

Minutes of the Fressingfield Parish Council meeting held in Sancroft Hall, Fressingfield on Tuesday 19 February 2019 at 7.30pm

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

Also in Attendance: Two members of the public; Lavinia Hadingham, MSDC councillor; Andy Parris, clerk to the council;

19.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

19.2 Apologies for absence: Received and accepted from Nick Stolls; received and noted from Councillor McGregor.

19.3 Members' Declarations of Interest. There were none.

No dispensations were requested.

19.4 The public forum. One member of the public wanted the council to be aware of his objections to the planning applications for the conversion of the Baptist chapel on Low Road into a five-bedroom house. These concerned the effect the proposed change would have on the immediate neighbourhood of the chapel and on the heritage of the village. Another member of the public, a trustee of the Baptist Chapel, explained why the trustees needed to sell the chapel and was able to answer questions from the council about the plans for the proposed house. The chairman ended the public forum by thanking the two and assuring them that their contributions would help the council in making its decision over the planning applications.

It was agreed to move consideration of planning applications up the agenda.

19.5 Planning applications. DC/19/00570 and 00571- alteration to existing Baptist Chapel on Laxfield Road to form a single dwelling. IS declared an interest in this item. He agreed to answer any question about the plan, if he was able. Councillors held wide-ranging discussions on issues including drainage, vehicular access, maintaining the structural heritage of the village; the graveyard; the effect on neighbours and whether or not the plans are binding on developers.

A proposal to support the application for a change of use was passed with a majority decision.

A proposal to support the application to build the five-bedroom house was passed with a majority decision with 1 abstention.

19.5 Councillor Hadingham gave details about the scout group's tentative enquiries about changes to access to its site off New Street to facilitate the building of its new scout hut. After a discussion about the complications of car access any new site, the council agreed to suspend further discussion until a new application was put forward.

LH informed the council about the discussion over the development of houses on the chicken factory site in Weybread. She noted that if development was restricted to the brownfield site, the plan is more likely to receive a positive reaction from local residents.

Councillor McGregor sent a report informing the council that council tax would go up for 2019-2020. There will be a reduction in bus services (sic) and the county council's housing plan's in the area are hamstrung by MSDC not having figures available for the size of its land bank.

19.6 Reports

Clerk: AP confirmed that he and RT had sifted through the title deed and correspondence regarding past ownership of the council's land. RT emphasised the need to get the land registered.

Clerk to investigate the cost of registering the land

AP gave councillors 'back of the envelop' estimates from SCC (1) for putting up pedestrian barriers on the alleyway behind The Old Forge (where it meets Harleston Rd) and (2) for putting up 'unsuitable for lorries' signs at either end of Wood Lane and at the junction of Millers Lane with Cratfield Rd. It was felt these were excessive.

TrL to arrange a meeting with Suffolk Highways

AP clarified how the parish council election in May will be organised. It was agreed to publicise the election informally in addition to the formal notification that is sent from MSDC. AP emphasised the importance of having a nomination form delivered to MSDC by hand and having it informally checked.

ToL and AP to arrange to advertise. AP to act as a courier for forms.

It was agreed to organise council training after the election of 2/5/19.

The council discussed different options to change the lamps/lanterns on its lamppost. It agreed to change them to white LEDs with a switch to turn them off from midnight to 5 am in addition to the standard light sensor. This will cost £235 +vat per column.

AP to contact Pearce and Kemp

Chairman: GD outlined the difficulties and hardships that could result from the county council's proposal to cut the subsidies to school transport.

Good Neighbour Scheme: AV reported that the existing, mainly church-based, schemes were concerned about the complications of merging into a scheme that would pay the volunteer for expenses. There are meetings planned to try to resolve these concerns. He will report back at the next meeting.

NDP – A written report confirmed that the plan is nearing the end of its draft stage. This final draft stage will include informal discussions with MSDC, local landowners and residents. The residents will be able to make comments from the two open days (March 31 and April 1) until May 17. A supporting report, a village character appraisal, has been written by Alex Day and Andrew Vessey, who should be congratulated. It is exceptional in its own right and a good read. AV emphasised that the NDP will not only be about housing – employment and the village's place in its surroundings are also important for it to be a successful and useful document for the future.

19.7 To receive a report from the meeting with Mr N Minter (Anglia Water). The council has been given a pipework map for the whole village which will help future discussions about developments. Councillors studied this fascinating and informative

map. NM explained that up until summer 2018 the pumping station on Harleston Hill was not working efficiently. Repairs and improvements in the summer should mean it will deal with future heavy rainfall. (Surface and floodwater in the central part of the village, drain into the sewer system and have contributed to the popping of manhole covers and fresh sewage leaking onto the street and into the Beck in the recent past.) NM proposed a village-wide water survey. This will help planners and builders to future-proof the drainage system and could be a precursor to a floodwater attenuation programme.

19.8 Village Improvement Plan: GD asked councillors with ideas about this plan (previously circulated) to contact him.

19.9 Finance

- a. Payments were checked against invoices, authorised and cheques signed.
- b. Finance report
 - i. The bank reconciliation was confirmed at the time of signing the cheques.
 - ii. Budget cf actual – councillors ascertained that spending was in line with the budget. It was noted that the money raised for the PCSO is unspent as the project is still under review.
 - iii. The application to move to online banking is currently with Unity Trust, which is carrying out its checks.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm

Signed:

Chairman Date