councillor, District Councillor and to receive the Police Reports**

Cllr Busuttil reported on the 4% increase in the County Council tax for the year 2020/21 and the reasons this increase was needed, which included increasing costs for adult and child social care. Following a question from a member of the public in regards to the local road conditions, Cllr Busuttil reported that Suffolk County Council could keep on top of the pot hole repairs if there is a mild winter but this may be unlikely in the event of a harsh winter.

The clerk read out parts of District Cllr Harveys report in his absence:

1. *County Lines drug issues and the impact upon our rural communities is being actively pursued by Suffolk Constabulary. This is a cross border operation resulting in several arrests and prosecutions being made.*
2. *Recent Police action concerning the travellers' site on Elms Road with 5 arrests being made. As this is an ongoing police investigation no further information is being released at this time.*
3. *The first round of consultation for the proposed Sunnica Solar farm has now closed. There has been a joint West Suffolk and Suffolk County Council submission which is available via the planning portal. The next stage in this process will be for Sunnica to respond to these submissions. Once this is received, I will be in a position to advise further. The planning portal number is: - DC/19/0472/EIASCO – The joint West Suffolk and Suffolk County Council Consultation response dated 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019 has now been issued. We have received an updated Sunnica Energy Farm proposal for land, which has slightly changed for the original issued. The September briefing note has been copied to all Parishes accordingly.*
4. *West Suffolk has setup a Rural task Force and had requested that local residents complete the survey. This survey has now closed and we await the summary report. Thanks to Residents who have taken part in this survey and attended these briefing meetings.*

5. *Parish Clerks were requested to update their settlement matrix and ranking. This is to ensure that the Planning Officers have the correct data recorded before we go forward, 2019 -2042 We still have a short fall in our current housing stock of 6000 throughout West Suffolk to be constructed by 2042*

#### **11/19/05 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019.**

Following two small amendment to minute item 09/19/7.06 from hectares to acres, the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were proposed as a true record of the meeting held. The minutes were signed by Cllr. Wheeler.

#### **11/19/06 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered in the Agenda**

None

#### **11/19/07 Planning:**

##### 11/19/7.1 To consider any planning applications:

DC/19/2102/TCA – Fell trees in conservation area, at The Golden Boar Inn, Freckenham  
*It was agreed that the Parish Council had no objection to the application.*

DC/19/1911/LB and DC/19/1910/HH - Application for Listed Building Consent and Householder Planning Application - (i) Renovation and conversion of existing outbuilding to ancillary accommodation (ii) single storey extension (following demolition of C20th outbuilding lean-to) (iii) single storey outbuilding for garden storage and (iv) replacement windows and doors to the main house at Lavrock House North Street Freckenham IP28 8HY  
*It was agreed that the Parish Council had no objection to the application.*

##### 11/19/7.2 To note applications pending:

DC/19/0146/FUL - Planning Application - (i) change of use from agricultural land to accommodate 10 holiday lodges (ii) managers accommodation (iii) and open space for tourist accommodation and (iv) new access and associated parking. Ferry Lane, Worlington.  
*Cllr Wheeler reported that this application was refused on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019.*

DC/19/1444/FUL – 1 dwelling on land adjacent to Homefields, Fordham Road, Freckenham.  
*Cllr Wheeler reported that this application was approved on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019*

##### 11/19/7.3 To note applications received after the agenda is published:

None

##### 11/19/7.4 To note applications determined:

DC/19/1472/HH – 1 stable at Hill Cottage, Fordham Road, Freckenham, approved.

##### 11/19/7.5 Update on Neighbourhood Planning Process

Any updates included within item 7.6 and 7.7.

##### 11/19/7.6 Update on Sunnica Solar Farm proposal

Cllr Wheeler read out a letter addressed to himself and the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan committee from Mr Richard Tuke (Freckenham Estates), which reiterated that their position has not changed, and that he still did not want their land to be included in the Sunnica proposal.

A member of the Sunnica Community Action Group reported his opinions and information gathered on Sunnica including:

- That a meeting with himself and members of the Parish Council was still needed to determine a timeline of events.
- Guidance had been received from a member of the public who has experience with similar projects, guidance included the land being farmland was one of our strongest reasons for objections.
- There would be no Monday meeting in December for the Sunnica Action Group, but it is hoped a meeting is arranged prior to Christmas with guests from another parish who were at a further stage on a similar proposal in their area.
- Not to approach Sunnica first, as this may prove to be an advantage to Sunnica

- That he felt the recent Sunnica survey needed to be more specific and that when a further survey was needed perhaps, he could have an input on the content.

Cllr Douch reported on the results of the recent Sunnica survey, which would be published on the Parish Council website. The results showed that 98% of residents were against the current proposal. Cllr Wheeler reported that a land characteristic survey which is part of and funded by the Neighbourhood Plan could also be used for other uses such as Sunnica once the survey is accepted. Members of the public voiced their concerns that the survey would not be completed in time to help object to the Sunnica proposal. The member of the Sunnica Action Group reiterated this is why a timeline is important and a meeting is required to ensure all information is available for the various stages of the proposals.

A member of the public suggested including a sum of money in the budget for 2020/21 to cover likely expenses relating to Sunnica. Cllr Wheeler stated it would be preferably to obtain grant money to cover any expenses in order to not increase the precept significantly.

A member of the public was thanked following her offer to help including with close reading of documents in relation to Sunnica.

#### 11/19/7.7 Comments on the SHELAA

Cllr. Wheeler read out four communications addressed to him from residents, advising that they were not in favour of site WS084 and they had all stated it should be considered as a deferred site and not suitable as a development for housing.

The following comments were agreed in relation to the land detailed in the SHELAA:

##### Site WS084 – land adjacent to Freckenham, Mildenhall Road, Freckenham

This site should be excluded on the grounds that this site is unsuitable for housing and removed in its entirety.

##### Site WS331 – land adjacent to Dunsworth House, Mildenhall Road, Freckenham

The site should be included in the SHELAA for either housing or small business units.

Cllr Douch reported that Shores Charity would not comment on the SHELAA as the next Shores Charity meeting is on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, which is after the deadline for SHELAA comments to be received.

#### 11/19/7.8 Comments on the Sustainable Settlements Review

It was agreed that the matrix was incorrect and the following should be corrected:

Public House – Yes

Play area/recreational ground – Yes

Within 5km of the nearest town - No

#### **11/19/08 Recreation Ground and other assets:**

##### 11/19/8.1 Playground Report

It was reported that the self-closing gate still needed repairing. Cllr Barton had previously indicated that he would contact a contractor to which the Parish Council are waiting for an estimate.

##### 11/19/8.2 Update on grass cutting

It was reported that the lawnmower had recently been serviced and a new blade was required.

##### 11/19/8.3 Update on the wall between Chippenham Road & Shores Close

It was reported that no further work had taken place.

##### 11/19/8.4 Any other matters relating to the Recreation Ground

Cllr Cornell reported that she had purchased bulbs to plant and it was agreed to hold a bulb planting day and invite residents to help with this.

#### **11/19/09 Highways Inspection**

The dangers of Church Lane were discussed and that better signage was required to make the road safer. Cllr Wheeler has taken this matter up with the local Highways engineer.

### **11/19/10 SALC**

It was confirmed that the Annual General Meeting is to be held on 26th November 2019, at 7.00pm at Blackbourne Community Centre, Elmswell.

Cllr Cornell and Cllr Wheeler will attend the meeting.

### **11/19/11 West Suffolk District Council Town & Parish Forum**

The date of the next meeting is still to be confirmed.

### **11/19/12 Financial Matters:**

#### 11/19/12.1 To confirm payment of invoices

The following invoices were approved for payment:

| <u>Name</u>               | <u>Details</u>   | <u>Q no.</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|---------------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|
| SALC                      | Payroll services | 1040         | £21.60        |
| SCC                       | Election costs   | 1041         | £21.34        |
| Red Lodge Parish Council  | Cllr training    | 1042         | £40.00        |
| Community Heartbeat Trust | Replacement pads | 1043         | £104.40       |
| David Wheeler             | Expenses         | 1044         | £177.01       |
| Jadi Coe                  | Expenses         | 1045         | £27.98        |

It was also noted that a payment of £1,032.82 was made to Came and Company Insurance (cheque 1039) in October 2019.

#### 11/19/12.2 To consider any invoices received after the Agenda was issued

The following invoice was approved for payment:

| <u>Name</u>    | <u>Details</u>    | <u>Q no.</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|
| CWK Lawnmowers | Lawnmower Service | 1046         | £276.27       |

It was also agreed that once the Gipping Press invoice in regards to the Parish Pump was received, that the clerk and chairman would arrange for the cheque to be prepared and signed prior to the next meeting.

#### 11/19/12.3 Clerk to update on bank balances held

The clerk reported that at 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019 £1,791.91 was held in the current account and £19,055.94 held in the deposit account.

#### 11/19/12.5 Clerk to present the first draft of the 2020/2021 budget for consideration by this Council.

The clerk reported that the draft budget showed an increase in the precept by £300 to £12,800, however due to tax base this would result in a 3.48% decrease for the year for Band D rate properties.

The total budgeted income is £13,575, this includes a VAT refund of £500 and Parish Pump advertising income of £225 and £5 interest, as well as the precept income. This would cover the budgeted £13,575 expenditure. The budgeted expenditure details the usual annual expenses including £500 for capital expenditure, £2,100 for street light costs, and £100 for expenditure in regards to Sunnica.

It was discussed that Sunnica expenditure could be increased and this could be partly funded by the precept and partly by reserves.

### **11/19/13 Working Groups Report**

#### 11/19/13.1 Circular Walk

No update

#### 11/19/13.2 Emergency Plan

Cllr. Pearson reported that an email had been received from the emergency planning officer at the Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit requesting a meeting to discuss including Freckenham Village Hall on the councils list of Designated Rest Centres.

Cllr Pearson agreed to discuss this at the next Village Hall Committee meeting before agreeing to a meeting date.

11/19/13.3 Defibrillator monthly check Report

The clerk reported she had received an email from the resident who carried out the monthly checks, stating that out of date pads had been replaced last month and the other set of pads would be replaced next month.

11/19/13.4 Community Speedwatch

Cllr. Cornell reported that the gun is due to be calibrated, this was agreed by the members of the Parish Council.

**11/19/14 Correspondence Received**

None

**11/19/15 Urgent Business**

Cllr Douch reported that he had been advised that the members of the Parish Council should complete dispensation forms in relation to the Sunnica agenda item for future meetings. It was agreed this was good practise and should be done.

**11/19/16 Future Meetings**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 20<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

**The meeting closed at 9:20pm**