

**Minutes of the Meeting of Fressingfield Parish Council
held in the Baptist Chapel meeting Room, Fressingfield
on Tuesday 13 March 2012**

Present: Prue Rush; Garry Deeks; Paul Clark; Caroline Day; Philip Eastgate; Judy Fullam; Robin Loxton; Malcolm Roberts; Ian Smith; Nick Stolls; Peter Vincent; Keith Wykes

In Attendance: CCllr Guy McGregor; District Cllr Marilyn Curran; PCSO Steven Long; Carol A Smy (Clerk)

6 Members of the public

Public Forum: Nothing was forthcoming at this stage.

12.01 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

12.02 Apologies for absence were received from: Peter Davidson

12.03 Members' Declarations of Interest: Paul Clark – item 12.11 & 12.12; Peter Vincent – item 12.12; Ian Smith – item 12.16

12.04 The Minutes of Last Meeting –17 January 2012 – following an amendment the minutes were approved unanimously and signed.

12.05 To consider any Planning Matters including:

12.05.2 Applications considered at previous Planning Meetings:

Approval recommended for:

0148/12 installation and operation of a 3.99kw solar PV system on an existing agricultural barn
*Knights Farm, Harleston Hill
East Cottage, New Street*

0272/12 construction of single storey rear extension

Approval (by a majority vote) recommended for;

0053/12 erection of 1 x 5kw wind turbine (height 14.97m to hub; 5.5m dia blades) *Knights Farm*
3492/11 works to allow conversion of barn to a 3 bedroomed dwelling *Barn at Willow House*

Refusal recommended for:

0049/12 installation of 1 x kw wind turbine (height 14.97m to hub; 5.5m dia blades) *Willow Farm,
Chippenhall Green*
0348/12 erection of detached three bay cartlodge *Orchard Cottage, Laxfield Road*

12.05.3 Notification of decisions reached by MSDC:

The following applications were granted planning permission:

2057/11 conversion of part of existing agricultural building to form annex to be used for purposes ancillary to the dwelling known as Whitehall *Barn to the west of Whitehall, Gules Green Lane*

2061/11 LBC for the above

0148/12 Installation and operation of a 3.99kW solar PV system on an existing agricultural barn
Knights Farm, Harleston Hill

12.05.4 Other Planning Matters:

12.05.4.i CPRE/NALC booklet on Neighbourhood Plans available on line.

12.05.4.ii Further to the above: GD & KW attended a workshop on neighbourhood planning on 03 March 2012. They reported that although there was a challenge in identifying the meaning of 'neighbourhood' as part of the Localism Act, growth in communities, managed locally, was to be promoted. The cost of neighbourhood plans was too high for individual parishes but this should lead to discussions and collaborative working between neighbouring parishes. Training was required to manage the increased responsibilities. There was no indication, at this time, of the size of grouping envisaged and the District Council could steer but it was for the 'locality' to decide and groups outside Parish Councils may be involved.

12.05.4.iii Solar panels at the Primary School: letter from SCC. No objections were raised by MSDC to the retention of the panels.

12.06 Matters of Report:

12.06.1 **Waste Bins** – the bin for the bus shelter had been affixed. Paul Clark was thanked for dealing with this. The oil drum had been removed from the Playing Field and galvanised bins would be purchased and sited at the car park.

12.06.2 **Projector** – was operational and ready for use.

12.06.3 **Playing Field** – the Clerk took advice and it was not illegal for dogs to go on public recreational space BUT the council may prevent such use (as has been the case in Fressingfield). The Council may make byelaws in respect of dog fouling but those of MSDC actually covered this area.

12.06.4 **Village CleanUp** – this took place on 10 March and was poorly attended although, once again, a good deal of rubbish was collected. Refreshments were served afterwards in the Sancroft Hall. Thanks to all who took part and to Ben Symonds for collecting the rubbish. It was suggested by one participant that it might be good publicity if the tabards had 'Fressingfield Annual CleanUp' printed on them

so members of the public did not think the volunteers were undertaking community service and it might encourage others to join in. This was not supported at this time.

12.07 To receive the Financial Report & Approval of Accounts for payment:

12.07.1 Cheques for approval as per information sheet distributed. Approval of payments proposed JF; seconded KW; agreed unanimously.

12.07.2 Account balances at 29 February 2012 as follows:

Current Account: £12,269.08

Tracker Account: £19,755.83

There was one unrepresented cheque totalling - £162.24; balance at 29 Feb 12 £31,862.67

12.08 To receive reports from the County & District Councillors and the Community

Beat Officer:

12.08.1 County Councillor – Cllr McGregor reported that the funding for a 20mph limit in New Street had been secured and the plan would proceed. There was to be no increase in Council Tax for the coming year and savings would continue to be made despite the cuts in government funding. RL asked if white lines might be added to the 20mph plan for New Street.

12.08.2 District Councillor – Cllr Curran reported that there would be no increase in the DC's share of Council Tax for 2012/13. She congratulated Fressingfield on undertaking the annual litter pick again. A new Joint Housing Board was being established and a good response had been received from tenants, both in support and for the election to the Board. It was still important to make use of the Brome recycling site. The site at Great Blakenham had been closed through lack of support. One District Councillor had been appointed to the Health and Well Being Board. New plans were being drawn up to give more parking spaces at Sandpath. This time occupational therapists would be involved. Following questions from the Council MC stated that MSDC was very supportive of neighbourhood planning. MSDC was considering building social housing itself rather than continue to rely on provision from housing associations.

12.08.3 Police – there had been one crime in the preceding month – a theft from a vehicle. This appeared to be linked to other similar crimes in the surrounding area. There had been heating oil thefts in the vicinity and members of the public were asked to report, via 999, if they spotted an old (30 years +) Bedford TK with a dark green cab sporting the logo 'Butler's Fuel Oil'. Speed checks had been undertaken locally. Notes appended to these minutes concerning the planned Police and Crime Commissioners.

12.09 Traffic calming

12.09.1 A proposal for a calming system on Harleston Hill had been received from SCC Highways Department. This was discussed at some length and the Chairman closed the meeting at 8pm in order that members of the public might express their views. The general consensus was that it might prove worthwhile although unlikely to lead to great reductions in speed. It had been hoped by some residents that the 20mph might be extended to cover Harleston Hill but this did not meet the criteria for such a limit. Those in attendance felt it was a positive thing that some action was finally being taken. The meeting re-opened at 2003hrs. It was suggested that enquiries be made to see if there were any records of speeding along the route and if not a survey should be undertaken before the gates are in place so that after a period of, say, six months another survey could take place to see if there had been any improvement. The Clerk was asked to mention this in her response to the Highways Department.

12.09.2 Cllr McGregor had funds for a 20mph limit in New Street and this would be implemented in due course.

12.10 Jubilee Celebrations for 2012 – 124 orders for mugs were received. These would be delivered during the Easter holidays. JF & the Clerk would distribute the mugs and CD offered to assist if required.

12.11 Village Fete 2012 – if the fete is held under the auspices of the Parish Council, although organised by the Fete Committee, the PC's insurance would cover the event. Members agreed to underwrite some of the costs and would set aside £1500 to cover band, hog roast, etc.. Proposed PR; seconded CD; majority voted in favour with 1 abstention.

12.12 Future of the Social Club - a letter had been sent to the Sports and Community Club explaining the PC's decision not to make a donation as requested. A further letter was received and two members of the committee were present at this meeting. It was explained that a decision made by the Council could not be rescinded. **See closing public forum.**

12.13 Village Website – Andy Parris was working with Virginia Skoyles towards the changeover of webmaster. He was also the new editor of 5 Alive. A brief presentation would be given at the Annual Parish Meeting.

12.14 The Big Tree Plant - GD explained that Fressingfield did not fulfil the criteria set for this initiative. It was proposed that a working group be established to consider the viability of planting fruit trees in public spaces – a scattered orchard. An audit of existing trees both in gardens and open spaces would need to be undertaken. The Suffolk Traditional Orchard Group may be able to help with the provision of trees. It was suggested this might be a good Jubilee project (National Tree Week was in November). It was reported that there had been some interest shown already. GD & PV to action

12.15 Christmas Tree – RBL had offered to sponsor the tree event for the next three years. The Chairman and Clerk held an initial meeting with Ken Rowbottom who had put the proposal to the RBL branch. It was suggested that Rev Loxton, the Church Wardens and the Sancroft Hall committee should be asked for agreement and this was agreed. The Parish Council would continue to make a contribution towards the cost of providing sweets.

12.16 Eleemosynary Charity – Pastor David Steere’s term of office as a trustee would end 31 Dec 12 and a PC nominee was required. Ian Smith proposed Rev Susan Loxton; this was seconded by Judy Fullam and was agreed unanimously. Clerk to action

12.16 Correspondence

- 12.16.1.i Letter of thanks from Methodist Church for the donation to maintenance costs.
- 12.16.1.ii Email from British Red Cross offering courses or talks to parish councils and voluntary organisations.
- 12.16.1.iii revised bus timetables were available online
- 12.16.1.iv survey of rural transport relating particularly to the mentally ill available online
- 12.16.1.v letter from Card and Party Shop in Harleston advising availability of jubilee party products
- 12.16.1.vi mental health and well-being day arranged for 23 March in Diss; details had been circulated
- 12.16.2 **Tabled Items:** Suffolk View; SALC mailing (courses); SCC Part –night Lighting Project; Clerks & Councils Direct; Norse Landscaping; eco Services;

12.17 To Receive the Clerk’s Report

- 12.17.1 Suffolk ACRE had a bulk oil purchase project underway. This had been advertised on the notice boards. There was an annual registration fee involved both for business and domestic users. Ideally a volunteer coordinator would undertake the local administration. It transpired that in villages where a coordinator was collating orders and administration the numbers joining the scheme were greater. So far, there were no people taking part in Fressingfield.
- 12.17.2 Members were asked to review Standing Orders, Financial Standing Orders and Risk assessment and advise the Clerk of any amendments before the May meeting so these documents could be re-signed then.
- 12.17.3 EBulletin received from SALC on the subject of divesting business rates to town & parish councils. Members felt there was nothing to comment upon as it was unlikely to benefit in any measure from the proposal.
- 12.17.4 Further to the proposed road closure for the St George’s Day Parade; out of the responses received the majority were in favour so this was the view the Clerk put forward to MSDC.
- 12.17.5 The Clerk was contacted by a colleague at Palgrave who was trying to organise councillor training for her members and wondered if other councillors might like to join them to share the cost. There was no support for this.

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

- 12.18.1 Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday 17 April 2012.
- 12.18.2 Annual Meeting of the Parish Council to be held on Tuesday 15 May 2012
- 12.18.3 Comments had been made concerning the development at the Old Builders Yard: it would appear that a kerb had been installed which seemed to narrow the highway somewhat. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries to clarify the matter. Clerk to action
- 12.18.4 An illuminated tree could be seen from Buckingham Hill and was on the boundary of Tithe Farm. It was felt this was not a matter for the PC even if it somewhat polluted the landscape.

- 12.18.4 It had been established that there was no one living in the caravan at Orchard Cottage...this was just a spurious rumour.
- 12.18.5 Councillors and residents were urged to sign, as soon as possible, the online petition for faster broadband in the county.

12.19 There were no Matters for Inclusion for the Agenda for the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – 17 April 2012 – at this time

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.25 hrs

Signed:

Chairman

15 May 2012

Closing Public Forum: Representatives of the Sports and Community Club addressed the Council and spoke of their disappointment at the PC's decision not to make a grant to the Club. The small committee was attempting to build up the facility and it needed help and advice to try to make the Club and the Pavilion viable. It was felt that the whole structure needed to be rebuilt in order that the project might prosper and become a well-used focal point for the village. It was stressed that the Club was not closing. It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged between the Club Committee, representatives of the Parish Council and the Playing Field Management Committee to consider the structure and to try to work out a business plan to move the project forward. The meeting should be completely open to all views and ideas.

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS

From Police Authorities to Police and Crime Commissioners

1. Major constitutional change in police governance will take place on 22 November 2012 when police authorities will be replaced by Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC).
2. A PCC will be elected by the public in each police area to hold the Chief Constable to account. Elections will be held on 15 November 2012.
3. The PCC will be responsible for setting the force's strategic policing priorities (via a Police and Crime Plan), appointing (and if necessary dismissing) the Chief Constable and ensuring that policing in the area is efficient and effective.
4. The PCC will also be responsible for all police funding, including central government funding and the police precept component of the council tax. The PCC will decide the budget, and allocate funding and assets to the Chief Constable.
5. PCCs will have the power to award grants to any organisation that they consider will support the PCC's community safety priorities. From 2013 the community safety fund will transfer to the PCC along with victim support monies for victim support services.
6. Chief Constables will remain accountable to the law for the exercise of police powers but they will be accountable to the PCC for the delivery of efficient and effective policing.
7. The PCC will be supported by a chief executive, a chief finance officer and a team of staff. The Chief Executive of Suffolk Police Authority and his staff will transfer to the Police and Crime Commissioner and so will provide continuity during the governance changeover.

Police and Crime Panel

8. A Police and Crime Panel will be introduced in every area to provide a 'check and balance'. It will scrutinise the PCC's work on behalf of the public on a regular basis. The PCC will discuss their plans with the Panel and take the Panel's views into account. The PCP can veto the PCC's proposals for the Council Tax precept and the appointment of the Chief Constable.
9. In Suffolk the PCP will comprise 12 members, 10 from local authorities (7 district councils plus 3 from Suffolk County Council) plus 2 co-opted members. SCC will be the host authority for the PCP (in practice the administrative support) and for which they will receive Government funding.

Other local arrangements (e.g. community safety partnerships, safer neighbourhood teams)

10. Partners from across the community safety and criminal justice sectors will play a vital part. Local engagement will be a key priority for the PCC.
11. On 22 November Suffolk Police Authority will cease to exist and SPA members will no longer attend SNT meetings and other local meetings. It will be for the PCC to decide how he/she will in future engage with local partners and the community.
12. The PCC will be required to cooperate with local authorities, the fire service, probation and health and will also be able to bring together community safety partnerships to discuss key issues. Community Safety Funds and Victim Support Funds will transfer to the PCC. Further detail will emerge over the coming months.