

**FRECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 11 September 2017  
at the Village Hall, Fordham Road, Freckenham at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Wheeler - Chairman, Pearson – Vice, Barton & Cornell

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

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

- Agenda

| 52. | <u>Apologies</u><br>Cllr. Gibbs – at work and unable to leave.  | <u>Action</u> |
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| 53. | <u>Declaration of Interest in any items on the Agenda</u><br>No one declared an interest.   |               |
| 54. | <u>Members of the public are invited to speak on any item within the Agenda for a maximum of three minutes</u><br>No members of the public in attendance.   |               |
| 55. | <p><u>To receive reports from:-</u></p> <p><u>County Councillor –</u><br/>Cllr. Busuttil mentioned that they are already having meetings regarding the budget and it looks like this will be increased by 1.99% as they are still short of balancing the books. This will bring the £8m gap back down to £3m. They have gone seven years in a row without raising rates, but this year they will not be able to do it - there will probably be rises in rates over the next few years.</p> <p>Cllr. Wheeler mentioned that the monitors are not working in Bury St Edmunds Bus Station which tell you when buses are coming or leaving. There are three drains that continually block in Freckenham –Church Lane, Fordham Road and Mildenhall Road.</p> <p>Cllr. Wheeler mentioned that road studs ‘cats eyes’ have been removed from some roads and do not seem to be being replaced. Cllr. Busuttil said that not all roads qualify for road studs now as the requirements have changed, therefore some roads will not have these re-installed where they have been removed.</p> <p><u>District Councillor –</u><br/>Cllr. Harvey reported that we are coming to the end of the consultation period for the amalgamation of the two Councils, St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath District Council. A survey of a thousand random residents has been undertaken to gain a steer on what the public think.</p> <p>Fiveways roundabout – latest update is that there are problems with land ownership at this roundabout now. There will be eviction notices going up shortly. There is concern from Highways about horses being next to the roundabout at Highways Farm – this is also holding things up. Likely to be end of September before anything happens now.</p> <p><u>Police Newsletter</u> - The Clerk reported that the latest newsletter showing on the Suffolk Police web-site is the July Police newsletter and this is obviously out of date.</p> |               |
| 56. | <u>To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2017 and the Extra-Ordinary Meeting held on 8 August 2017</u>  |               |

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|     | The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2017 and the Extra-Ordinary Meeting held on 8 August 2017 were confirmed as an accurate record and were duly signed by the Chairman.  |  |
| 57. | <u>Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered in the Agenda</u><br>There were no matters arising.  |  |
| 58. | <u>Planning</u><br>58.1 <u>Current Planning Applications</u><br>There are currently no planning applications.<br>58.2 <u>Planning Applications Determined</u><br>There have been no decisions since the previous meeting.  |  |
| 59. | <u>Recreation Ground &amp; other Assets</u><br>59.1. <u>Playground Report</u><br>Ann Wheeler is still keeping the path free from weeds.<br>Cllr. Cornell has had people mention to her that the river does not flow, a representative from FHDC will visit and have a look. It is possible that he will be able to obtain funding to clean the river and help it flow again.<br>With regards to the trees on the banks, the Environment Agency are not responsible for these. It would be the responsibility of the land owner, who in this case is Suffolk County Council. The County Council took care of the recent tree which had come down across the path and onto the property of 1 Lee Brook Close.<br>There are some more bulbs coming shortly, snowdrops, daffodils etc.<br>59.2 <u>Update on grass cutting</u><br>The mower had a replacement part installed in August. The Recreation field has had three cuts since this. The mulcher will be put back on for the next cut.<br>59.3 <u>Update on the replacement of damaged bench seat</u><br>Cllr. Wheeler is looking into 'end of the season' bargains.<br>59.4 <u>Update on Bridge plants area shuttering</u><br>The Clerk has contacted Graham Sore a couple of times regarding this, but nothing has happened yet. His quotation was accepted on 11 July 2017. Cllr. Barton offered to chase this up and report back.<br>59.5 <u>Update on overgrown hedges covering footpaths</u><br>Flagship need to be contacted regarding the wall between Chippenham Road and Shores Close which is needing attention.<br>59.6 <u>Update regarding the replacement of two Notice Boards</u><br>The Clerk has obtained two quotations which were included with the Agenda papers, but a third one is requested from the supplier who installed the noticeboard by the Bus Shelter.<br>59.7 <u>Any other matters relating to the Recreation Ground or other assets</u><br>Nothing else to report. | Cllr. Barton<br><br>The Clerk to contact Flagship<br><br>The Clerk to obtain a third quotation |
| 60. | <u>Highways Inspection</u><br>Cllr. Wheeler is hoping to arrange a meeting to walk round Freckenham in November with Cllr. Busuttil and Guy Smith from the Highways Agency.  |  |
| 61. | <u>SALC</u><br>61.1 <u>To confirm date of next meeting as Tuesday 12 September at Barrow</u><br>The Chairman, the Clerk and Cllr. Cornell will attend.<br>61.2. <u>To confirm the date of the SALC AGM as Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November at the Blackbourne Community Centre, Elmswell</u>  |  |

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|     | <p>The Chairman is unable to attend this meeting. The Clerk and Cllr. Pearson will attend in his absence.</p> <p><u>61.3 To consider training courses for 2017-18</u><br/>The Clerk has received an email regarding training at SALC for the website which she and the Chairman are interested in attending.</p>  |  |
| 62. | <p><u>FHDC Town &amp; Parish Forum</u><br/>Unfortunately, this meeting has been cancelled at short notice. This is the third time this has happened for the Autumn meeting. The Clerk was asked to send a letter stating Freckenham Parish Council's disappointment.</p>  | <p>The Clerk to write a letter to Cllr. Robin Millar</p> |
| 63. | <p><u>Financial Matters</u><br/><u>63.1 To consider renewal of insurance</u><br/>The Council considered the increase in the renewal of the insurance and although the insurance has increased by 2%, the IPT has put the premium up as this has increased. The Council therefore <b>resolved</b> to renew the insurance at the said premium.</p> <p><u>63.2 To confirm payment of the following invoices:-</u><br/>(a) Mrs H A Gurner, Salary for August and September 2017, Qno. 914 at £552.74<br/>(b) HMRC, Payment of PAYE for above, Qno. 915 at £30.60<br/>(c) Mrs H A Gurner, Expenses for July &amp; August 2017, Qno. 916 at £37.87<br/>(d) FHDC, Annual Play Area Audit and monthly play inspections 2017-18, Qno. 917 at £422.50<br/>(e) Came &amp; Company, renewal of insurance (long term agreement expires 30/9/2018), Qno. 918 at £959.61<br/>(f) BDO LLP, External Audit fee, Qno. 919 at £120.00<br/>(g) Mrs C A Wheeler, re-imburement of the cost of chemical weedkiller, Qno. 920 at £47.98<br/>(h) East Anglian Childrens' Hospice, S.137 donation, Qno.921 at £50.00<br/>(i) St Nicholas Hospice, S.137 donation, Qno.922 at £50.00<br/>(j) East Anglian Air Ambulance, S.137 donation, Qno.923 at £50.00<br/>(k) Royal British Legion, S.137 donation, Qno.924 at £50.00<br/>(l) West Suffolk Samaritans, S.137 donation, Qno.925 at £50.00<br/>(m) The Alzheimer Society, S.137 donation, Qno.926 at £50.00</p> <p><u>63.2 Any invoices received after the Agenda was issued:-</u><br/>The Council this evening approved the payment of £732.00 to James Holdgate for the restoration of the old BT phone box and the painting of the finger sign.<br/>(n) James Holdgate, Qno.927 at £732.00</p> <p><u>63.3 Update on the financial risk assessment</u><br/>The Council <b>resolved</b> to approve the Financial Risk assessment dated 12/8/2017.</p> <p><u>63.4 Update on the result of the External Audit</u><br/>The Clerk has received the result of the External Audit and is pleased to report that there were no matters arising to bring to the attention of the Council.</p> <p><u>63.5 Report on the financial position</u><br/>The Clerk reported that nothing much has happened since the last meeting. The Chairman has signed two bank reconciliations for the Current Account and two for the Deposit Account.</p> |  |

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| 64. | <p><u>Working Groups Report:-</u></p> <p>64.1 Circular Walk<br/>This has been cut recently by Suffolk County Council. It is clear that the whole walk is not being walked, just the part by the river.</p> <p>64.2 Risk Assessment<br/>The Council <b>resolved</b> to accept the Risk Assessment for the year 2017/18.</p> <p>64.3 Emergency Plan<br/>Nothing to report on this.</p> <p>64.4 Defibrillator monthly Check<br/>Cllr. Barton reported that the pads are now out of date and therefore he has re-ordered the same. No cost has been obtained for this. Cllr. Barton will ask Mr Nial Murphy to take care of the monthly checks.</p> <p>64.5 Community Speedwatch<br/>Cllr. Cornell has ordered 7 hi-vis jackets to be used by the Community Speedwatch team. The invoice has been received, but Cllr. Cornell has requested a formal VAT invoice so that the VAT paid can be claimed back. At a recent speedwatch there were over 39 vehicles speeding in Mildenhall Road at over 36mph. This has been replicated many times at various points in the village.</p> |  |
| 65. | <p><u>BT Telephone Box</u><br/>The phone box is being painted and fully restored. It is noted by the Council that Elly Sallingboe has agreed to pay £400 towards the cost of this and the Council would like to extend their thanks to Elly for this.</p>  | The Clerk to write a letter of thanks. |
| 66. | <p><u>Correspondence Received</u><br/>The SALC newsletter was circulated.</p>  |  |
| 67. | <p><u>Urgent Business</u><br/>No urgent business to be discussed.</p>  |  |
| 68. | <p>The date of the next meeting has been brought forward from 13 November to Monday 6 November 2017 at 7.30pm</p>  |  |

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

Signed.....

Date.....