

Minutes of the Fressingfield Parish Council meeting held in Sancroft Hall, Fressingfield on Tuesday 19 March 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: A member of the public; Andy Parris, clerk to the council;
(G McGregor, SCC councillor and L Hadingham, MSDC councillor joined the meeting part-way through)

19.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

19.2 Apologies for absence: Received from Nick Stolls (away on business) and were accepted.

19.3 Members' declarations of interest. There were none.

19.4 The public forum. No comments, just interested in seeing how the council works.

19.5 Minutes of the previous meetings

19.5.1 5/2/19 Planning committee meeting preceded by a talk by E Ling, MSDC planning officer. It was agreed that the minutes are correct.

19.5.2 19/2/19 Full council meeting. It was agreed that the minutes are correct.

19.6 Planning applications.

19.6.1 DC/19/01166. Notification of works to trees in a conservation area - Fell 1no Pine Tree. The Stores, New Street, Fressingfield. The council recommended unanimously that this application be approved.

19.6.2 DC/18/03955. Erection of single-storey dwelling and improvements to existing vehicular access. Land adj Mill Bungalow, New Street, Fressingfield. Notification that BMSDC had not granted permission for this application.

19.7 Reports:

19.7.1 Clerk: The contracts for the maintenance of the playing field, children's play area and the cemetery are out of sync. They could be realigned if M Hammond extends the contract for the playing field to the autumn. He has offered to do this at the same price charged in each of the last 3 years (i.e. £397). It was proposed to accept this offer. This was agreed unanimously.

The council's fidelity guarantee is significantly below that recommended for a parish the size of Fressingfield. A proposal to increase it to £50,000 was adopted unanimously. **Clerk to ensure cover is at this level.**

Two estimates of solicitor's costs to get the parish's land registered at the Land Registry were considered. The estimate by Greene and Greene was judged to be best value. A proposal to place the work with this company was agreed unanimously. **Clerk to arrange for Greene & Greene to carry out the work**

The lantern outside Rosemary Villa is already an LED type. It was agreed that although this doesn't have the 12 midnight to 5 am timer on it, it will not be replaced as part of the package agreed last month.

The annual parish meeting was set to be on Tuesday 30 April, with a slight change in the format from previous years. **Clerk to make arrangements.**

The clerk was able to assure the council that his training has continued including SALC modules on elections and end of year accounting being the most recent.

- 19.7.2** Chairman: Due to the excellent work by the village caretaker, there is no need for a village clean-up this year. Instead, the chair will organise several working parties on Saturday 6 April. Meet outside Sancroft Hall at 9.30am. The tasks identified so far are:
1. Oak posts around the defibrillator station (old telephone box)
 2. Clear debris along the path from Sancroft Hall to the Swan
 3. Village cemetery clear-up
 4. Control/tidy hedge between playing field and a neighbouring field.
- Parish council Hi-Viz bibs will be available. **TrL to contact JF**
- The tree group has planned to survey all the special trees in the village. There will be a broad definition of special.
- AD is to collect numbers and orders for the 'end of term of office meal' at the Swan on Thursday 18 April.**
- 19.7.3** TrL arranged for Suffolk Highways officer and parish councillors to meet on Harleston Rd to discuss pedestrian barriers. This onsite meeting helped to remove some of Suffolk Highways concerns about the barrier. Positive proposals are expected. **TrL to report back at next meeting**
- 19.8** **Councillors' reports:**
- 19.8.1** SCC: GMcG informed the meeting that although there will be a 4% increase in council tax next year, there will not be a dramatic increase in services. He spoke about the increasing strain on different services including the police; services for vulnerable adults and children; and school transport. The demand from these services and the pressure from central government to tighten spending have made supplying an appropriate level of service difficult. However, GMcG confirmed he would use some of his locality fund to contribute to the cost of the pedestrian safety barrier planned for the end of the pathway around The Old Forge.
- 19.8.2** MSDC: LH read part of the regular newsletter from BMDSC. [NB Updated news about the newly combined district councils can be found at <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/> Just scroll down to the lower part of the page] MSDC can prove that its landbank for housing is more than five years. To the layman, this means it is more able to resist planning applications that are unsuitable to local needs. Discussions about the future of the chicken factory in Weybread are ongoing.
- A meeting has been arranged with district council officers, county council officers, planners and district and parish councillors. This is to discuss the surface water draining from the site of the new Baptist Chapel.
- How communications between district councillors and county councillors come to the parish council has been clarified for everyone.

19.9 Finance

- 19.9.1** Payments to be checked against invoices, authorisation to be agreed. This was done.
- 19.9.2** Bank statement reconciliation. Reconciliation was confirmed to be accurate.
- 19.9.3** Spending and income of budget plan. Councillors were satisfied that spending and income during the month had kept the council's accounts in line with its budget plan.
- 19.9.4** Other finance matters:
 The council had received copies of its standing orders, finance regulations and the risk assessment completed by the clerk. Each one was discussed. It was proposed to adopt the standing orders. This was supported unanimously.
 It was proposed to adopt the finance regulations. This was supported unanimously.
 It was proposed to accept the risk assessment. This was supported unanimously.
 The council discussed the salary of the caretaker. It is currently based on the National Living Wage. It was proposed to change this to the Real Living Wage. This was agreed unanimously.
 The council discussed the pay scale for the clerk. It was proposed to move the clerk's salary across to the equivalent point on the new scale agreed at The National Joint Council for Local Government Services. This was agreed unanimously.
 It was proposed to donate £50 to Fressingfield Medical Centre. This is in recognition of the support given to Margaret Grimwood, a former parish councillor and to all Fressingfield residents when they need it. This was agreed unanimously. **Clerk to arrange payment**
 Last year the council had laid a wreath at the village memorial. It discussed the work done in the village for residents and their families by the local ranch of the RBL. It was proposed to donate £50 to the RBL. This was agreed unanimously. **Clerk to arrange payment**

19.10 Dates of next meetings

Planning committee	Tuesday 2 April (not needed)
Full council meeting	Tuesday 16 April
Annual parish meeting	Tuesday 30 April

The meeting closed at 10.00pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date

Minutes of the Fressingfield Parish Council additional planning committee meeting held in the school hall, Fressingfield on Thursday 28 March 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Garry Deeks; Alex Day; Tom Lindsay; Tracy Livingstone; Dave Wheeler

Also in Attendance: Three members of the public; Andy Parris, clerk to the council;

19.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for it being called at such short notice. He explained that this was due to the district council asking for comments before the end of the month on the proposed plans for dealing with surface water on the new Baptist Chapel and carpark. This request followed on from the meeting held at Endeavour House, Ipswich on Friday 22 March with officers, councillors and a few parishioners to discuss these drainage plans.

19.2 Apologies for absence: Nick Stolls, Andrew Vessey, Philip Eastgate

19.3 Members' declarations of Interest. There were none.

19.4 The public forum. Further information about the plans were given. This led to detailed discussions about the new site and arrangements for drainage. A member of the public also advised the council of the imminent launching of a new group in the village. The Society Against Fressingfield Entering Retirement will be known by the acronym SAFER.

19.5 Council's conclusions:

- I. Councillors quickly concluded that it was inappropriate for them to comment on this level of technical information.
- II. Councillors felt that district council officers should be exercising their professional judgement on such matters.
- III. The parish council is not clear about why these officers felt it necessary or right to ask the parish council for its opinion on this level of detail.
- IV. The parish council is clear about its responsibilities. It noted its dependency on the district council and its officers to liaise properly with their county council and environment agency colleagues, to resolve such matters in a legal and timely manner.

In summary, the parish council confirmed that it fulfils its responsibilities; it expects other councils, officers and agencies to work in a similarly professional manner; the parish council appreciates being informed of decisions taken and of the progress of planning applications that affect the village.

19.6 Dates of next meeting:
Full council meeting Tuesday 16 April
Annual parish meeting Tuesday 30 April

The meeting closed at 8.05pm

Signed:

Chairman Date