

# Minutes of the Meeting of Fressingfield Parish Council held in the Sancroft Hall, Fressingfield on Tuesday 18 January 2011

**Present:** Prue Rush; Garry Deeks; Diana Annis; George Frost; Judy Fullam; Lars Gregersen; Margaret Grimwood; Ian Smith; Peter Vincent; Pennie Walker

**In attendance:** Cllr Guy McGregor; Cllr Marilyn Curran;

Carol A Smy (Clerk)

3 Members of the public

**Public Forum:** *the damage caused to the picket fence at Jubilee House, twice in four months, was brought to the attention of the Council. The last time this happened a lorry transporting chickens was at fault. The Police and SCC had been made aware. The Clerk had also informed the Planning Department when the response to the planning application for Fennings Farm was submitted.*

*A request was made for the Council to reconsider the installation of street name signs in the village. It had been noted that a sign had been erected at the end of Church Street indicating Low/Cratfield Road. It was pointed out that this was not as a result of a resident's lobbying but because of the confusion between Royal Mail and some satellite navigation units leading to non delivery of items for some residents.*

## 11.01 Chairman's Welcome

11.02 Apologies for Absence were received from: David Steere; Virginia Skoyles; Peter Davidson

11.03 There were no Declarations of Interest made at this time

11.04 The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 November 2010 were approved unanimously and signed

## 11.05 To consider any Planning Matters including:

11.5.1 Applications considered at previous Planning Meetings:

*Parish Council recommended refusal for:*

3659/10 erection of 2 chicken sheds and feed bins *land adj Fennings Farm, Pixey Green*

11.5.2 Notification of decisions reached by MSDC:

### Applications granted planning permission:

2867/10 conversion of existing barn to form single family dwelling. Demolition of existing lean-to outbuilding  
*The Barn at Ufford Hall Farm, Laxfield Road*

2868/10 as above LBC

2995/10 erection of extension to existing garage

*Becklands, Cratfield Road*

3388/10 remove yew tree from back garden

*Fressingfield House, Church Street*

11.5.3 Applications for consideration:

11.5.4 Other Planning Matters:

11.5.4.i 0895/10 White House Farm, New Street: Planning Inspector granted the appeal

11.5.4.ii 3659/10 erection of 2 chicken sheds and feed bins at Fennings Farm – appeal withdrawn; presented to Planning Committee; approval granted

## 11.06 Matters of Report:

11.6.1 Councillor resignation – David Steere formally tendered his resignation from the Council to take effect from this meeting.

11.6.2 New Street Pump – ongoing; Essex and Suffolk Water states that it does not own the pump and that 'it must belong to the Council'. The Clerk was asked to write to the householders of adjacent properties to enquire if the pump belongs to them and if not it would be taken on to the Council's Asset Register. Clerk to action

11.6.3 Telephone Kiosk – purchase logged and agreement sent.

11.6.4 Elections – these take place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011. Information would be placed in the Parish Magazine insert for the next two issues. Posters will be available and will go on the notice boards. The draft notice date is 21 March 2011 and election purdah would be in operation from this date onwards. It was the responsibility of each nominee to get their papers to MSDC before the closing date/time but if members wished the Clerk was happy to deliver them en bloc. Councillors may sign each other's nomination papers but must NOT sign more than 13. Any Councillors deciding not to stand in the next election do not have to formally resign they just do not submit nomination papers.

11.6.5 **Parish Liaison Meeting** – this was attended by the Chairman and Clerk main focus was the election and poll on district councils' merger.

11.6.6 **Faster Broadband** – there was insufficient support registered for the BT scheme but the Leader of MSDC has stated his aim for faster broadband throughout the district by 2012/13.

### **11.07 To receive the Financial Report & Approval of Accounts for payment:**

11.7.1 Cheques for approval appended to these minutes. The cheque for the PCC was signed out of meeting. Approval for the payment of the accounts was unanimous and the cheques duly signed.

11.7.2 Account balances at 31 December 2010 as follows:

Current Account: £ 10,843.01

Tracker Account: £ 19,745.99

There was one unpresented cheques - £162.24; balance at 31 Dec 10 £30,426.76

11.7.3 Budget/precept setting – the revised budget sheet was circulated and the precept was set at £15,000. This was agreed by majority approval with one against; proposed George Frost seconded Peter Vincent.

11.7.4 An email had been received from 1<sup>st</sup> Responders with details of councils supporting the group but there was insufficient detail so the Clerk was asked to write again for more information. **Clerk to action**

### **11.08 To receive reports from the County & District Councillors and the Community Beat Officer:**

11.08.1 County Councillor – Cllr McGregor commented on the alignment survey for Harleston Hill. The 20mph limit for New Street had not had support from the Highways panel but when it was confirmed that the Parish Council was still keen for this to go ahead he agreed he would support and pursue it. There would be some reductions in public transport services and the future of Libraries was in consultation. A number that could be considered County Libraries would continue and Community Libraries (such as Eye and Stradbroke) would receive some support as SCC worked with the community to keep them running. There would be closures and reductions in some mobile services. SCC was looking to save a quarter of its expenditure on care home provision by purchasing services from the private sector. This was also out to consultation.

11.08.2 District Councillor – Cllr Curran reported that MSDC's budget cut for 2011/12 was 8% and to reduce costs some services, such as pest control, were being linked to those of other authorities. The Eye Community building was being sold so from 01 April CSD would run fortnightly advice 'clinics' at Eye Library. Various officers would make home visits in extreme circumstances. The Revenue and Benefits department was being shared with Ipswich and Babergh from April and other authorities were interested in joining this way of working.

11.08.3 Police – no report received prior to the meeting but an email is appended to these minutes. Questions were raised about the cuts in funding and the effect there would be particularly on the elderly, children and education.

### **11.09 Parish Plan:**

11.9.1 Questionnaire – results of the survey were discussed and an outline Parish Plan for 2011/16 was formulated. It was agreed this should be written up and circulated to Councillors for final suggestions and approval would then be agreed at a later meeting.

11.9.2 It had been suggested that the various people currently involved in activities for the older residents be approached to see if something along the lines of Stradbroke's 'Good Neighbours' scheme is appropriate. It was agreed that Care of the Elderly be incorporated into the Plan.

### **11.10 Traffic Calming**

11.10.1 parking had again become an issue on Laxfield Road. This was causing some disquiet and the Chairman and Clerk would be meeting representatives of the Housing Department (with Cllr Curran) later this week.

11.10.2 an application had been received from Highways for a disabled bay at Sandpath. The applicant was severely disabled so this would go ahead subject to negotiation between SCC and MSDC.

11.10.3 the proposal for Harleston Hill had been the subject of further discussion between the Highways department and the Police. There was still some disquiet about it making the situation worse and causing more accidents. At a site meeting the road was closed temporarily and test runs were undertaken at speed to judge the alignment of the road. An alignment survey was to be conducted, the results of which could lead to alternative actions.

**11.11 Emergency Planning** – blank copy of Barking’s plan was circulated at the meeting. Councillors agreed to look at the areas covered and put forward their input to the Clerk who would compile a rather more limited plan than that produced by Barking which would be more relevant to Fressingfield.

**11.12 Correspondence**

- 11.12.1.i SCC – establishing a network of Trading Standards ‘Champions’ and wants to recruit residents as ‘Champions’ for their neighbourhoods. A voluntary scheme and anyone interested in taking part should contact Sarah Nagra on 01473 265822
- 11.12.1.ii Diss TC – LDF information; conference held 14 January;
- 11.12.1.iii MSDC – review of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Policy
- 11.12.1.iv letter from resident crystallising the operation of the Tenants’ Forum and the Fressingfield branch; the Chairman and Clerk had been invited to attend a meeting. Response to letter sent and meeting would be attended in due course once a formal invitation had been received..
- 11.12.1.v request for funds from CAB
- 11.12.1.vi Poppy Appeal – celebration weekend in June.

11.12.2 **Tabled Items:** Unison report on SCC’s divestment policy; MSDC Discovery Project newsletter; Suffolk View; The Suffolk Foundation Annual Review 2009/10; TLC; Stowmarket area action plan; AgeUK Suffolk Annual review and associated items; update from Optua;

**11.13 To Receive the Clerk’s Report**

- 11.13.1 Open Weekend in Suffolk – grants available for sporting activities over the weekend of 22/24 July 2011
- 11.13.2 The dates for February’s planning meetings were incorrect on the calendar and should be 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 11.13.3 The Clerk had received a letter from Mrs Andrews stating that she wished to resign from her post as Village Caretaker with effect from 31 March 2011. The post would be advertised in the parish magazine insert. If anyone interested should contact the Clerk.
- 11.13.4 The Council agreed to meet for a farewell end of term supper as in the past. This would be at members’ expense in April probably at the Fox and Goose. As no one else leapt forward to organise the evening the Clerk would do so.

**11.14 To consider Matters of Information brought by the Chairman or Members:**

- 11.14.1 **Annual CleanUP** – the selected date was 12 March 2011 and Peter Vincent would co-ordinate activities.
- 11.14.2 **Gritting** – this had worked very well during the icy period. It was suggested that grit heaps at Priory Crescent and John Shepherd Road would be helpful. Clerk to action

**11.15 To receive Notice of Matters for Inclusion in the Agenda for next meeting – 15 March 2011**

- 11.15.1 Welcome Pack
- 11.15.2 Street name signs

**There being no further business the meeting was closed at 21.45hrs**

**Signed:**  
**Chairman**

**15 March 2011**

***Closing Public Forum:***

Street lighting was brought to the attention of the Council; residents felt a light was needed in the corner of Sandpath and as there was one along Laxfield Road that seemed to serve little purpose the Council was asked to enquire if it could be moved to Sandpath.