

FRECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 6 November 2017
at the Village Hall, Fordham Road, Freckenham at 7.30pm

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

In Attendance: Cllr. Busuttil – Suffolk County Council, Cllr. Harvey - Forest Heath District Council, the Clerk and 10 members of the public.

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

- Agenda
- Draft Budget

68.	<u>Apologies for absence & reasons tendered</u> Cllr. Barton – away working, accepted.	<u>Action</u>
69.	<u>Declaration of Interest in any items on the Agenda</u> No one declared an interest.	
70.	<u>Members of the public are invited to speak on any item within the Agenda for a maximum of three minutes</u> Ten members of the public attended this evening to talk about the current planning application on the Agenda this evening. A member of the public who was not available to attend this evening sent in a note of objection which the Chairman read out. The residents agreed with the points raised. Another resident brought up that East View is a restricted right of way. <i>Cllr. Gibbs arrived at 7.40pm</i> Refuse vehicles cannot negotiate East View, nor can emergency vehicles. Car parking is an issue, originally permission was given by the local authority for parking on the back gardens due to the narrow lane which has no parking allowed. If this planning application was approved, there would be a lot more traffic. This would also set a precedent for all the other houses along the same row.	
71.	<u>To receive reports from:-</u> <u>County Councillor –</u> Cllr. Busuttil gave his report with the biggest item being the budget – the books have still not been balanced, there is a legal requirement to balance the books. Highways is still an issue – planning going to a more central reporting structure. Possible three service delivery centres, which means there will no longer be a ‘go to’ person such as Guy Smith. Need to report items ourselves now online – emphasis on self-help for Parish Councils. Council Tax will rise by 1.99% for the next financial year which is below the threshold allowed before a referendum could be triggered. <u>District Councillor –</u> Cllr. Harvey gave his report – the amalgamation of the two councils Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury has moved through second stage and both councils have voted to merge. Currently 71 councillors – looking to reduce these down to 64 Councillors. Probable start date will be 1 May 2019. District Council raising its taxes by the maximum of 1.99% - same as County. Plans are coming along for the Mildenhall Hub - £40m, Forest Heath share likely to be £5-10m. Good news - Solar Farm just completed their 12mth audit, £1.308m produced in 12mths - £1m goes into capital and £308,000 will go into revenue. Barley Homes Group – set up by	

	<p>Forest Heath District Council and Suffolk County Council, will be re-using land – whole of Council offices, library and the Police Station will be knocked down and 89 houses are planned to be built on this land. 30% of these houses will be kept for affordable homes & social housing. The Government stipulate 15% for this.</p> <p><u>Police Newsletter</u> The Clerk read out the October 2017 newsletter.</p>	
72.	<p><u>To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2017</u> The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2017 were confirmed as an accurate record and were duly signed by the Chairman.</p>	
73.	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered in the Agenda</u> There were no matters arising.</p>	
74.	<p><u>Planning</u> 74.1 <u>Current Planning Applications</u> DC/17/2161/OUT 17 Mildenhall Road - Outline Planning Application (All matters reserved) - 1no. dwelling. This planning application was discussed at length, it is considered an overdevelopment of East View, traffic and highways issues - a private road which is maintained by the residents, parking only for two vehicles on the plans when it is a three bedroom property. The Council resolved to object to this planning application. 74.2 <u>Planning Applications Determined</u> There have been no decisions since the previous meeting.</p>	<p>The Clerk submitted an objection online 6/11/2017</p>
75.	<p><u>Recreation Ground & other Assets</u> 75.1. <u>Playground Report</u> Cllr. Cornell reported that John Haste has only strimmed the edge of the childrens' play area which has left long grass - he hasn't cut the play area with the mower. Cllr. Cornell's son is prepared to take over the grass cutting in the play area and a letter to be drafted to John Haste to let him know. 75.2 <u>Update on grass cutting</u> Grass cutting to be done on Wednesday. Will continue to cut once a week whilst needed. The supplier of the new mower, C W Kirk, will be contacted shortly to collect the mower for it's first service which should be free. The nettles have been strimmed. 75.3 <u>Update on the replacement of damaged bench seat</u> Still waiting for some end of season offers, so this will be carried over to the next meeting. 75.4 <u>Any other matters relating to the Recreation Ground</u> Cllr. Cornell had a meeting with Glenn Smithson from the River Lark Catchment Partnership (RLCP) and Rob from the Environment Agency (EA) regarding the state of the river. The EA agreed that some of the trees are dangerously close to coming down onto County Council land and these will be either cut back or removed. This will be done by the RLCP who will also put their coir rolls in places to support the river bank. Branches from the cut trees will be used as supports which makes it an ecological exercise. Wild flower seeds will then be planted along the river bank on the far side which will help to brighten it up. It is hoped that this work will be carried out over the winter period. It is expected that it will take five years to get the wildlife back. The work will be</p>	<p>Letter sent to John Haste 17/11/2017.</p>

	<p>funded by RLCP, but we will need to supply the labour. Councillors are considering obtaining six new planters using sleepers rather than the pots that are there presently which cause a nuisance for the grass cutter. It was requested of Cllr. Harvey if there is any monies available for this in his Locality Fund. The approximate costs would be £400 for the sleepers and £200 for the topsoil.</p> <p><u>75.5 Update on Bridge plants area shuttering</u> This has been completed and G.C. Sore's invoice should be paid this evening.</p> <p><u>75.6 Update on overgrown hedges covering footpaths</u> Mill House – hedge still needs to be cut. The Clerk requested to send another letter. The Horsebox parked outside The Old Village Hall partly on the pavement which meant that residents with a buggy or a wheelchair could not pass without going onto the road. A safety issue.</p> <p><u>75.7 To receive update regarding the replacement of two Notice Boards</u> The two quotations were considered and Council resolved to accept the quotation from The Parish Noticeboard Company for two noticeboards for a total of £930 + VAT including delivery, but not installation. Cllr. Harvey was asked if he could supply funds from his locality budget to pay for the noticeboards, if the Parish Council agree to fund the installation.</p>	<p>Letter sent 9/11/17</p> <p>Letter sent 9/11/17</p>
76.	<p><u>Highways Inspection</u> Cllr. Wheeler reported that all roads in this village are suffering & need some sort of roadworks carrying out. Highways had promised that Mildenhall Road would be re-surfaced during this financial year, but nothing has been initiated here. Part of the West Row road has been re-surfaced, but this stops at the bridge towards Freckenham. Cllr. Wheeler requested that Cllr. Busuttil join him on a route tour of the village to see the various problems. Cllr. Busuttil reported it would be better to prioritise the roads.</p>	
77.	<p><u>SALC</u> <u>77.1</u> To confirm the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 28th November – Brandon Town Council, Old School House, Market Hill, Brandon. Cllr. Wheeler will attend, but the Clerk is unavailable to go. Cllr. Cornell put herself forward as going. <u>77.2. To confirm the date of the SALC AGM as tomorrow, Tuesday 7th November at the Blackbourne Community Centre, Elmswell</u> The Chairman is unable to attend this meeting, but Cllrs. Pearson and Cornell will attend in his absence along with the Clerk. Freckenham Parish has been awarded the Web-site of the Year – not sure yet whether we have won 1st prize or the runner-up.</p>	
78.	<p><u>FHDC Town & Parish Forum</u> Next meeting is Thursday 16 November in Bury St Edmunds. The Chairman is unable to attend, but has requested other Councillors go if able.</p>	
79.	<p><u>Financial Matters</u> <u>79.1 To confirm payment of invoices as follows:-</u> (a) The Royal British Legion, Qno.928, Payment for wreath for Remembrance Sunday, £25.00</p>	

	<p>(b) Mrs H A Gurner, Qno.929, payment of salary for two months and two months worth of expenses, £755.38</p> <p>(c) SALC, Qno.930 Payment of Clerk's Information & Networking Day on 15/9/2017, £19.20</p> <p>(d) G C Sore, Qno.931, payment of works to repairs to the shuttering at the back of the bench along The Street, £336.00 (incl. VAT)</p> <p>(e) Mrs C A Wheeler, Qno.932, Contribution to cover web-site & a USB memory stick for use by The Chairman, £43.25</p> <p>(f) The Community Heartbeat Trust, Qno. 933, payment of new pads for the Defibrillator, £45.60 (incl. VAT & carriage)</p> <p>(g) Peter Taylor-Whiffen, Qno. 934, Payment for editing The Parish Pump Winter 2017 edition, £140.00</p> <p>(h) Gipping Press Ltd, Qno. 935, Payment for the printing of The Parish Pump Winter 2017 edition, £134.53</p> <p><u>79.2 Any invoices received after the Agenda was issued:-</u> No issues received after the Agenda.</p> <p><u>79.3 The Clerk to report on current financial position</u> Bank balances today are as follows:- Current A/c: £1,021.82 Deposit A/c: £10,870.99 The last part of the precept was received into the current bank account on 29/9/2017 at £4,025.00. A VAT refund was received into our bank account on 10 October, at £907.17 – this was mainly the VAT paid out on the ride-on mower. No other VAT refunds are planned for this financial year, unless some extra purchases are made which make it worthwhile! Bank reconciliations are being done each month and the Chairman is signing these and then they are being kept on file for future reference. We are still awaiting the funding from our District Councillor at £500 which is a contribution towards a new speedgun. This is expected any day now. Subsequently received following the meeting.</p> <p><u>79.4 The Clerk to present the draft Budget for 2018/19</u> The first draft was discussed and it was considered the middle Budget was preferable with a precept of £12,000. This is a 4.35% rise on last year's precept figure. This Budget will be further considered and formally approved at the January 2018 meeting. <i>The Chairman closed the meeting for a discussion on the Clerk's salary</i> <i>The meeting re-opened three minutes later.</i> The Council resolved to increase the Clerk's salary by 3% - taking it to £3,605. The Clerk was grateful and thanked the Council. This increase will take place on 1 April 2018 and will be allowed for in the Budget.</p>	
80.	<p><u>Working Groups Report:-</u></p> <p><u>80.1 Circular Walk</u> Cllr. Pearson reported that the walk has been weed-killed - the walk is in quite a good state. On the road side from Badlingham Road, one half of the field has been ploughed right up to the hedge with the other half being able to be walked. The grass verge in Elms Road has not been cut for quite a while and the bank is now too long and so needs cutting.</p> <p><u>80.2 Emergency Plan</u> No further update.</p> <p><u>80.3 Defibrillator monthly Check</u></p>	<p>Report filed with SCC 9/11/17 under reference no. 4313647 Highways notified re: grass verge by The Clerk on 9/11/17</p>

	<p>Nial Murphy is undertaking the checks each month. A reminder to be put into the next edition of the pump of the correct protocol for using the defibrillator.</p> <p><u>80.4 Community Speedwatch</u></p> <p>Only two speedwatches have been undertaken since August. The Speedgun was collected on 6/10/2017 for re-calibrating. It is due to be received back next week and the speedwatches will commence once more with two teams.</p>	
81.	<p><u>BT Telephone Box</u></p> <p>The Clerk to obtain a quotation regarding putting up shelving in the phone box and this will be brought to the next meeting.</p>	The Clerk to obtain quotation
82.	<p><u>Correspondence Received</u></p> <p>The Clerk read out letters of thanks for S.137 monies from East Anglia's Children's Hospice, The Alzheimer's Society, The Royal British Legion, St Nicholas Hospice and East Anglian Air Ambulance. Also a letter from Susan Little apologizing for the late payment of the July invoice and paying ahead for the Christmas edition of the Parish Pump.</p>	
83.	<p><u>Urgent Business</u></p> <p>DC/17/1423/FUL Homefields planning application was discussed in the light of the comments submitted by Highways. After some discussion it was decided not to submit further comments on this application.</p>	
84.	<p>The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 8 January 2018 at 7.30pm</p>	

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.12pm.

Signed.....

Date.....