

FRECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Freckenham Parish Council on Monday 10th January 2022 at 7.30 pm held at Freckenham Village Hall (with audio also transmitted using Zoom for members of the public)

Present: Cllr Cornell, Douch, King

In attendance: Parish Council Clerk, Jadi Coe. Cllr B Harvey attended via Zoom.

Cllr Cornell welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Parish Council regrettably announced the death of their long-standing and dedicated chairman Cllr David Wheeler on Friday 2th November 2021. David's funeral was held on 14th December 2021 when he was fondly remembered by his family and friends.

22/1/1 Elect Chairman

It was proposed and agreed to elect Cllr Cornell as Chairman of the Parish Council and Cllr Douch as Vice-chairman of the Parish Council.

22/1/2 Apologies for absence & approval of reasons tendered

Five residents sent their apologies.

22/1/3 Declaration of interest in any items on the agenda

None

22/1/4 Members of the public are invited to give their views on any item within the agenda

No members of the public were in attendance.

22/1/5 To receive reports from the County Councillor, District Councillor and to receive the Police Reports

No police reports received.

Cllr Harvey reported on various local matters including Highways and Sunnica.

22/1/6 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2021

The minutes of the meeting held the November 2021 were proposed and agreed as being a true record of the meeting held.

22/1/7 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered in the agenda

None

22/1/8 Planning:

8.1 To consider any planning applications:

None

8.2 To note applications pending and determined

DC/21/2295/HH – single storey rear extension at 21 East View, Freckenham (pending at 10.1.22)

DC/21/2216/FUL – change of use of agricultural land to residential garden and construction of wildlife pond at The Old Granary, Church Lane, Freckenham (pending at 10.1.22)

8.3 Other planning considerations

None

8.4 Update on Neighbourhood Planning Progress

An update from the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan group was read out:

I'm glad to report that the latest funding requirement for the Viability Assessment of the three potential development sites is looking reasonably encouraging. If approved, hopefully this final assessment work will tie in nicely with the publication of the Preferred Options of the West Suffolk Local Plan, which is likely in February; this will enable us to put all these relevant results to the Freckenham Community in, hopefully March 2022 for its final choice of site or sites, which will be considered suitable for development over the next twenty years. We shall then complete our Draft Neighbourhood Plan. This will include the chosen site or sites and also other policies put forward by our community, in order to help create a more robust and thriving village; some of these inspired by the lessons learnt from Covid.

We hope to go to formal consultation on our Draft Plan by the end of June for six weeks and then, all being well submit it to West Suffolk Council (WSC) by the end of September 2022. Their internal and then external consultation work will inevitably take some time. All being approved, we hope to be able to put our Neighbourhood Plan to the Freckenham community for a final Referendum in February 2023. Providing it is approved, the Freckenham Neighbourhood Plan will then form part of the WSC statutory Local Plan.'

Cllr Douch also reported that Cllr Wheeler had previously applied for Groundwork's funding, however this is under discussion with the group, as Groundworks have reported that they will do only one viability assessment, but the group want an assessment carried out on each site, so that residents can make an informed decision.

8.5 Update on Sunnica Proposal

Cllr Douch reported the following:

The Parish Council's Sunnica sub-group has continued to meet and consider the next steps, as soon as the formal application is made, thank you councillors and residents for taking part and supporting the Parish Council. Sunnica submitted their Development Control Order application to the Planning Inspectorate on the 18th November 2021, and it was accepted for Examination on the 16th December 2021. The Parish Councils Alliance – Sunnica Group, the Action Group and the Parish Council all made representations to the Planning Inspectorate requesting that the application wasn't accepted, but these representations were not successful.

Sunnica's DCO application has been published on the Planning Inspectorate website, see the "Docs" tab, and the list of 268 documents under "Developer's Application":

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/sunnica-energy-farm/?ipcsection=docs>

If any resident would like a copy of the application documents on a memory stick, please contact Cllr Douch or the Clerk.

The next step is the Examination phase, similar to a public enquiry. We expect that during January or February 2022, registration for "Interested Parties" will open on the Planning Inspectorate website. 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 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 also includes information about submitting reports of wildlife sightings to the relevant parties.

Meanwhile, 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 Harvey added that Sunnica have yet to submit their Statement of Common Ground, and timings schedule both of which are very important but the local District and County Councils re pressing for this.

22/1/9 Recreation Ground and other assets:

9.1 Playground/Recreation Ground Report

It was reported that Cllr Wheeler had been in contact with the contractor to carry out the required works. It was agreed that the clerk would determine who the contractor was and make contact to schedule an onsite meeting to determine work to be carried out.

9.2 Update on grass cutting

Cllr Cornell reported that the grass is being cut when required and the weather allows.

The lawn mower is due a service and has been booked in for this week.

9.3 Any other matters

None

22/1/10 Highways Inspection

It was proposed and agreed to accept the quote of £900 for three speed counts in the village. Cllr Stanbury and Harvey both agreed to contribute £300 each from their locality budget to help towards their total cost.

Cllr Cornell reported of two vehicle accidents which occurred in the village in December and January.

Cllr Harvey advised contacting the superintendent at Bury (copy in Mark Shipton) and requesting what the police propose to do to make the roads safer. He also suggested asking a SNT officer to join the speed watch team when they next carry out a speed check.

Cllr Douch reported that traffic surveys have been published as part of the Sunnica application, showing speeding on Mildenhall Road and Elms Road. See Appendix F Traffic Surveys in 6.2 Appendix 13C: Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan and Travel Plan; Elms Road West (close to Badlingham Road junction) page 257 "A 7-day automatic traffic count on Elms Road (West), commencing Tue 28 Sep 2021, recorded a total of 9,203 vehicles. The posted speed limit of 60mph was exceeded by 7.5% of vehicles."

22/1/11 Chippenham Road Wall

Cllr Cornell reported that she has made contact requesting a start date but has yet to receive a response.

22/1/12 SALC, to confirm the date of the next local area meeting

It was confirmed that the 2022 local area forums for West Suffolk will be on 15th March and 15th September.

22/1/13 West Suffolk District Council Town & Parish Forum, to confirm the date of the next meeting

It was reported that no date has been confirmed. The new Forest Heath Parish Alliance was discussed and it was agreed Freckenham should join the alliance.

22/1/14 Financial Matters:

14.1 The following invoices were approved for payment:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Q no.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Jadi Coe	Clerk salary	NA	£921.00
HMRC	Clerk PAYE and NI	NA	£179.00
Jadi Coe	Clerk expenses	NA	£15.08
TOTAL			£1,115.08

14.2 To consider any invoices received after the agenda was issued

None

14.3 Clerk to update on bank balances held

The clerk reported that at date £2,557 is held in the current account and £23,830 in the deposit account.

14.4 To approve and adopt the 2022-23 budget, confirm precept total and confirm signing of the precept application

It was proposed and agreed to increase the 2022/23 draft budget and precept amount by £200 which would result in an increase of 1.41% to band D tax payers. The £200 would be added to the expense line Miscellaneous, however the budget would be reviewed following the completion of the March 2022 accounts.

22/1/15 Working Groups Report:

15.1 Circular Walk

Cllr Douch reported he last walked in December 2021 when he completed the Elms Road to Badlingham circular walk and he confirmed this was still open from the river bank side. He has been in contact previously with the Rights of Way officer in regards to the stretch from Badlingham Road to Elms Farm which continues to be cropped. However, following the verge being flailed it is now possible to walk on the edge of the field from the Elms Road/Mildenhall Road bridleway to Elms Farm.

Cllr Douch agreed to contact the Rights of Way officer again.

Cllr Douch also reported on the uprooted metal Icknield Way brown sign and post laying on the verge on Badlingham Lane which has been reported again under reference 00346868 (previous reports 310985 and 331905).

15.2 Emergency Plan

No update.

15.3 Defibrillator monthly check Report

The clerk reported that the volunteer who carries out the monthly checks has confirmed the defibrillator is as it should be and the new pads have been delivered and are now with the defibrillator.

15.4 Community Speedwatch

Cllr Cornell reported that Team 1 are to begin checks again this week and she would find out when Team 2 intend to carry out checks so he could organise a SNT joining the team on Elms Road.

22/1/16 Correspondence Received:

It was reported that the editor of the Parish Pump had contacted the clerk to confirm he would be standing down as editor.

It was agreed to thank Peter for his time as editor and ask if he can suggest an alternative editor.

22/1/17 Parish Council Vacancies update

It was agreed that the clerk and Cllr Cornell would put together a leaflet advertising the vacancies and detailing what being a councillor involves.

22/1/18 Update on the re-printing of the book, Manor of Freckenham

Cllr Douch reported he now has an electronic copy of the book Freckenham Past and Present, a hard copy of the book, Manor of Freckenham. It was agreed to ask residents at the APM in May whether to re-print Manor of Freckenham, or update Freckenham Past and Present.

22/1/19 Urgent Business:

Cllr Douch reported that light 0009 at the junction of Church Lane and Elms Road is still broken, and has been for some years. This is a junction that Councillors remain very concerned about, and the lack of signage and safety of the junction has been raised again with Suffolk County Council Highways as part of the review by SCC Cllr Stanbury. The problem report was also closed in December, so he has now entered a new report for unit 0009 as well as reported units 0042 opposite 15/17 Mildenhall Road unit 0019 opposite Hill Cottage, Fordham Road which are both not working either.

The clerk reported she contacted West Suffolk Council requesting a road sweeper visits the parish.

The date of the net meeting was confirmed as Monday 14th March.

The meeting closed at 8:35pm

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