

Minutes of the Fressingfield Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 17 November 2020 at 7.30pm. This was a 'Zoomed' meeting.

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

Also in Attendance: Cllr Lavinia Hadingham (Mid Suffolk District Council), Cllr Guy McGregor (Suffolk County Council), Andy Parris, clerk to the council and responsible finance officer (RFO). There were 9 members of the public present.

- 1 The Chair welcomed councillors, and members of the public and press to the meeting.
- 2 Apologies for absence: There were none.
- 3 Members' declarations of interest. It was confirmed that although the council has a subscription with the Suffolk Preservation Society, it has no input or influence in that society's response to any planning applications. The subscription is solely for the education and interest of councillors and parishioners. NV declared a personal interest in item 7. He confirmed that he would not vote on this item.
- 4 Minutes of the previous meeting
 - 1 It was resolved that the minutes of the full council meeting on 20/10/20 were correct. It was resolved that the minutes of the planning committee meeting on 03/11/20 were correct.
 - 2 Actions and progress since the last meeting.
 - a NL had attended an anti-social behaviour webinar hosted by Suffolk Police. He discovered that anti-social behaviour is on the decline county-wide although this may be affected by coronavirus lockdowns. He has a contact with the local community officer. There is a police department that give advice to planners about 'designing-out' crime from new developments. There will be webinars on controlling speeding in villages in the new year.
 - b Fressingfield emergency plan. Slow progress recently due to illness of participants. No current concern about rises in Covid-19. Leaflets re the support scheme to be posted again though people's doors. Direct link with local CAB established.
- 5 Reports from
 - 1 District councillor. LH had previously circulated a newsletter from the Mid Suffolk District Council. There were no questions about this. LH invited requests for funding for support from local organisations which she can meet from a locality budget. **Clerk to upload the newsletter and information about locality funds onto websites**
 - 2 County councillor. GMcG reinforced previous comments about the support being given by the county council to care homes for covid-19 protection. Council tax is likely to rise by 2% next year. He highlighted problems being created by central government's centralisation/rationalisation of local services e.g. police authority, probation service, prosecution service and magistrates' courts.
- 6 The public forum. The Chair explained the procedures for the public forum. Concerns over changes to the new Baptist Chapel compared to the original plans were raised. Objections to, and matters supportive of, the planning application for new homes on Post Mill Lane were presented to the council.

DL Warne
D L Warne (Dec 27, 2020 14:27 GMT)

- 7 To respond to the planning application DC/19/05956. The erection of up to 18 dwellings and associated new roads, infrastructure, and open space on land off Postmill Lane, Fressingfield. Councillors discussed several issues concerning the application and the paperwork associated with it. These included the errors in the planning officers report, and the timing of its release; the impact the estate will have on road safety and the sewerage system and whether central government's proposals for the planning system are likely to affect the planning committee's decisions. Councillors were sceptical that the money stipulated for section 106 changes would be enough for those changes. The council is shocked that the planning officer was trying to diminish the importance of the neighbourhood development plan.

The council is opposed to this development. It voted to recommend that the district council should refuse it. **Clerk to circulate a draft response based on the discussion.**

8 Finance

- 1 GD, AB, NL and NV confirmed that the list of payments to be made and income received is accurate and recommended the council approves the payments. Online authorisation of these payments was completed after the meeting.

Clerk to arrange for TL to join the list of councillors to authorise payments.

- 2 November's reconciliation statement was presented to councillors prior to the meeting. This was accepted by the council. The council agreed to increase the rate of pay for the caretaker in line with the real Living Wage.

- 3 The RFO reported that the report from the external auditor for 2019-20 had been received and that there were no matters of concern. He confirmed that the procedure for online confirmation of receipts and payments, using Adobe Sign has been set up successfully.

Following information from the RFO on donations and grants, the council agreed this year to make the following donations under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972:

East Anglian Air Ambulance	£500
East Anglian Children's Hospices	£500
Waveney Foodbank	£250
North Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau	£100
BorderHoppa	£100
Royal British Legion	£ 50
Suffolk Preservation Society	£ 30

Finance committee to revise budget to show these donations

9 Reports

- 1 The Chair: An online meeting has been arranged with MSDC to discuss complaints about responses from the planning department. **DW, NS and the clerk to attend** Although Remembrance Day commemorations were curtailed, a wreath on behalf of the council was laid at the War Memorial. This was followed by a 2-minute silence by the few who attended.

The idea to support children's free school meals over the Christmas holidays has been put on hold due the government's response to Marcus Radford's national campaign.

Wakelyns Farm has opened some trial permissive pathways around its fields until the end of the year. **Clerk to post details online**

- 2 Speeding Working Group Waiting for response from Suffolk Highways Authority (SHA) officer to discuss options. Possibility of funding through GMcG locality fund to pay for renewing the gateways to the village.
- 3 Fressingfield Good Neighbours Scheme. The framework of the committee with a few of volunteers has been put together. This is good news given current circumstances. It will be further developed over the next month. **NL to continue with this work**
- 4 The clerk: Speed indicator devices have been delivered. Waiting for SHA to set up the poles. Application for public electric vehicle chargers has been sent to SCC. Virginia Skoyles will update the Welcome Pack ready for the council to discuss its future use.

Some parishioners have complained about changes to the layout of windows on the new Baptist Chapel. This highlights the need for better communication about changes to contentious applications. This will be part of the online discussions with MSDC referred to in item 9.1

The noticeboard near the church has been taken for repair.

After clarification about how the council can present its views to the district council planning committee, it was decided that DW would represent the council at the virtual meeting on 25/11/20. The meeting will be broadcast on the district council's You Tube site. **DW to circulate draft presentation to all councillors for comments.**

Clerk to circulate details of view the meeting.

The streetlight attached to Rosemary Villa had not been working since mid-October. There were strong views expressed about the two contradictory explanations from UKPN and Pearce and Kemp Ltd (who service the lights) as to who was responsible.

Clerk to resolve the problem with both companies and get the light working.

Council agreed to re-advertise vacancies and invite applications for co-option for the December meeting. **Clerk to arrange.**

- 10 It was agreed to defer any discussion about the village improvement plan until next month's meeting

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

Signed: *DL Warne*
D L Warne (Dec 27, 2020 14:27 GMT)

Chair

Date

Dec 27, 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	1 December	at 7.30pm
II	finance committee	Thursday	3 December	at 7.30pm
III	full council	Tuesday	15 December	at 7.30pm

Date of council meeting	17 November 2020
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Current account and savings account statements

Nos 067 and 063 issued on 03/10/20

Current Account

£30,359.10

Previously agreed debits not on statement

£30,359.10New payments to be authorised on 20/10/20/20

SO Staff	salary	£661.40
BACS Staff	back pay	£2.40
SO Staff	salary	£170.40
BACS A J Parris	back pay	£617.60
BACS SALC	Planning webinar	£30.00
BACS MSDC	Play equipment inspection	£60.82
BACS PFK Littlejohn	Annual external audit	£240.00

£1,782.62

Receipts since statement no. 067

BACS MSDC	Cleansing grant	510.12
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£510.12

Total

£29,086.60**Deposit Account**

£26,843.83

No activity in this account since statement no. 063

£26,843.83**Total available from both accounts: £55,930.43**Ringfenced reserves

Neighbourhood Watch	280
Playground	1,600
SIDs	1,479
Fressingfield Community Fund	1,555

£4,914

Contingencies

Emergency	15000
Assets (capital)	7000
In-year	2000

£24,000

Total 'set-aside' sum £28,914**Balance of available funds: £27,016.43**

balance available at October reconciliation	£29,378.96
balance available at September reconciliation	£22,575.28
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

FullCoun2020117

Final Audit Report

2020-12-27

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