

Minutes of the Freckenham Annual Parish Meeting
Held at 7.15pm on Wednesday 2 May 2018 at Freckenham Village Hall

Present: 22 members of the public, Cllr. Louis Busuttill & Cllr. Brian Harvey

The Chairman, Cllr. David Wheeler welcomed everyone to Freckenham Village Hall for the Parish Meeting this evening.

1. **Apologies for Absence:**

Hilary Gurner, John Leitch, Peter Knowles, Sue Cornell, Hilary & Terry Anderson, Sandie Barton, Pat Murton, Janet Murphy, Paul Gibbs, Lorraine and Mike Stone.

2. **Update on Emergency Plan by Cllr Pearson**

No update on the plan was needed, it had been in place for a number of years now but thank fully not needed and had been copied by Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) for their template. He reported there was a good community spirit in Freckenham, as an example when the village had been without water for a day a North Street resident had gone to neighbours offering bottled water.

3. **Presentation of the Neighbourhood Plan Process – Cllr. Pearson & Mr N. Woolley**

It would take five steps before it became law

- Boundary for Plan – six weeks + independent consultation
- Preparation of the plan – six week consultation + outside consultation
- Draft plan to planning going to an independent consultation – six week
- Local referendum to agree its adoption
- Local Authority to approve before coming into force for Freckenham

Likely to take 18 – 24 months, would need funding, grant applications, SALC offers free advice. If the village does not have some development it will become just a dormitory for commuters. Nick Woolley stressed it was important to do the Neighbourhood Plan process, Princes Trusts Strategic Village. BIMBY “Beauty in my backyard” – identify special areas. Important to pay for the Specialist Consultation Plan so it will get through! Small workshop groups – type of people your views will be in it. Reduced fee as a charity. Money would be funded by grants and not out of the village precept.

Fordham was the nearest village with a plan.

4. **Update on Community Speed Watch – Cllr. Cornell**

Cllr. Cornell was unable to attend but had prepared a written report which Cllr. Wheeler read out. They had recently resumed speed watch patrols and used two cameras with 2 groups at the same time ie at Mildenhall Road and Elms Road. Results were collated and send to the Police.

5. **Update on Recreation Field – Cllr. Cornell**

Cllr. Cornell was unable to attend but had prepared a written report which Cllr. Wheeler read out.

6. **Reports from:**

- County Councillor - Louis Busuttill
Updated the meeting on potholes, home to school travel, Leadership Challenge at the County Council. Cost of social care took £500m of the budget, Adult social care £216m, elderly people care home assistance drop, children £110m. All very expensive it would be cheaper if they were in hotels.

Potholes £12m had been spent on repairs, Government cuts and caps. At the moment blitzing Mildenhall and had been through Freckenham where 65 defects have been recorded.

There had been 187 gritting sorties the average was 63. Council was borrowing £21m for resurfacing as that was the cheapest option. There was a cap of 3% on any increase in Council Tax as a referendum would be called if it exceeded this amount which added yet more cost.

Home to school transport, buses and taxis used, cutting this budget. Post 16 education was being cut at Mildenhall. Special Needs children had to have transport.

Leadership Challenge between current Holder Cllr Noble and Matthew Hicks from Saxmundham would be held at AGM on 11 May.

Nial Murphy queried the issue of borrowing £21m why not increase rates. Cllr Busuttil advised a 1% raise achieved £3m so they would need 7% to get £21m so they used cheap cash that was available on the market.

- District Councillor -Cllr Brian Harvey
Read a written report and was happy to answer any questions. This included the change of merging FHDC with St Edmunds Borough Council to create a West Suffolk District Council, process which had already commenced.

He was currently Vice Chairman of FHDC but would become Chairman in May. Let him know if there were events we would like him to attend. His locality budget can also be used on certain items, providing they are utilised on worthwhile projects.

7. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 3rd May 2017

The Chairman tabled the Minutes of the last meeting and these were taken as accurate, proposed by DB David Ball and seconded by Gary Tucker, **then** agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

8. Matters Arising from the last meeting

There were no matters arising that had not been covered elsewhere in the Minutes.

9. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

Cllr Wheeler read his report which will be placed on the Council website.

10. Parish Council Accounts

The Chairman presented the Accounts for the year 2017/ 18, which were still in draft form and would be taken to the next Parish Council meeting for approval.

11. Any Other Business

The Lordship of Freckenham – Cllr Barton reported that this had recently changed hands having been sold on an internet website to a self-publisher originally from the Philippines. Parish Council members would be meeting him for discussion and show him around Freckenham. There were some old and strange rights that came with the Lordship including owning all the markets in the village, the Parish Council hoped this would not include the

current Farmers Market held monthly in the village hall! Nicholas Woolley offered his help and a lawyer if needed. David Ball can help with contacts in the Philippines but the gentleman now lives Dominica.

The 1922 Manorial Act replaced the original Medieval Act.

Road signs for Fordham Road, The Street and Mildenhall Road. Mr Gary Tucker volunteered to repaint these.

Signed

Dated