

## **FRECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Meeting of Freckenham Parish Council on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.30 pm held remotely via Zoom.**

Present: Cllr Wheeler, Cornell, Douch, King

In attendance: Parish Council Clerk, Jadi Coe, Cllr Harvey and one member of the public

Cllr Wheeler welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **01/21/01 Apologies for absence & approval of reasons tendered**

Apologies were received from Cllr Busuttil

#### **01/21/02 Declaration of interest in any items on the agenda**

None

#### **01/21/03 Members of the public are invited to give their views on any item within the Agenda**

One member of the public in attendance introduced himself and stated he hoped to be elected in the upcoming County Council elections.

#### **01/21/04 To receive reports from the County Councillor, District Councillor and to receive the Police Reports**

District Councillor Harvey reported on various items including locality grants, Sunnica, fly tipping, county lines, the West Suffolk local plan and rough sleepers in the area. He also stated that non-emergency police matters could be reported on line as an additional service to the 101 number, reporting online can be made at [www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something](http://www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something)

Cllr Harvey was asked whether the recycling centre was still running on an appointment basis, to which he confirmed.

Cllr Wheeler thanked Cllr Harvey for his help in getting some of the streets cleaned by the West Suffolk road sweepers but reported that not all footpaths were done and it appeared the street cleaning as well as clearing of the drains was not happening as often as it had in the past. Cllr Harvey suggested the clerk contacts the highways department to ensure that Freckenham is still on the usual street cleaning and road sweeping rota.

#### **01/21/05 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were proposed and agreed that they were a true record of the meeting held

#### **01/21/06 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered in the Agenda**

It was reported that several tradesman vehicles were parking on pavements outside a property in the village preventing pedestrians, including mobility scooters and pushchairs getting past safely. The vehicles have had Parish Council notices placed on them and have been advised that they may use the Village Hall car park.

Cllr Harvey suggested asking help from PC Helen Self or the Civil Parking Enforcement Team if this continued.

#### **01/21/07 Parish Council Vacancy update and to receive any applications**

Cllr Wheeler reported no applications had been received and it was hoped to co-opt at the next meeting.

#### **01/21/08 Planning:**

##### **8.1 To consider any planning applications:**

Application No. DC/20/1860/TPO was received after the agenda was published.

The application is a re-consultation in respect of a planning proposal TP01821972 tree preservation order - one Horse Chestnut (T1 on plan, T5 on order) and seven Ash (within G2 on plan and A4 on order) fell at Pendleton Lodge, Elms Road, Freckenham, IP28 8JG

*It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council has no objections to the application*

##### **8.2 To note applications pending and determined:**

DC/20/1860/TPO - one Horse Chestnut and four Ash (T2 and G2 on plan T5 and A4 on order) fell at Pendleton Lodge, Elms Road, Freckenham, IP28 8JG. – *pending decision at 10.1.21*

DC/20/1284/FUL – (i) change of use of Gypsy and Traveller Residential area, providing 12 pitches with concrete pads (ii) 12 no dayroom/amenity buildings (iii) vehicular access and 12 no parking spaces (iv) play area (v) post and rail fencing at Land opposite Pen Villa, Isleham Road, Worlington, Suffolk – *pending decision at 10.1.21*

DC/20/1941/TCA - one Ash (A1 on plan) fell at White Hart Cottage, 14 The Street, Freckenham, IP28 8HZ – *approved 18.12.20*

DC/20/1837/TCA - one Cedar Tree (marked with cross on plan) – fell at Hydes Barn, Elms Road, Freckenham, IP28 8JG. – *approved 3.12.20*

### 8.3 Update on Neighbourhood Planning Progress

Cllr Wheeler updated members on the progress of the plan including; a recent landscape appraisal; site appraisal; and master planning support just commencing; delay in original timetable of plan due to the current pandemic; intentions to hold another drop in event in the Village Hall once Government restrictions are lifted.

### 8.4 Update on Sunnica Proposal

Cllr Douch gave the following report:

Thank you to everyone who took part in the consultation and made a response to Sunnica by the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

The Parish Council sub-group made a detailed response which is available on the Parish Council website, thank you to the residents and councillors who helped to write this document. The sub-group met regularly during 2020, and next meets tomorrow, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January.

We noted a very detailed joint response from the four councils (SCC/WSC/CCC/ECDC) which was also submitted in December. Copies have been circulated by email from Cllr Brian Harvey, but are not yet available on the WSC website.

The Say No to Sunnica Action Group organised a very helpful Stand Together for Wildlife, Energy and Community event on YouTube, broadcast in December. This can still be viewed by searching for “Say No to Sunnica” on YouTube, to find the No Sunnica channel.

The Parish Council complained to Sunnica about the method and operation of the Consultation during October 2020. Both the complaint and Sunnica's response are on the Parish Council website. Our concerns about the consultation still stand.

We note from recent Facebook posts that at least one farmer in the area has stated that they believe Sunnica intends to apply for compulsory access and/or compulsory purchase of their land affected by the scheme.

We understand that Sunnica and the four councils will now be working towards a Statement of Common Ground, progressing questions raised in the councils' responses to the consultation.

The next step that we are likely to see is the submission of the DCO to the Planning Inspectorate, which might happen during quarter 2 this year. The submission will include a large amount of documentation and should show how issues raised during the consultation have been addressed.

After the submission comes the Examination phase, like a public enquiry. Anyone can register to attend or attend and speak at the hearings, and we encourage anyone interested to do so. When the time comes, there are just 28 days to register. We will place information on how to do this on the Parish Council website. In the meantime, anyone can visit the Planning Inspectorate website, search for Sunnica, and subscribe to receive updates on the application by email.

The Parish Council remains against the Sunnica proposal, and will liaise with the Action Group as we continue to oppose it.

## **01/21/09 Recreation Ground and other assets:**

### 9.1 Playground/Recreation Ground Report

Cllr King reported he has two smaller goals including nets to replace the larger goals on the playing field.

### 9.2 Update on grass cutting

Cllr Cornell reported that the grass had not been cut recently as it was too wet, but it would be cut as soon as the conditions allowed.

### 9.3 Any other matters

A resident has contacted the Parish Council to confirm that his son, taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh award, would like to carry out volunteer litter picking around the village. The Parish Council thanked him, and arranged for the long-term loan of equipment from West Suffolk Council. West Suffolk Council have litter picking guidance leaflets for individuals on their website, with current advice for COVID safety. The Parish Council have provided these to the volunteers by email.

Cllr Wheeler has confirmed with the Parish Council insurer that there is cover available for individuals volunteering for the Parish Council if they are known beforehand and certain documents such as a risk assessment are in place.

Cllr Douch suggested formalising a scheme for individuals who want to carry out litter picking, and writing up details

on the Parish Council website. The Parish Council can provide the leaflets from West Suffolk Council, and help to arrange equipment if required.

#### **01/21/10 Highways Inspection - Cllr Wheeler to report**

Cllr Wheeler reported he has made a complaint to the Chief Executive Office and not direct to the Suffolk County Council Highways department as he has in the past. The reason being SCC Highways have failed to reply regarding issues raised many times since March 2019. The complaint is in respect of the Highways issues in the village and the lack of response from their Highways department in reference to the state of the roads including safety issues in the parish. This has now been forwarded to the in-house Complaints department for which the problem department has to reply to them and us within 20 working days.

#### **01/21/11 SALC, to confirm the date of the next local area meeting as Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021**

The date of the next local area meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 which would be held on Zoom.

#### **01/21/12 West Suffolk District Council Town and Parish Forum, to confirm the date of the next meeting as either 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

The date of the next West Suffolk Council Town and Parish Forum has yet to be confirmed.

#### **01/21/13 Shores Charity**

Cllr Douch reported:

The trustees of Shores Charity have confirmed to the Parish Council that they would like the bore hole project to proceed, and provided a suggested location at the allotments. In addition, the trustees will clear the area and mark it with a wooden stake. Allotment holders will be asked not to visit the site during the installation.

The clerk has kindly helped in obtaining grants from WSC and SCC totalling £1000 of the £1400 projected costs.

The proposed installer, Fontus Water, has proposed an installation date of Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and the work is expected to take 1-2 days. To secure this date, the Parish Council needs to pay a deposit covering the required equipment (the hand-pump etc) and will pay the balance required which includes their contribution on completion.

The Village Hall trustees have kindly offered use of the outside tap and external power socket at the village hall on the installation date.

We thank WSC, SCC and the Village Hall for their support in this project.

As soon as the water supply is available, Shores Charity will publicise it. We hope to include an article in the next Parish Pump, with photos of the installation.

I suggest we plan some kind of "ribbon cutting" event with the Charity, the grant funders and the Village Hall once the borehole is operating and COVID restrictions allow.

#### **01/21/14 Financial Matters:**

##### 14.1 To confirm payment of invoices

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Chq 1098	Jadi Coe	Clerk salary	£811.00
Chq 1099	HMRC	Clerk PAYE & NI	£189.00
Chq 1100	Jadi Coe	Clerk expenses	£17.28
Chq 1101	D Wheeler	Chairman's expense	£61.60

##### 14.2 To note payments made since the previous meeting

The following payment were noted as being made since the previous meeting:

Chq 1090	A Douch	Zoom subscription	£88.65
Chq 1091	St Nicholas Hospice	Charitable donation	£50.00
Chq 1092	East Anglian Air Ambulance	Charitable donation	£50.00
Chq 1093	East Anglian Children's Hospice	Charitable donation	£50.00
Chq 1094	The Royal British Legion	Charitable donation	£75.00
Chq 1095	The Samaritans	Charitable donation	£50.00
Chq 1096	The Alzheimer's Society	Charitable donation	£50.00
Chq 1097	ICO	GDPR Fee	£40.00

##### 14.3 To consider any invoices received after the Agenda was issued - to be tabled on the night

None

##### 14.4 Clerk to update on bank balances held and accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

The clerk reported that at 31<sup>st</sup> December £1,608 was held in the current account and £24,144 in the deposit account.

The clerk continued to report on the Parish Council accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020:

At 31<sup>st</sup> December the Parish Council had received £23,750, £13,800 from the annual precept, £8,203 from Groundworks for the Neighbourhood Plan, £992 from VAT refunds, £500 from West Suffolk Council, a grant to help towards the new bore hole at the allotments, £250 from Parish Pump advertising and £5 from bank interest. Another grant of £500 is expected from Suffolk County Council for the bore hole works.

At 31<sup>st</sup> December the Parish Council had spent £10,501. The largest expense items included £2,000 clerk salary, £1,275.86 annual insurance costs, and £4,886 to costs of the neighbourhood plan. The Neighbourhood Plan costs are split into £1,240 which is covered by this years Groundworks grant and £3,646 which is covered by a grant received from Suffolk County Council in the 2020 financial year.

At 31<sup>st</sup> December expenditure is £6,423 under budget, the main areas of under expenditure include; Sunnica expenses, which £3,000 was budgeted and only £60 spent, this amount can be carried forward in reserves to financial year 2021/22; Street lighting costs which £2,100 was budgeted but the annual maintenance invoice has not yet been received so there is no expense.

The accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 will be produced and agreed at the Parish Council Annual General meeting in May 2021.

#### 14.5 To approve and adopt the 2021-22 budget, confirm precept total and confirm signing of the precept application

The 2021/22 budget was agreed, the budget included £15,455 expenditure made up the annual precept of £13,712, £88 one off grant from West Suffolk Council, £450 expected Parish Pump income, £500 other expected grants, £5 expected interest, £700 expected VAT refund.

The precept form which requested a precept of £13,712 was proposed and approved.

The chairman and clerk would arrange for the precept form to be signed.

#### **01/21/15 Working Groups Report:**

##### 15.1 Circular Walk

The walk was reported in good condition

##### 15.2 Emergency Plan

No update

##### 15.3 Defibrillator monthly check Report

It was reported the volunteer who carries out regular checks has been continuing to do so and confirmed that it was working as it should be.

##### 15.4 Community Speedwatch

Cllr Cornell reported that checks could not be carried out due to the current government restrictions and since this had noted that speeding vehicles in the village had increased.

Cllr Cornell continued to state her concerns of speeding vehicles on Chippenham Road especially as this road was used by residents, including children to access the park and recreational field.

#### **01/21/16 Correspondence and Verbal Communication Received:**

A letter was received from a resident who was now seeking planning permission on their land for an additional property to house family members as the residents had become concerned for their safety after two incidents of dog theft.

Cllr Douch reported on the non-working street lights in the village.

#### **01/21/17 Update on the re-printing of the book, Manor of Freckenham**

Cllr Douch reported that the original publisher was unable to advise whether the books copy rights were still valid, however Cllr Douch believe they no longer are valid. The members discussed whether to re-print the Freckenham book Past to Present as well as the Manor of Freckenham book.

#### **01/21/18 Urgent Business**

Cllr Wheeler reported that any report for the Spring edition of the Parish Pump need to be received by the end of January 2021.

#### **01/21/19 To confirm the date of the next meeting as 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**The meeting closed at 8:50pm**