

FRECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of Freckenham Parish Council
held on Monday 13th September 2021 at 7.30 pm at Freckenham Village Hall

Present: Cllr Wheeler, Cornell, Douch

In attendance: Parish Council Clerk, Jadi Coe and Cllr Stanbury

Cllr Wheeler welcomed everyone to the meeting.

09/21/01 Apologies for absence & approval of reasons tendered

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr King, District Cllr Harvey and four members of the public

09/21/02 Declaration of interest in any items on the agenda

None

09/21/03 Members of the public are invited to give their views on any item within the Agenda

No members of the public were in attendance.

09/21/04 To receive reports from the County Councillor, District Councillor and to receive the Police Reports

Cllr Stanbury reported on various local issues including:

The upcoming Highways meeting

HGV restrictions review

Environmental issues

Rehoming of Afghans in the area

Increase in COVID-19 cases

Cllr Stanbury was thanked for his efforts in helping with Highways matters.

Cllr Douch asked Cllr Stanbury about Tree Protection Orders for a large group of trees, in anticipation that a parishioner is looking about requesting a TPO on a group of tree on the edge of a road in the village, and whether Cllr Stanbury would support this. Cllr Stanbury confirmed he would support this if reasonable.

09/21/05 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 12th July 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th July 2021 were approved as a true record of the meeting held.

09/21/06 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered in the Agenda

No matters were raised by the members.

It was reported that a resident has read the minutes and are dissatisfied with the comments made in regards to the circular walk:

I have just reviewed the minutes from the most recent meeting and it was reported that the circular walk had been cut and was in good condition. However, unfortunately this is not the case, the path is overgrown and impassable. Would it be possible to assess options to make this fully usable by the public please?

Cllr Douch reported that it is cut by SCC twice a year, the first cut being early June but by July it was overgrown again. Cllr Douch informed SCC of this and was told it would be cut mid-August, however there were delays to the cutting schedule.

09/21/07 Planning:

7.1 To consider any planning applications:

DC/21/1790/TCA - fell one apple tree at Drift Cottage, Elms Road, Freckenham, IP28 8JG
It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council have no objections to the application.

7.2 To note applications pending and determined:

None

7.3 Other planning considerations

21/01168/ESHYN Bexwell to Bury St Edmunds Pipeline Scheme

It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council have no objections to the application.

Swaffham Bulbeck Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

It was agreed to decide comments via email as this had been received shortly before the meeting which did not allow sufficient time to review the documents.

7.4 Update on Neighbourhood Planning Progress

Cllr Wheeler reported the following:

- the planned drop in event, which has been delayed until November
- the group have planned for a viability assessment on three sites
- the meeting scheduled with West Suffolk Council at the end of September
- the application for Site Viability Technical Support from Locality. Cllr Wheeler confirmed he answered all questions asked by Locality, however Locality have confirmed that given that there is still some uncertainty about the housing numbers and the masterplans for the sites, Locality have suggested that the group discuss housing numbers and appropriate development on the rest of each of the sites when meeting the Local Planning Authority and then inform Locality of this before the application is considered further.

7.5 Update on Sunnica Proposal

Cllr Douch gave the following report:

The Parish Council's Sunnica sub-group has continued to meet and to consider the next steps when the formal application is made, thank you to councillors and residents taking part in this and supporting the Parish Council.

The Parish Councils Alliance – Sunnica Group continues to meet regularly, and Freckenham attends all meetings. The alliance has arranged for a scheme-wide Landscape Appraisal to be undertaken by a Chartered Landscape Architect, with 8 parishes so far (including Freckenham) pledging a financial contribution. The purpose is to have the visual appearance and visual impact of the scheme design as submitted in the DCO analysed in a consistent manner across all parishes in the alliance, to avoid reactive changes to the scheme during the Examination affecting one parish at the expense of another. The cost of the report, and for the author to appear at the relevant Examination Hearings is £25k, with each parish asked to contribute £3k. We understand that Sunnica and the District and County councils are working towards a Statement of Common Ground, progressing questions raised in the councils' responses to the consultation. During August, residents in the area including Freckenham received an "Update Newsletter" from Sunnica dated August 2021. Parish Councils weren't notified of the newsletter in advance. The Sunnica sub-group noted several changes in Freckenham Parish, including:

- *The removal of panels from the field adjacent to Mortimer Lane to the North of the village*
- *A new permissive path around the field of panels on the end of Green Lane / Elms Road, duplicating existing footpaths*
- *An increase in the size of the Battery Storage compounds on Elms Road and Ferry Road*

The sub-group noted several concerns with the wording of the newsletter, and will be reporting these back to the Parish Councils Alliance – Sunnica Group so that concerns can be consolidated and forwarded to the District and County councils, and the Planning Inspectorate. The next step that we are likely to see is the submission of the DCO to the Planning Inspectorate, which the Planning Inspectorate website says is expected in Q3 this

year, possibly the end of September 2021, subsequently now advised November. At this time, the District and County Councils will feedback to the Planning Inspectorate on the quality of the Statutory Consultation, including the responses by Freckenham Parish Council and the Parish Councils Alliance – Sunnica Group. After the DCO submission (and assuming the application is accepted) the next step is Examination phase, a little like a public enquiry. When the time comes, anyone can make a written “relevant representation” using a form from the Planning Inspectorate, or a form on the Planning Inspectorate website. This should summarise the key issues with the scheme from the writer's point of view, so the Planning Inspectorate is aware of them. This is the first time that comments will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, rather than to Sunnica. Submitting a relevant representation makes that person an Interested Party. Interested Parties can follow up with a longer Written Representation if they wish, and ask to attend or speak at the hearings (which are inquisitorial, or fact-finding, and not adversarial). The Community Action Group is planning an awareness event at the village hall on Thursday 16th September 2021 from 6:30pm to 9:00pm, all are welcome. Cllrs intend to attend the event. The Parish Council continues to run the Sunnica awareness stall at each Freckenham Farmers Market, and information about making representations will be available there as well as on the Parish Council website. The stall includes information about submitting reports of wildlife sightings to the relevant parties. In the meantime, anyone can visit the Planning Inspectorate website, search for Sunnica, and subscribe to receive updates on the application by email. The Parish Council remains against the Sunnica proposal in its current form, and continues to liaise with the Community Action Group and Parish Alliance Sunnica Group.

Cllr Douch proposed that Freckenham Parish Council contribute £3,000 towards the Sunnica Group's reserve to help fund a Landscape Appraisal. The proposal was agreed following a unanimous vote.

09/21/08 Recreation Ground and other assets:

8.1 Playground/Recreation Ground Report

The contractor who was asked to carry out the paint jobs will not be able to carry out any work until the new year.

8.2 Update on grass cutting

Cllr Cornell reported that the grass cutting is continuing on a regular basis and that the nettles alongside the river are being cut, which at present about one third has been completed.

8.3 Any other matters

Cllr Cornell reported that on Saturday 11th September a pond dipping session was organised and run by LAPS. It was very successful with an attendance of 20 adults and 15 children who caught a variety of bugs and fish including; fresh water shrimps, may fly, Caddisfly cased and uncased, mud gudgeon, bullhead, roach fry, dace fry, damsel fly larvae, ghost midge larvae, american red clawed signal cray fish, dragon fly larvae, pond skater, waterboatman.

The organiser hopes to hold another session in Spring 2022.

8.4 Telephone box/library

It was reported that people are leaving items on the floor when the shelves are full, although there is a notice asking people not to do this and to either take items home or to a local charity shop. The Chairman thanked the volunteers whom have taken the role to clear the phone box when it becomes a state.

09/21/09 Highways Inspection

Cllr Wheeler reported that Cllr Stanbury has arranged for Suffolk's Safety & Speed Management Engineer to meet with himself and Cllr Stanbury in Freckenham to witness the road traffic issues first hand. Cllr Wheeler is also required to sending Cllr Stanbury a summary of all the road traffic issues

which require addressing so these can be forwarded to the officer for preparation prior to the meeting.

Cllr Douch reported that the green lane between Elms Road and Newmarket Road partly falls in the parish of Freckenham and is very overgrown. This has been reported to SCC but following finding out this lane is a road rather than a public right of way, Cllr Douch has requested confirmation on how to raise future requests to get the lane mowed.

Cllr Douch also reported that there is a dead ivy-covered tree overhanging the footpath on The Street at the end of the footpath up to the Church. This has been reported to SCC Highways. Work was scheduled during early September, but delayed because the traffic management was not approved and therefore, the work has been rescheduled.

09/21/10 Chippenham Road Wall

Cllr Cornell reported that she was informed on 24th August, that the works order has been passed onto a contractor and as soon as the start date is known Cllr Cornell will be informed.

09/21/11 SALC, to confirm the date of the next local area meeting as Tuesday 14th September

The date of the next local area meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 14th September at 7:00pm.

09/21/12 West Suffolk District Council Town & Parish Forum, to confirm the date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting has yet to be confirmed

09/21/13 Financial Matters:

13.1 To confirm payment of invoices

None

13.2 To consider any invoices received after the Agenda was issued

The Parish Council insurance is due or renewal on 1st October 2021, and the renewal price is £1,160.57 however it was noted that the asset value as per the insurers differed to the value calculated by the Parish Council. The asset values have been sent to the insurance brokers to provide an update policy and quote.

13.3 Clerk to update on bank balances held

The clerk reported that at date £19.04 is held in the current account and £24,829.7 in the deposit account.

09/21/14 Working Groups Report:

14.1 Circular Walk

It was agreed to contact Suffolk County Council requesting more cuts are carried out on the walk especially during the warmer months and to contact the local farmer who continues to plough part of the walk.

14.2 Emergency Plan

No update

14.3 Defibrillator monthly check Report

The volunteer who carries out the checks has confirmed there are no problems to report.

14.4 Community Speedwatch

Cllr Cornell reported that as of 13th August she is the co-ordinator of Freckenham Speedwatch. Checks begun on 25th August and since then there have been a further 3 checks carried out.

The following was reported from the checks carried out:

- 25.8.21 - 6 speeding vehicles, highest of 45mph
- 2.9.21 - 3 speeding vehicles, highest of 41mph
- 6.9.21 - 10 speeding vehicles, highest 48mph
- 13.9.21 - 5 speeding vehicles, highest 40mph

The next check is scheduled for October.

09/21/15 Correspondence Received:

The following correspondence was received in regards to dog fouling:

There has been a great deal of effort made to erect signage regarding dog fouling. This is not an issue on the circular walk path as it is not possible to walk on the designated route. These signs could be construed as aggressive and unnecessary. Perhaps a more appropriate approach, and better use of public funds, would be to increase the number of bins for dog waste and ensure that these are present on all public footpaths, including the path from the pub to the church.

It was confirmed that dog fouling remained an issue on the circular walk, as reports have been received by various parishioners, therefore it was agreed that the new signs were required. The new signs were provided by West Suffolk District Council free of charge and erected by volunteers in the village. It was agreed to look into installing a new bin between the Golden Boar and the Church, but the one-off cost of the bin and weekly emptying cost would be at the expense of the Parish Council. The Parish Council have been forwarded a letter addressed to the occupier at Homefields, Fordham Road which informs them that there are large amount of ragwort growing on the meadow behind their property.

Cllr Wheeler has confirmed that this has been passed onto the house owner's gardener who has informed the land owners. Subsequently advised by the gardener this is now cleared.

09/21/16 Parish Council Vacancy update

No update

09/21/17 Update on the re-printing of the book, Manor of Freckenham

No update

09/21/18 Urgent Business:

Cllr Douch reported that the resident who had been litter picking in the village as part of his Duke of Edinburgh award has now completed his task, Cllr Douch continued to thank him for his time and effort as well as other volunteers in the village.

Cllr Wheeler reported that the Mildenhall High Town Council Forum is scheduled for 23rd September at 7:00pm.

It was reported that users of the Freckenham Golden Boar have been parking in North Street when the car park is full. Cllr Wheeler provided members with notices to put on vehicles, if they were found to be parking illegally or on the pavements.

Date of next meeting- Monday 8th November 2021 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9:33pm

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