

**Minutes of the Meeting of Fressingfield Parish Council
held in the Sancroft Hall, Fressingfield
on Tuesday 19 December 2017**

Present: Garry Deeks; Alex Day; Hilary Day; Philip Eastgate; Tom Lindsay; Nick Stolls; Rachael Troughton; Dave Wheeler; Andrew Vessey

In Attendance: Carol Smy Clerk

Members were joined by former Councillors and Paula Deeks for light refreshments when a presentation was made to Prue Rush in recognition of her years of service to the village both professionally and as a Councillor and Chairman of this Parish Council

Cllr McGregor's report centred on the need for as many people as possible to respond to the consultation on school transport that is due to close at the end of February. If the proposed reduction in funding were to be enacted this would have a severe effect on Fressingfield Primary School and families with young people attending sixth form colleges/higher education establishments and those in other remote rural areas and would take away the element of choice parents have. The rest of his report was as follows: Review of Home to School Transport has now commenced. There will be workshops arranged. For us there will be one in Eye in January and I do urge active participation. As details are now emerging and concerns, especially about the impact on post 16 provision, are now being expressed. I do urge you to take an active part in the Consultation.

I have been in discussions with Highways about the impact of the current planning applications in the village. The final response of Highways to MSDC have yet to be completed but my discussions with Highways indicate that there are safety concerns, especially for pedestrians. SCC have carried out an examination of the Drainage issues in the village and await the findings.

Recent reports have indicated that the village from a crime standpoint is among the safest in Suffolk. I had a meeting with the Tim Passmore (Police & Crime Commissioner) about Policing resources in the Division. Tim was given the figures as to the amount of money, through the Precept, and attention was drawn to the amount of resources allocated. I expressed concerns to Tim about the growing threat of the use of illegal drugs which are being used in parts of the Division. I will be following this up with the Superintendent at Halesworth. The Scrutiny Committee (today) is examining the Roll Out of Broadband and the Highway Service's Repair & Maintenance Performance. I intend to make clear the concerns of many residents.

Cllr Hadingham confirmed the date of the next Planning Committee meeting at MSDC at which the developments at JSR and Stradbroke Road were to be considered as 14 February 2018. Regrettably the planning officer who had steered this was leaving MSDC at the end of January so there would be no one in the department with in-depth knowledge of the village and these applications. Some 50% of the Planning Department's staff had either left or were leaving imminently. Cllr Hadingham noted that two recent applications for developments in Debenham and Stonham Aspal had approval recommended by the Highways Department but the Planning Committee had refused permission on safety grounds under a policy from the 1998 Local Plan which is still extant.

17.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented an appreciative Clerk with flowers from the Council

17.2 Apologies for absence were received and accepted from: Judy Fullam (work commitments); John Kelsall (indisposed); Ian Smith (who will be absent for several meetings following surgery – members were content with this). Tracy Livingstone sent her apologies (received after the meeting).

17.3 Members' Declarations of Interest – *there were none at this time*

17.4 The Minutes of last Meeting – 21 November 2017; approved unanimously and signed.

Prop: AD seconded DW

17.5 To consider any Planning Matters including:

17.5.1 Applications for consideration at this meeting:

DC/17/05418 notification for prior approval for proposed change of use of agricultural building to a dwellinghouse (Class C3) under Schedule 2, Part 3, Class(a) & (b) of the town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 and associated Operational Development Barn at Oxbridge Farm, Storeys Lane

Members agreed unanimously to submit the previous response as nothing had changed other than the proposed building would be single storey. The case stood that if this application were approved there would be no grounds for the District Council to refuse any application in its area for the conversion of a shed to a dwelling.

DC/17/06118 Prior Approval Application under Part 6, Class E of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015- Erection of general purpose agricultural building. Nunnery Farm, Harleston Road

Members unanimously agreed to recommend approval with no further comment

17.5.2 No notifications of decisions reached by MSDC had been received

17.5.3 There were no other Planning Matters for discussion

17.6 Matters of Report:

17.6.1 Defibrillator – ongoing

17.6.2 Website – AD reported that the website was still under construction. For simplicity there would be no areas with restricted accessibility. Councillors would be listed on the site, as per Transparency Code requirements, with name and council email address only.

17.6.3 Email addresses – there were still some councillors yet to set up their corporate email address. AD would assist if required.

17.6.4 Notice Boards – the new board at the shop had been installed. ToL was thanked for his work on this. Refurbishment of the other boards was ongoing.

17.6.5 Display boards – the Council now had 6 table top display boards.

17.7 To receive the Financial Report:

17.7.1 Approval of cheques for payment – details distributed. Prop:AV seconded: ToL; approved unanimously. See appended list

17.7.2 Transparency Fund – the PC had been awarded £1,176 for technical equipment and the reimbursement of website expenses (village site). Laptop and printer/scanner to be purchased.

17.7.3 Budget 2018/19 – the previously approved budget for 2018/19 was signed. Precept form to be signed at the January meeting.

17.8 Parish Plan update – nothing to report. This item to be removed from the agenda until such time as there is something to discuss.

17.9 Neighbourhood Development Plan – GD reported on the meeting held on 05 December and updated Members on progress. It was suggested that the Steering Group acquire drone images of the village from FHLAG purely for the purposes of planning and Neighbourhood Plan information. Av had produced a draft paper on issues and challenges for the Heritage and Environment area of the Plan. This would be circulated to members of all groups for members' information. The use of a consultant was discussed. It was agreed the Steering Group would need to map the management of the separate groups.

17.10 Allotments – to the date of posting the agenda 12 letters had been received in support of the PC looking into the sourcing of land for allotments.

17.11 Emergency Planning – nothing to report

17.12 Road Safety – nothing to report

17.13 Street Lighting

17.13.1 Unfortunately, BT will not contribute to any costs of this work. Planning permission was not required. The cost would be iro 4k plus VAT. Pearce and Kemp have been instructed to undertake their part of the work and would liaise with BT's contractors.

17.14 PCSO Joint Initiative – nothing to report

17.15 Social Club – nothing to report

17.16 Playingfield Management Committee – nothing to report

17.17 Footpaths – it was understood that other villages were undertaking the repair and replacement of finger posts on a self-help basis and it was suggested the PC does the same. Members agreed to undertake such work as was possible. Circa 40 posts were in need of repair or replacement.

17.18 Correspondence

17.18.1 CAB had written to the PC concerning its Energy Best Deal campaign. It was agreed to incorporate into an information coffee morning: ‘Village Forum’ in the New Year, ideally the 31st January provided the Sancroft Hall was available. Timing should be 10-11.30, coffee/tea and biscuits to be provided. Councillors to be in attendance to answer any questions/provide information.

17.18.2 Newsletter and posters from Eye SNT circulated to members and to the village website/magazine

17.19 To Receive the Clerk’s Report

17.19.1 There was a dismal turnout to the SCC watercourse mapping event. Only the Chairman attended. The project would proceed as far as possible. The Chairman reported that he had a supply of maps, photos and forms for the purpose. The parish was thus divided onto 32 sectors and volunteers should work in pairs. The meeting was informed that 5 parishes were taking part in this pilot project and it was hoped to ascertain whether it was possible to use volunteers to source usable data for such projects. The target end-date was the end of February.

17.20 Dates of future meetings

08 January 2018 – first meeting of steering and topic groups for Neighbourhood Plan

16 January 2018– Council meeting

17.21 No matters of Information were brought forward by the Chairman or Members at this time

17.22 Matters for Inclusion in the Agenda for the next Meeting of the Parish Council – 16 January 2018 – to be with the Clerk by 05 January 2018 latest

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.35hrs

Signed: GR Deeks
Chairman

16 January 2018