

FRECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Freckenham Parish Council on Monday 10th July 2023 at 7.30 pm held at Freckenham Village Hall

Present: Cllr G Tucker, Cllr F McCoig, Cllr T Smith, Cllr P Brooks

In attendance: County Cllr L Stanbury, District Cllr D Taylor, Clerk, Jadi Coe and seven members of the public

Cllr G Tucker welcomed everyone to the meeting

23/07/01 Apologies for absence & approval of reasons tendered

Apologies were received from Cllr S Smith

23/07/02 Declaration of interest in any items on the agenda

None

23/07/03 Members of the public are invited to give their views on any item within the agenda

None

23/07/04 To receive reports from the County Councillor, District Councillor and to receive the Police Reports

County Cllr L Stanbury reported on County and local news, including locality funding for the new financial year and highways issues. He reiterated that potholes must be reported to SCC or they will not be repaired.

Cllr L Stanbury answered questions asked about Highways and the infrastructure in and around Mildenhall in regard to the 1300 proposed homes being built in West Mildenhall.

District Cllr D Taylor reported on waste and street lights:

He confirmed that they would be major changes in the collection of household waste and recycling, and hoped that residents would be on board if they were educated on this matter and understood the financial and environmental benefits.

He also confirmed District Cllr A Neal was looking at street lights in each parish and had sent the Parish Council an email.

23/07/05 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2023

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 12th June 2023, proposed by Cllr F McCoig, seconded by Cllr A Smith, all in favour.

23/07/06 Planning

6.1 To consider any planning applications

None

6.2 Freckenham Neighbourhood Plan and village classification update

Marie Smith at West Suffolk Council responded to the councils' query on whether the village classification will be changed: *In terms of classification. Within Local Plans the council are required to set out a settlement hierarchy, which is based on the number of services or facilities within or near by the settlement. I have copied the formal text below from the sustainable settlement study which provides the evidence which has informed the classifications. You can find the full study by following the link [West Suffolk Sustainable Settlements Study 2021 \(inconsult.uk\)](#).*

A Type A classification is a new classification in the hierarchy. Freckenham has a village Hall, play area and a bus service which warrants it a Type A village. The classifications are factual and then it is then the Local Plan policy which sets out the parameters and what this means. This is important as it determines the approach to development.

In term of policy position, Type A and Type B villages are very similar. Both have a settlement boundary and development will be restricted within the settlement boundaries. The only difference is that if allocations are made through a Local Plan, then a small allocation of around 10 to 20 dwellings maximum can be established in Type A villages.

In the case of Freckenham, in the Preferred Options consultation the council consulted on one site for 10 dwellings. We were made aware this was not the site identified and supported by the Neighbourhood Plan Group and Officers have discussed with the Neighbourhood Plan Group the site options.

We are still in the process of preparing a final Local Plan which will be subject to consultation in January 2024 where the Parish Council can make representations and the Council will be in continue to be in contact with the Neighbourhood Plan Group.

Evidence Wording:

Feckenham: The village has early years education provision, a village hall, public house and a play area and a red bus service. This warrants the secondary village being categorised as a type A village.

A village (new category): Three or more sustainability indicators and/or within two kilometres of a town with the opportunity for sustainable access. These villages have a more limited range of services and facilities but can still meet some of the day to day needs of their residents. The opportunity for site allocations will be explored through the local plan. These villages have a more limited range of services and facilities than local service centres but can still meet some of the day to day needs of their residents. Some villages have opportunities for sustainable access to higher order settlements. The opportunity for site allocations will be explored through the local plan.

Type B village: (equivalent to current infill village or secondary village) One or more sustainability indicators. These settlements have a very limited range of or no services and poor accessibility to public transport. It is likely that residents will rely on the private car to travel to meet their day-to-day needs. The village will have a settlement boundary to allow limited infill

development, but no sites will be allocated through the local plan These settlements have a very limited range of or no services and poor accessibility to public transport. It is likely that residents will rely on the private car to travel to meet their day-to-day needs. The village will have a settlement boundary to allow limited infill development, but no sites will be allocated through the local plan.

Councillors and residents expressed their opinion that although there are currently three indicators the bus service is limited and they couldn't understand why Worlington is classed as a type B village when they have more services.

It was suggested responding to Marie Smith informing her of the limited bus service and noticing inconsistencies of village classifications in the area, e.g., Worlington.

It was agreed Cllr D Taylor would get some clarification on this at West Suffolk, before the Parish Council respond to Marie Smith.

Places4People, planning consultants of the NH Plan has confirmed the draft plan should be ready for approval at the September meeting, with the 6-week consultation period starting end of September.

23/07/07 Recreation Ground and other assets

Cllr A Smith reported he has been carrying out necessary works as required and the latest play park inspection report showed some issues on wooden posts baby swing, swing chains, and the matting under the swings.

Cllr A Smith to decide what work is required and to report at the next meeting.

23/07/08 Highways issues, including purchase and funding of a SID

Members reported on increase in traffic levels and the speed of which vehicles travelled through the village.

It was confirmed that to do anything about speeding then data would need to be collected first, and it was suggested purchasing an additional SID (Speed Indicator Device) and move it around various locations in the village.

The clerk to obtain quotes for different types of SIDs and determine locations which it could be placed at.

Both Cllr L Stanbury and Cllr D Taylor have said they may be able to contribute but more details are to be known first including total cost, funds requested, quotes.

A member of the public reported other Highways issues including lack of signage as you enter the village, speed limit signs which are covered by foliage, and road painted signs which are not easily visible.

23/07/09 Mortimers Lane maintenance

A resident has asked whether there is provision to repair and improve the road surface of Mortimer Lane, in particular the short distance from the entrance to Mortimer Lane off The Street/Fordham Road and the junction with The Driftway which is subject to extreme wear and tear especially during the winter months. He confirmed that The Driftway is privately maintained by its residents and wondered if the same applies to Mortimer Lane.

The clerk to determine who is responsible for the road and to report the issues.

23/07/10 Financial Matters:

10.1 To consider any quotes received

None

10.2 To confirm payment of invoices

It was resolved to pay the following invoices, proposed by Cllr Tucker, seconded by Cllr Brooks, all in favour:

6th July 2023 CW Kirk Lawnmowers (puncture repair) - £32.51

7th July 2023 SALC (training) - £20.40

10th July 2023 Cllr A Smith (fuel for lawn mower, strimmer cable, bin bags, PVC signs) - £68.01

The clerk also confirmed the battery on the SID needs renewing as it will soon be out of date, she will order this and the council will then be invoiced.

23/07/11 Correspondence Received

A resident has passed on the contact details for The Unpaid Work Operations Team Suffolk. They can provide unpaid work and can help Parish Councils and Allotments by carrying out maintenance work, painting and/or digging.

23/07/12 Parish Pump

The clerk confirmed she was waiting on one additional article. The Pump should be ready to be distributed by the end of the month.

23/07/13 Urgent Business

Cllr Tucker reported that hedges were encroaching the highway on Mildenhall Road. The clerk to report.

It was reported that there were some residents parking their vehicles on pavements or too close to junctions. The clerk agreed to forward parking notice to all members, which they could print and place on vehicles as necessary.

Cllr Tucker reported that a street light was covered by foliage, he is to inform the clerk of the street light number to enable this to be reported.

The meeting closed at 21:00

Jadi Coe,

Clerk to the Council