

FRECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of Freckenham Parish Council on
Tuesday 16th November 2021 at 6.00 pm held at Freckenham Village Hall
(with audio also transmitted using Zoom for members of the public)

Present: Cllr Cornell, Douch, King

In attendance: Parish Council Clerk, Jadi Coe

Cllr Cornell welcomed everyone to the meeting.

21/11/01 Apologies for absence & approval of reasons tendered

Apologies were received and accepted from the Chairman, Cllr Wheeler

21/11/02 Declaration of interest in any items on the agenda

None

21/11/03 Members of the public are invited to give their views on any item within the agenda

No members of the public in attendance.

21/11/04 To receive reports from the County Councillor, District Councillor and to receive the Police Reports

Cllr Harvey and Cllr Stanbury gave there apologies ahead of the meeting.

21/11/05 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 13th September 2021

The minutes of the meeting were confirmed as a true record of the meeting held and were signed by Cllr Cornell.

21/11/06 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered in the agenda

None

21/11/07 Planning:

7.1 To consider any planning applications:

None

7.2 To note applications pending and determined:

DC/21/1790/TCA - fell one apple tree at Drift Cottage, Elms Road, Freckenham, IP28 8JG – approved 13th October 2021

7.3 Other planning considerations

None

7.4 Update on Neighbourhood Planning Progress

It was reported that approval from Locality is required, in order to take on a specialist consultancy needed to undertake the essential viability assessment of the three so-far-chosen sites. Approval of this should be received by the end of the week.

7.5 Update on Sunnica Proposal

Cllr Douch reported:

The Parish Council's Sunnica sub-group has continued to meet and to consider the next steps as soon as the formal application is made, thank you councillors and residents for taking part and supporting the Parish Council. The next step we will see, is the submission of the Development Control Order to the Planning Inspectorate, after several delays this is now expected on the 18th November 2021. At this time, the District and County Councils will feedback to the Planning Inspectorate on the quality of the Statutory Consultation, including the responses by Freckenham Parish Council and the Parish Councils Alliance – Sunnica Group. After the DCO submission (and assuming the application is accepted) the next step is Examination phase, a little like a public enquiry. When the time comes, anyone can make a written “relevant representation” using a form from the Planning Inspectorate, or a form on the Planning Inspectorate website. This should summarise the key issues with the scheme from the writer's point of view, so the Planning Inspectorate is aware of them. This is the first time that comments will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, rather than to Sunnica. Submitting a relevant representation makes that person an Interested Party. Interested Parties can follow up with a longer Written Representation if they wish, and ask to attend or speak at the hearings (which are inquisitorial, or fact-finding, and not adversarial).

Red Lodge Parish Council has arranged a further constituency meeting with Matt Hancock MP, starting at noon at the Red Lodge Sports Pavilion on Friday 26th November. This will be another opportunity to ask Matt Hancock questions about the scheme. It follows on from the joint constituency meeting held by Matt Hancock MP and Lucy Frazer MP on Friday 15th November 2021 at The Beeches, Isleham.

The Parish Council continues to run the Sunnica awareness stall at each Freckenham Farmers Market, and information about making representations will be available there, as well as on the Parish Council website. The stall includes information about submitting reports of wildlife sightings to the relevant parties. In the meantime, anyone can visit the Planning Inspectorate website, search for Sunnica, and subscribe to receive updates on the application by email. . Based on the results of resident surveys, the Parish Council remains against the Sunnica proposal in its current form, and continues to liaise with the Community Action Group and Parish Alliance Sunnica Group.

21/11/08 Recreation Ground and other assets:

8.1 Playground/Recreation Ground Report

No updates

8.2 Update on grass cutting

It was reported that the grass is being cut as required and when the weather allows.

8.3 Any other matters

None

21/11/09 Highways Inspection

Following the Highways meeting with Cllr Wheeler, Cllr Stanbury and SCC the following was reported:

- A11 slip road and Elms Road, lack of centreline marking
Cllr Stanbury confirmed via email that he has emailed SCC Asset Manager for their comments.
Cllr Douch responded that this is really important especially as he recently followed a DPD delivery van travelling northbound on this stretch on the wrong side of the road, as it had left the A11 northbound. He believes the stretch from the A11 northbound junction to the A11/Newmarket Road/Red Lodge junction is designated part of the B1085, not just a C class road.
- Church Lane leaving the village towards Elms Road - additional sign to highlight the bend and a request for 'Unsuitable for HGV' signs on the road to Chippenham
Cllr Stanbury had confirmed via email that the sign must be a standalone post and for a bend warning sign on the offside of Elms Road approaching the bend, rather than mixing a new sign with the clutter of existing signs on the outside of the bend. The road to Chippenham has 'Give Way' signs at either end and SCC could attach 'Unsuitable for HGV' signs on the back of these if they felt they were close enough to the start of the road to be seen.
Cllr Douch responded asking whether a high-level sign would be in the normal sight line of the driver. Also, that it would be a shame and an obstruction to locate a sign on the (only section of) footpath on Church Lane outside The Dell (house), as it is very narrow.
Cllr Cornell and Cllr King also feel something needs to be done at Pound Corner (junction of The Street and Church Lane), vehicles do not always stop coming from church, therefore, vehicles coming from Mildenhall need to stop to prevent an accident. Also, eastbound vehicles crossing to go up Elms Road come over the white line to see traffic coming from Mildenhall.
- Speeding through the village
Cllr Stanbury confirmed via email that Fordham Road to the west has a priority system with a kerb build out at the start of the 30mph limit, with 30mph roundels painted on the road further east. This is commendable and a step up from features normally used. The parish council have suggested enhancing this with speed tables but we seek to only install these in street lit areas so road users can see them at night. The B1102 coming in from the east had rumble strips, in a 2011 image, in conjunction with the start of the 30mph limit. These features suggest SCC has in the past sought to address the issue of traffic speeds through the village. You advise this is still a concern. I therefore suggest either (a) a single 2-way, week-long traffic and speed survey in the centre of the village to assess current speeds. This would cost £365. If the parish council wanted a second survey, close by, the second survey would cost an additional £145. Or (b) SCC look into providing 40mph buffers - short sections of 40mph limits preceding the start of the 30mph limit. This would need a speed survey at the start of the 30mph - Cllr Stanbury would have to check whether these locations are "close by" otherwise its 2x £365. With (a), if the 85%ile speed is greater than 35mph Cllr Stanbury would be pressing the police to assess their levels of enforcement. With (b), if the entry speeds are also greater than 35mph it would meet the SCC criteria for a 40mph buffer. Buffers will need a TRO which could cost around £7,000 (subject to an accurate estimate plus the works costs to install). Extending the 30mph limits further out on Chippenham Road and Elms Road - the key issues is whether drivers approaching the village can see buildings, driveways etc to accept why the limit is lower. Cllr Stanbury thinks there may be a case for Chippenham Road but less chance on Elms Road where the road is more in open countryside where the 30mph limit starts. Any extension of a speed limit will need a TRO.
Cllr Douch responded that the "priority system with kerb buildout" is referring to the old kerb buildout west of the village removed some years ago because it was unlit and caused traffic collisions. He has had a look on Google Street View and it still appears there but it has been removed, as it was placed in an unlit area, so there is

currently nothing additional on the western end of the village, and this area has been given up on. Cllr Douch remembers a speed survey (box and rubber tubes across the road) outside the village hall a year or two ago as part of the speedwatch activity, and asked the clerk to find the results in hope to send these along with the lorry route survey.

Cllr Douch confirmed he is in favour of the 40mph buffers where this is possible and that he would like to point out that enforcement of 30mph isn't possible until vehicles are 300 metres inside the 30mph limit signs. On Chippenham Road and Elms Road this means that vehicles are well inside the built-up area before they are expected to actually reduce their speed to 30mph. Cllr Cornell believes a 30mph extension is desperately needed on Chippenham Road.

21/11/10 Recommended lorry route review

Suffolk County Council are undertaking a review of the recommended lorry routes across the county.

The community led review will run until 17th December 2021.

It was agreed to complete the survey confirming the following three issues:

1. Speeding through the village
2. Overrunning (driving up onto verges) and crossing the centre of the road, at the junction of Mildenhall Road and The Street. Vehicles, particularly HGV, are crossing the centre line as they travel East and turn the bend at Pound Corner, and also mounting the pavement (visible damage to kerb stones). Vehicles, particularly HGVs, are overrunning onto the verges at the hill on Mildenhall Road between Freckenham House and the junction with North Street.
3. Overrunning (driving up onto verges) from vehicles both HGVs and LGVs, as they enter and leave Church Lane at its junction with Elms Road. Visible damage to the verge on the field side of Church Lane. Collisions in this location, including incidents of damage to the garden wall of The Dell (house) on the corner of the junction.

21/11/11 Chippenham Road Wall

Cllr Cornell confirmed that she has been informed the work has been put to the contractor but no start date has been given.

21/11/12 SALC, to confirm the date of the next local area meeting

The 2022 local area forums for West Suffolk will be held on 15th March and 15th September.

21/11/13 West Suffolk District Council Town & Parish Forum, to confirm the date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting has yet to be confirmed.

21/11/14 Financial Matters:

14.1 To confirm payment of invoices

The following payments were approved for payment:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Q no.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Jadi Coe	Clerk salary	NA	£880.00
Jadi Coe	Clerk expenses	NA	£74.16
TOTAL			£954.16

14.2 To consider any invoices received after the Agenda was issued

None

14.3 Clerk to update on bank balances held

The clerk reported that at date £4,248 is held in the current account and £23,830 in the deposit account

14.4 Clerk to present the first draft of the 2022/2023 budget for consideration by this Council.

The first draft budget was reviewed by members with the final budget to be agreed at the meeting in January.

It was also agreed that the clerk would show on the budget amount in reserves which are earmarked.

14.5 To consider any charitable donations under S.137 of the Local Government Act for 2021-22 in line with the budget

It was proposed and agreed by all to make the following donations as per last year:

- St Nicholas Hospice Care- £50
- East Anglian Air Ambulance- £50
- East Anglian Children's Hospice- £50
- The Royal British Legion- £75
- The Samaritans- £50
- The Alzheimer's Society -£50

21/11/15 Working Groups Report:

15.1 Circular Walk

Cllr Douche reported that the path was cut in the first week of June 2021. During July, the Parish Council reported the path had overgrown again, under the report, the path was cut again in the last week of August. The section of path along Elms Road, between the bridleway between Elms Road and Mildenhall Road and Elms Farmhouse has been cropped again this year, as happened last year. The Parish Council wrote to Suffolk County Council in September 2021 to alert them to this problem, and the Rights of Way officer telephoned Cllr Douch a few days after for an update on the state of the path. Part of the verge along Elms Road was flailed to ground level on the 19th September 2020, around the time we understood the Rights of Way officer would be in the area. The Rights of Way officer asked for the Parish Council to enter a problem report and email him in the event this is cropped again.

Cllr Douch also reported that Green Lane U6006, also known as Badlingham Lane, was mowed by Suffolk County Council contractors in September 2021. Several residents reported shortly afterwards that it was now passable on foot, however brambles are still encroaching from the sides. It was noted by the Rights of Way officer that the Lane is a road and not a footpath or bridleway (public right of way.)

Lastly Cllr Douch reported that the dead, ivy-covered tree overhanging the footpath at the junction of Church Lane and The Street, at the end of the footpath up to the Church, has been removed.

15.2 Emergency Plan

No update

15.3 Defibrillator monthly check Report

The volunteer who carries out the checks has confirmed there are no problems to report.

15.4 Community Speedwatch

No speed checks have been carried out recently due to volunteers unable to carry out checks.

21/11/16 Correspondence Received

None

21/11/17 Parish Council Vacancy update

The clerk confirmed she had put the notice on the website home page and Cllr Cornell would make a post on social media.

21/11/18 Update on the re-printing of the book, Manor of Freckenham

No update

21/11/19 Urgent Business:

Cllr Douch reported that the street light at the junction of Church Lane and Elms Road is still broken, and has been for some years. This is a junction that Councillors remain very concerned about, and the lack of signage and safety of the junction has been raised again with Suffolk County Council Highways as part of the review by SCC Cllr Stanbury. It was agreed that the clerk would contact Suffolk County Council asking when this will be repaired.

21/11/20 To confirm dates of the next meetings and for the forthcoming financial year 2022/2023

The dates were confirmed as follows:

January 10th 2022

March 14th 2022

May 9th 2022

July 11th 2022

September 12th 2022

November 14th 2022

January 9th 2023

March 13th 2023

The meeting closed at 6:40pm

Jadi Coe
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