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## Minutes of the Fressingfield Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 15 September 2020 at 7.30pm. This was a 'Zoomed' meeting.

Present: Cllrs Garry Deeks, Philip Eastgate, Tom Lindsay, Nigel Lucker, Trevor Orchard, Nick Stolls, Neil Venton, Andrew Vessey and Di Warne (Chair).

Also in Attendance: Cllr Lavinia Hadingham, Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC), Cllr Guy McGregor, Suffolk County Council (SCC), Andy Parris, clerk to the council and responsible finance officer (RFO). There were 4 members of the public present.

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- 1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained how the public forum was run.
- 2 Apologies for absence: Received from Rachael Troughton (personal) and Alex Brockhurst (personal). These were accepted.
- 3 Members' declarations of interest. There were none.
- 4 Minutes of the previous meeting
  - 1 Separately, it was resolved that the minutes of the previous meetings (the full council meeting on 18/08/2020, the Planning Committee meeting on 01/09/2020 and the Finance Committee on 27/08/2020) are correct.
  - 2 Actions and progress since the last meeting.

After a discussion with scout leaders, it was thought that this was not a suitable time for the scouts to be involved in the youth council. This is due to pressures on scout leaders at the start of the school term and the restrictions on scout meetings due to COVID-19. It is possible that this will change once the epidemic is under control.
- 5 Reports from
  - 1 County councillor. Congratulations to the parish council for its response to the first stage of the consultation on planning – it is a most professional document. GMcG is concerned that preamble to the consultation sees planning regulations as the sole reason for low levels of house building. This statement, that ignores other major problems, is a threat to the English countryside. The county council appears to be moving towards opposing the building of Sizewell C. Overspending on home to school transport is still a problem and the 16 – 18 age range may be most affected. There will be a new head of the fire service.

Money available from the county council for tree planting schemes, electric car charging points and establishing quiet lanes. **Clerk to investigate**
  - 2 District councillor. LH had circulated a written report that is available on the parish council's website.
- 6 The Public Forum.

It was noted that any public electric car charging point should be on public land. There was extensive discussion about vehicles speeding through the village, the danger this creates, how to quantify it and what approaches can be taken to reduce it.

  
DW

- 7 The council carried on the discussion from the public forum about speeding. It was noted that the problems have been known about for many years and that there is unlikely to be a silver bullet to solve the problems. GM<sup>c</sup>G was also involved in this discussion and alerted councillors to the fact that he can ensure county council officers will get directly involved in assessing problems and looking for solutions. He confirmed that there is money available in a locality budget to help fund solutions.

It was resolved to form a working group of councillors, parishioners, and SCC representatives to assess, quantify and resolve the problems discussed. Three councillors and two of the members of the public who were present were keen to get involved.

**TO will organise a road safety working group.**

## 8 Finance

- 1 Payments due were checked by 2 councillors against invoices. Online authorisation of these payments was completed after the meeting.
- 2 September's reconciliation statement was presented to councillors prior to the meeting. This was accepted by the council. There were no questions relating to this statement. The council agreed unanimously to place the order for the speed indicator devices. Suffolk Highways has said the poles for these will be installed at the end of September.
- 3 The RFO reported on how the asset register was revalued item by item. This new register now places the council's insurance policy into a new band. The council unanimously accepted the insurance quote with the higher range of cover for its assets.

The council agreed to pay the annual subs for the clerk's membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks.

The council accepted a quotation from M. Hammond to reduce and renovate the northern hedge of the cemetery.

The council agreed to pay the invoice for work already done by M. Hammond in different areas of the cemetery. The rainwater problem in the western part of the cemetery will be kept under review.

It was agreed that the 'Fressingfield Fairies' would carry out some work to improve the cemetery over the winter. **GD will organise.**

## 9 Reports

- 1 The Chair: The council is grateful to those parishioners living near the War Memorial who cleared away the straw that littered the area at the beginning of September. It was felt that overgrown hedges may have contributed to 'the straw problem.'  
**Clerk to contact farmers to raise their awareness of these problems.**  
It was agreed to discuss the village Welcome Pack at a future date.  
A discussion about what information should be publicised about COVID-19. It was agreed to concentrate just on information about the parish support scheme.
- 2 The clerk: Some noticeboards have had the glazing replaced so agendas etc. are now visible. There are some changes to the council's website that make audit and finance information and agendas and minutes of meetings more accessible. The clerk will also use Nextdoor Fressingfield to advertise the council's meetings. There was a discussion about the possibility of merging the parish council and the village websites. Merging the two and ensuring that the result meets the regulations on accessibility is beyond the technical capabilities of the clerk.

**DW, NV and the clerk will meet to resolve these difficulties.**

*DW*  
DW

Problems of holding the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the War Memorial were mentioned. DW will act as the parish council's representative in a COVID-19 secure event.

- 3 Fressingfield Good Neighbours Scheme. It was agreed that the scheme will remain with links to the council and supported by it, until it is able to stand on its own feet.

**The clerk will include information about it in a council newsletter in October**

- 4 Emergency Plan. Three councillors will review the draft by sections as it moves towards a final plan. **GD, TL and NL will do this. NL to arrange the meeting.**

- 10 A discussion was held about the second part of the government's consultation on the planning process. It was agreed that councillors will add to the draft response and DW will collate them for the planning meeting on 6 October. It was felt that the third part of the consultation was too technical for councillors with only a layman's knowledge. It was agreed that the council would not make a response to this part.

**Clerk to circulate the draft response document to all councillors. Councillors forward their comments to DW by 27 September. DW to collate.**

- 11 Planning application DC/20/03457. Revised plan for 28 houses at Red House Farm, Priory Rd, Fressingfield. The council will recommend BMSDC refuses this application.

The council felt that, despite the improvements in this revised plan, there were still too many areas of concern. The technical issues raised by Suffolk Highways mirrored many of those concerns, similarly the response from the public rights of way team.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

*D.L. Warne*

D.L. Warne (Nov 11, 2020 13:00 GMT)

Signed: D.L. Warne

Chair

Date

Nov 11, 2020

Dates of next meetings

(Currently, all meetings are video conferences, using Zoom. The details of how to join a meeting are attached to the agenda.)

I	planning committee	Tuesday	06 Oct	at 7.30pm
II	finance committee	Thursday	08 Oct	at 7.30pm
III	full council	Tuesday	20 Oct	at 7.30pm

Date of council meeting 15 September 2020

Current account and savings account statements

Nos 065 and 061 issued on 03/08/20

**Current Account**

£32,116.88

Previously agreed debits not on statement

Borderhoppa chq no 300254 100.00

£100.00

**£32,016.88**New payments to be authorised on 15/09/20

SO Staff	Salary	166.40
SO Staff	Salary	378.80
BACS Staff	expenses and reimbursements	189.83
BACS HMRC	PAYE	286.40
BACS M Hammond	maintnenance at the cemetery	420.00
BACS N Flack	repairs to noticeboards	300.00
BACS SLCC	subs to clerk's professional assoc	106.00

£1,847.43

Receipts since statement no. 065

None

**Total****£30,169.45****Deposit Account**

£26,843.83

No activity in this account since statement no. 061

**£26,843.83**Total available from both accounts**£57,013.28**Ringfenced reserves

Neighbourhood Watch	280
Playground	1,600
SIDs	7,000
Fressingfield Community Fund	1,555

£10,435

Contingencies

Emergency	15000
Assets (capital)	7000
In-year	2000

£24,000

**Balance of available funds:****£22,578.28**

balance available at August reconciliation	£23,585.51
balance available at July reconciliation	£24,630.54
balance available at June reconciliation	£25,905.29
balance available at May reconciliation	£26,633.28



DW

# FullCoun20200915

Final Audit Report

2020-11-11

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