

FRECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 8 January 2018
at the Village Hall, Fordham Road, Freckenham at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Wheeler - Chairman, Barton & Gibbs

In Attendance: Cllr. Busuttil – Suffolk County Council, Cllr. Harvey - Forest Heath District Council.

The following documents will be appended to the signed Minutes:-

- Agenda

85.	<u>Apologies for absence & reasons tendered</u>	<u>Action</u>
	Cllr. Pearson – away out of the UK, Cllr. Cornell – unwell, both accepted.	
86.	<u>Declaration of Interest in any items on the Agenda</u>	
	No one declared an interest.	
87.	<u>Members of the public are invited to speak on any item within the Agenda for a maximum of three minutes</u>	
	No members of the public attended.	
88.	<u>To receive reports from:-</u>	
	<p><u>County Councillor –</u> Cllr. Busuttil – all about the Budget this month. Still have a £3m gap, failed to find any more places where cuts can be made. So to balance the books SCC will have to use reserves and this will be voted on later this month. The amount of money that a County Council can collect in taxes before a referendum is triggered has been raised from 2% to 3%. Half of the budget goes on adult social care - Cllr Busuttil has already voted on an increase of 1.99% for this and now he is asking parish councils for their view on an increase of 2% for Suffolk Constabulary – how should he vote? The Chairman requested to know what the reserves are for Suffolk Constabulary. Cllr. Busuttil would consider voting in favour of an increase as long as the number of uniformed officers is increased. A vote was taken and Freckenham Parish Council resolved in favour of Cllr. Busuttil voting to accept an increase of 2% on the Council tax for Suffolk Constabulary – this equates to £5 per year for a Band D property in the FHDC area.</p> <p>Highways matters- Pot holes, road surface and flooding issues in the area. The Chairman met with Cllr. Busuttil and Suffolk Highways personnel on 22nd November regarding amongst other concerns 65 potholes in Elms Road – Suffolk Highways agreed to fix 3 out of the 65! A report was promised, but has not despite two reminders, been forthcoming. The Chairman requested who should he contact regarding this, as it is not acceptable to have not received this report as of 8 January 2018. The Chairman mentioned, if no reply received shortly he would contact the Council’s CEO.</p> <p><u>District Councillor –</u> Cllr. Harvey – District Council increase on the precept will be started very soon, likely to be a 1.99% increase. The Council merger of Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council is progressing and already the two Councils have been working together for some time. The Secretary of State has minded to approve the merger and this is due to take place on 1 May 2019. However, there are a few more items to be put in place before this can go ahead - it is now moving to the next level.</p>	

	<p><u>Police Newsletter</u> The Clerk reported that the latest newsletter on the Suffolk Constabulary web-site is still the November 2017 newsletter and nothing related to Freckenham on this newsletter.</p>	
89.	<p><u>To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2017</u> The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2017 were confirmed as an accurate record and were duly signed by the Chairman.</p>	
90.	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered in the Agenda</u> There were no matters arising.</p>	
91.	<p><u>Planning</u> 91.1 <u>Current Planning Applications</u> DC/17/2570/FUL Hall Farm Barns (Units 1&2) Church Lane - (i) conversion of barns to 2no. dwellings and (ii) change of use of agricultural land to residential garden land. This was discussed and the Council resolved to put in no objections. 91.2 <u>Planning Applications Determined</u> DC/17/2161/OUT 17 Mildenhall Road – Application withdrawn / abandoned.</p>	<p>The Clerk submitted 'no objections' online 8/1/2018</p>
92.	<p><u>Recreation Ground & other Assets</u> 92.1. <u>Playground Report</u> Cllr Cornell not present, so no update given. 92.2 <u>Update on grass cutting</u> No update. 92.3 <u>Replacement of damaged bench seat</u> The bench seat has been replaced and just needs to be put into place. The Chairman will assemble it and Cllr Cornell will organise the installation. 92.4 <u>Any other matters relating to the Recreation Ground</u> No other matters. 92.5 <u>Update on Wall between Chippenham Road & Shores Close</u> The wall has not yet been done. Cllr Wheeler to follow up with Cllr Harvey who was going to get in touch with Flagship Homes. 92.6 <u>Update regarding replacement of two Parish Notice Boards</u> The Council resolved to accept the quotation from 'Rob the Odd Job Man' for £150 to install the new noticeboards. 92.7 <u>Street Light outages and faults</u> The Mildenhall Road lamp outside no. 11 has been repaired after some 16 months of being out. There is another lamp in The Street which has been lit during daylight and out at night time. This was reported to SCC by the Clerk at the same time as the Mildenhall Road lamp.</p>	
93.	<p><u>Highways Matters</u> Cllr. Wheeler reported that parked cars on the pavement are not entirely a problem for pedestrians passing where there is plenty of room although he is not in favour of parking on the pavement except at night. Overgrown hedging is not a problem – residents have responded to the letters sent out.</p>	
94.	<p><u>SALC</u> 94.1 To confirm the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 13 March 2018 at Bardwell Village Hall. Future dates 12 June probably at Lakenheath, 11 September and 27 November 2018.</p>	
95.	<p><u>FHDC Town & Parish Forum</u></p>	

	The date of the next meeting to be confirmed.	
96.	<p><u>Financial Matters</u></p> <p><u>96.1 To confirm payment of invoices as follows:-</u></p> <p>(a) The Parish Noticeboard Company, Qno.936, deposit for two parish noticeboards, £450.00</p> <p>(b) Mrs H A Gurner, Qno.937, payment of salary for December 2017 & January 2018, also two months' expenses for November & December 2017, £624.63</p> <p>(c) Mr D E Wheeler, Qno.938, mileage expenses and refund of payment made for the replacement bench seat, £335.15</p> <p>(d) Roadrunner TCA Ltd, Qno.939, Annual calibration of speedgun, £180.00</p> <p>(e) SALC, Qno.940, Suffolk Cloud Web-site training for Clerk and Chairman, £120.00</p> <p><u>96.2 Any invoices received after the Agenda was issued:-</u></p> <p>None received.</p> <p><u>96.3 The Clerk to report on current financial position</u></p> <p>Bank balances today are as follows:-</p> <p>Current A/c: £1,097.86</p> <p>Deposit A/c: £10,421.86</p> <p>Money received in since the last Meeting on 6/11/2017 includes £500 from FHDC for part payment of a new speedgun for the village. This brings the total for this now to £1,000 with the other £500 coming from Suffolk County Council which was received in back in June 2017. Also received was a £400 donation for refurbishment of the old BT phone box, £100 prize from SALC for winning of the small village Web-site of the year competition and lastly another £500 from FHDC with thanks to our District Councillor Brian Harvey towards the cost of two new noticeboards. As you will see from the Budget documents, we are on course to have approximately £6,455 left at the end of the financial year which we will transfer into an 'ear-marked' reserve for renewal, maintenance of play equipment and other requirements needed for the Recreation Ground as well as other assets within the village.</p> <p><u>96.4 The Clerk to present the draft Budget for 2018/19</u></p> <p>The Budget was discussed at length with the precept request having three options of £11,500, £12,000 and £12,500. The Council resolved to accept the middle option as the one that suits the needs of Freckenham with the precept request being set at £12,000. The Clerk to fill out the Precept request form and forward onto FHDC.</p>	The Clerk forwarded to FHDC via email on 11/1/2018
97.	<p>To discuss the new Data Protection Officer role, coming into effect from May 2018.</p> <p>Cllr. Harvey reported that there is a meeting next week at FHDC regarding this. There is no allowance in our budget for any cost for the role, but this should be covered by the contingency if required. To be further discussed at the next meeting.</p>	
98.	<p><u>Working Groups Report:-</u></p> <p><u>98.1 Circular Walk</u></p> <p>Cllr Barton reported that this is walkable.</p> <p><u>98.2 Emergency Plan</u></p> <p>No update.</p> <p><u>98.3 Defibrillator monthly Check</u></p>	

	<p>Nial Murphy had agreed to take on the checks on the Defibrillator and he is currently checking this fortnightly. Cllr Barton has received a report from him which will be passed onto the Clerk.</p> <p><u>98.4 Community Speedwatch</u> No update as Cllr Cornell is not present.</p>	
99.	<p><u>BT Telephone Box</u> The quotation from 'Rob the Odd Job Man' has been accepted for £250 to supply and install the shelving for the BT phone Box and it has been requested that Cllr. Barton is involved in the installation of this with shelving that is movable to allow for different size storage.</p>	
100.	<p><u>2018 Remembrance of the end of the first world war</u> This was discussed - suggested that a Committee is put forward together with the Village Hall and the Church for an event on the Saturday evening, followed up on the Sunday. To be put on the next Agenda.</p>	
101.	<p><u>Correspondence Received</u> All correspondence has been previously circulated to Councillors, with the exception of an email received by the Clerk today from a resident in the village who has requested that a litter pick is organised possibly quarterly for the village by the Council – they are happy to help out with the organisation. It is understood that FHDC provides all equipment such as bags, gloves, litter picks and hi-vis jackets. The Clerk to get in touch with Lesley-Ann Keogh to find out if this is possible.</p>	<p>The Clerk emailed Lesley- Anne Keogh 8/1/2018</p>
102.	<p><u>Urgent Business</u> The Parish Pump deadline is 15 February for the Spring issue.</p>	
103.	<p>The date of the next meeting has been re-scheduled for Monday 19 March 2018 at 7.30pm. Please note change of date from 12/3/2018!</p>	

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....