

Minutes of the Fressingfield Parish Council meeting held in Sancroft Hall, Fressingfield on Tuesday 20 November 2018 at 7pm

The meeting was preceded by a presentation from Sally Connick development officer of Community Action Suffolk's Good Neighbours Scheme. The chairman and clerk of Metfield Parish Council attended to hear the presentation.

The scheme if set-up in Fressingfield would ensure everyone living in the village could have contact with a 'good neighbour'. Organised by a local committee of perhaps 4 people, 'good neighbours' could offer help to do some shopping, change a lightbulb or give a lift for a medical appointment (mileage paid to the volunteer for this).

Volunteers' commitments are flexible and coordinated by one of the scheme's committee members. Initial set-up costs would be around £600 with annual running costs of around £300. SC thought existing schemes (say based around a church) could naturally dovetail with such a new scheme. Stradbroke has a scheme and is keen to offer advice.

SC was thanked for providing the information and a clear explanation of the details of the scheme.

Councillors to consider the scheme later in the year.

Present: Garry Deeks; Alex Day; Philip Eastgate; Tom Lindsay; Tracy Livingstone; Ian Smith; Rachael Troughton; Andrew Vessey; Dave Wheeler

Also In Attendance: Andy Parris, clerk to the council; Lavina Hadingham, MSDC councillor; Guy MacGregor, SCC councillor

18.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

18.2 Apologies for absence were received from NS (volunteering in Africa) and were accepted.

18.3 Members' Declarations of Interest. There were none.

18.4 No dispensations were requested.

18.5 The public forum. No issues were raised.

18.6 Reports from District and County Councillors

GMcG: Explained how Hartismere Hospital was being considered as a hub for 'social prescribing'. This newly developing idea would become a centre for health, social and possibly educational needs. It was one idea being pursued so that the pot for health, which is diminishing can be re-worked to take pressure off so-called frontline services. When questioned about the continuing reduction of SEN educational service in the county, GMcG asserted that county councillors overwhelming prioritised the protection of vulnerable children. However, choices had to be made especially when central government continues to cut Suffolk's funding. Even when compared to its rural neighbours, Suffolk has a pitifully small allocation from central government. He pointed out that despite tight funding Suffolk County

Council is still supporting its good rural library service and spends a higher proportion of its income on the police force than similar counties.

Despite his support for the new social prescribing idea, GMcG was highly critical of too much centralising of services. He cited nationally attempts to combine health and care services and the size of Sizewell C as examples of the problems of scale.

LH highlighted that the district council's draft 'Homes Strategy' and 'Homelessness Reduction Strategy' are open for consultation until 7 December. Full details can be found at <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/housing/homes-strategy/>

She gave some details about the planning meeting on 21/11/18 concerned with three large housing development proposal. LH and councillors agreed that MSDC planning officers and Suffolk Highways officers had submitted highly professional responses to each of these applications.

LH also agreed to support the writing of the neighbourhood development plan with £700 from MSDC funds.

18.7 It was proposed that the minutes of the previous meeting (20/11/18) are a true and accurate record of the meeting. Agreed unanimously

Clerk to investigate how to register the playing field with the Land Registry

18.8 Progress reports from last meeting

18.8.1 Clerk's report: Councillors have produced an article to encourage people to join the council on a temporary basis (currently 3 vacancies). The article will be in *Six Sense* in January. **Clerk to contact *Six Sense* editor.**

There was a general discussion around function and composition of committees.

Clerk to identify options for December meeting.

After discussions, councillors decided to buy a subscription for the mapping service, Parish Online; to arrange, through Suffolk Highways, for pedestrian barriers to be erected in the alleyway at the back of Old Forge; confirmed a date of Tuesday 5 February 2019 for SALC full council training on planning, Sancroft Hall at 7pm. **Clerk to arrange these items.**

Councillors also noted that Suffolk Highways have been informed about the council's wish to have weight restrictions placed on Wood Lane and Millers Lane.

18.8.2 Chairman's report:

PCSO: Despite research and a detailed proposal by GD, no progress since the last meeting. Possibly going to fall by the wayside.

It's time to form a tree and hedge working group. The proposal to have an exploratory meeting at 7pm before the start of the January meeting (Tuesday 15 January 2019) was agreed.

Clerk to advertise in *Six Sense*, and AD through the websites.

GD encouraged councillors to look at the developing NDP to see if there are items to take forward as projects for 2019-2020

The cemetery: Problems of storage at the cemetery were discussed. It was agreed to spend up to £100 to find a solution.

Clerk informed of options at a range of prices.

GD informed the council that the remaining English oaks, for the cemetery, would arrive the following day.

GD to organise a planting party.

Discussion about suitable roses for the site settled on 'Rambling Rector'.

GD to buy and plant.

18.8.3 Playing Fields Management Committee: Currently, the committee is providing advice to a third party on a personnel issue. It was noted that there is considerable experience and expertise among councillors that also could be offered.

18.8.4 Neighbourhood Development Plan: RT confirmed that the online survey is finished. The steering group feels it is making good progress and will meet its draft publication date of spring 2019. There will be an emphasis on the landscape and not just the built environment.

18.9 Planning

18.9.1 Notifications from MSDC: DC/18/04588: Notification of works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Fell 1no. *Betula Papyrifera*. The Chapel House Church Farm Green Fressingfield – no objection from MSDC

18.9.2 Any other planning matters. *NB This was discussed during LH report at pt.18.6.* There was an explanation of the proceedings of MSDC Development Planning Committee which would consider the 3 large applications, the following day. The parish council's plans for its presentations were finalised. There was an enquiry about when deadlines for MSDC elections would be publicised. *(Note from clerk, 27/11/18: Not yet on MSDC website)* and a discussion about qualifications and disqualifications for standing in parish elections. *(Note from clerk, 27/11/18: Booklet explaining the regulations is available on the village and the council's websites)*

18.10 Finance

18.10.1 Cheques for payment were scrutinised and authorised.

18.10.2 The financial report based on the appended summary – receipts and payments since the last meeting; bank reconciliation and budget plan compared to actuals was received and agreed to be accurate.

18.11 Matters of Information brought by the chairman or councillors.

The excellent job done by Cathy Tooley, the village caretaker, was brought to the attention of the council. Councillors discussed how best to support her and also agreed to allocate £100 for clothing and other materials or equipment.

Posters warning about hare coursing have been noticed on the edges of the village. There was a discussion about the cruel nature of this illegal activity and the potential danger of approaching anyone seen taking part. The advice from the council is, 'Keep your distance and call the police immediately.' A copy of the poster will be put online and on the village noticeboards.

18.12 Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting of the parish council on Tuesday 18 December – none yet proposed

18.13 There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm

18.14 Signed:

Chairman Date

DRAFT