

Minutes of the Fressingfield Parish Council meeting held in Sancroft Hall, Fressingfield on Tuesday 2 August 2022 at 7.30pm

Present Parish councillors Hilary Day, Garry Deeks, Tom Lindsay, Nigel Lucker, Trevor Orchard, Nick Stolls, Rachael Troughton and Di Warne.

Also in attendance 16 members of the public, Cllr Lavinia Hadingham, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council (BMSDC) and Andy Parris, clerk to the council and responsible financial officer (RFO).

- 1 Cllr DW chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.
- 2 Apologies for absence These were received from Cllr Eastgate and accepted.
- 3 Members' declarations of interest Cllr NS declared an interest in the likely discussion on giving s137 grants to local churches. He is a member of the parish church parochial church council and a trustee of the Fressingfield Ecclesiastical Charity. It was agreed that he would withdraw from the meeting were a vote on this to take place.
- 4 Notification by councillors of any lobbying related to an agenda item There had been none.
- 5 Minutes of the previous meetings It was resolved that the minutes of the full council meeting on 19/07/2022 are correct.
- 6 The co-option of a new parish councillor The council had received an application to be co-opted onto the council from Mr Stuart Balmer. After a brief statement from SB, the meeting was closed to the public whilst the council discussed the application. When the meeting was re-opened, SB was invited to join the council. He signed the acceptance of office form and took his place at the table.
- 7 The public forum Three members of the public raised the problems caused by road closures on Harleston Road. One consequence has been an increase in traffic on Church Street. This causes considerable congestion as it is a narrow road with no off-road parking. Some HGV vehicles are ignoring the advisory notices saying unsuitable for HGVs. The public forum was temporarily closed.
- 8 Councillors discussed the problems being caused for Church Street residents. It was noted that there is communication between the parish council and Suffolk Highways Authority (SHA), in particular with the manager of the roadworks. This had resulted in advisory signs that Church Street was unsuitable for HGVs. Councillors agreed with residents that this was insufficient. The council decided to contact SHA to express strong concern about the safety issues on Church Street, to request that traffic lights are installed to control the flow of traffic using Church Street, and to request that the existing signage around the village, warning of roadworks, should provide more specific information. **Clerk to email SHA explaining the issues and discuss solutions.** DW advised residents who have concerns about traffic on Church Street that they should contact SHA directly and County Councillor Peter Gould.
- 9 The public forum was re-opened The council was given details about a house proposed to be built on land adjacent to The Manse and the old Baptist chapel.

10 Reports from Cllr Hadingham, BMSDC The report was previously circulated. Questions from councillors asked for information about the district council's local plan.

LH confirmed that there is currently no progress with proposed developments on Red House Farm in Fressingfield and the old chicken factory in Weybread.

For the next meeting LH will find out about housing developments in Stradbroke.

Concerns were raised with her over the irregularity of recent bin collections. [Missed bin collections can be reported on this website <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/waste-services/missed-collections/> ]

#### 11 Planning matters

- 1 DC/22/03276 Erection of a house on land adjacent to The Manse, Fressingfield IP21 5PZ. Cllr SB declared a pecuniary and other disclosable interest in this matter. Cllr SB left the meeting. Councillors discussed this application comparing it to a previous application for this site. The council decided that there were significant differences between this and the previous application which the parish council had opposed. Matters of access for the new house, its position on the plot and its relation to other homes in the area were discussed. Comments from parish residents and MSDC officers were also considered. The council decided to recommend that the district council approves this application. Cllr SB re-joined the meeting.
- 2 The council briefly discussed how to get clarification about when building work does and does not need planning permission. Due to changes in personnel and their responsibilities at BMSDC, it was decided to add this to the agenda of the September planning meeting if the clerk obtains the required information by then. **Clerk to contact BMSDC planning department.**

#### 12 Finance

- 1 Cllrs NL and GD confirmed that the vouchers, and invoices where appropriate, were accurately recorded on the payment and receipts summary sheet. This had been previously circulated to all councillors.
- 2 The council agreed to make these payments and acknowledge the receipts. **Online authorisation of these payments was completed after the meeting by Cllrs NS and PE.**
- 3 The RFO report was previously circulated. The report highlights the uncertainty that surrounds whether it is within the powers of a parish council to award a grant to local churches. Councillors had a wide-ranging discussion about previous actions taken by the parish council, the different views that have been expressed by national organisations and how to get clarity on this matter. The council agreed to request clarification of all these conflicting views from Suffolk Association of Local councils (SALC). **RFO to contact SALC.**
- 4 A grant application from Fressingfield Playing Field Management Committee (PFMC) was discussed. The council decided that some circumstances around the application were unclear. These can be clarified at a meeting between parish council members and the PFMC on 09/08/22. The clerk will join the meeting to give advice and to take notes. Councillors decided not to award a grant based on this application.

#### 13 Reports from

- 1 The Chair: This was circulated prior to the meeting. A meeting about the play area, open to anyone who has an interest, will be on 25 August and is advertised in this month's Six Sense.



- 14 The clerk: This was circulated prior to the meeting. The council was informed that the developer of the land adjacent to the new scout hut (the Red House Farm development) is resolving some problems with the district council and expects to start work on the estate early next year.
- 15 The village improvement plan was briefly discussed. It was agreed that the work on the roadway leading to the sports and social club should be given greater prominence in the plan. It was decided that it is important to involve young people when making changes/developing new ideas for improving the village. The whole plan will be discussed at the finance meeting on 14 October. **DW to update the plan before 14/10/22.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Signed:

Chair

Date

Dates of next meetings

- |   |                                 |                                   |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | planning committees (if needed) | Tuesday 6 September and 4 October |
| 2 | finance committee               | Tuesday 14 October                |
| 3 | full council                    | Tuesday 18 October                |