



**Minutes of the Meeting of Fressingfield Parish Council
held in the Sancroft Hall, Fressingfield
on Tuesday 18 September 2012**

Present: Prue Rush; Garry Deeks; Paul Clark; Peter Davidson; Caroline Day; Philip Eastgate; Warren Last; Malcolm Roberts; Ian Smith; Nick Stolls; Peter Vincent; Keith Wykes

In Attendance: Cllr Guy McGregor; Cllr Marilyn Curran; PC Jacqui Thomas; Carol A Smy (Clerk)
2 Members of the public

Public Forum: Nick Bailey presented plans for a dwelling behind the village shop to replace those previously refused by MSDC.

12.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

12.2 No apologies for absence were received

12.3 Members' Declarations of Interest:

12.3.1 There were no interests declared at this time

12.4 The Minutes of Last Meeting – 17 July 2012 – were unanimously agreed and signed.

Proposed: GD; seconded: KW; agreed unanimously.

12.5 To consider any Planning Matters including:

12.5.1 Application for consideration:

1960/12 erection of two storey dwelling with garage *Providence House, Church Street*

Approval was recommended for the above application by a majority decision (prop: PGD, seconded IS; 12 in favour, 1 against)

12.5.2 Applications considered at previous Planning Meetings:

Approval recommended for:

2341/12 erection of canopy over existing manure pad and erection of barn for storage of straw

Yew Tree Farm, Cratfield Road

12.05.2 Notification of decisions reached by MSDC:

The following applications were granted planning permission:

2035/12 erection of conservatory to rear

14 Post Mill Lane

0005&6/12 change of use and works to convert timber framed barn to a single residential dwelling house using existing vehicular access. Provision of private sewage plant and ancillary works including erection of field gates. Application to replace extant pp1834/09 in order to extend the time limit for implementation. Inc LBC *Woodside Farm, Wood Lane*

12.5.3 Other Planning Matters:

12.5.3.i Following complaints about the construction traffic on Cratfield Road, by the Old School, the Clerk contacted the Planning Enforcement Officer. It transpired that when planning consent was granted by the Planning Inspectorate, on appeal, no conditions were imposed on contractors' vehicles. This then would be a civil matter and was outside the scope of either the Parish Council or Planning Department.

12.5.3.ii MSDC Building Control officer requested suggestions for a road name for the development adjacent to the Old School. Following a brief discussion it was quickly agreed to recommend 'The Low' as this had historic connotations for this part of the village.

Clerk to action

12.6 Matters of Report:

12.6.1 Neighbourhood Plans – the Chairman reported on workshop at MSDC held on 31 July 12 that she and the Clerk had attended. It was concluded that the best course for the PC to take, at this time, was to ensure the Village Plan was relevant and that the planning guidelines, previously introduced, might form a basis for this.

Planning Committee to action

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

12.7.1 Cheques for approval as per information sheet distributed. Approval proposed by PGD; seconded MHR; unanimous

12.7.2 Account balances at 31 August 2012 as follows:

Current Account: £12,095.25

Tracker Account: £19,760.81

There were no unrepresented cheques; balance at 31 August 12 £31,856.06

12.7.3 Audit: note was taken of the amount of reserves held; this was clarified. The Fidelity Guarantee under the Council's insurance was queried vis a vis the amount of precept and funds held. Council had considered increasing the amount at the last renewal but did not. This item would be included in the agenda for the next FGPWP budget setting meeting and would be discussed then. The Council unanimously accepted the Annual Return.

12.7.4 Appointment of External Auditors – BDO LLP has been appointed auditor for the next five years

12.7.5 A date for an internal audit would be confirmed.

12.7.5 Annual insurance premium due 01 October; cheque included in the list for approval and payment; any amendments to the schedule would be dealt with at the budget meeting and, following approval or otherwise of the full Council, any additional premium would be paid on alteration.

12.8 To receive reports from the County & District Councillors and the Community Beat Officer:

12.8.1 County Councillor – Cllr McGregor reported that the SCC element of Council Tax would not increase in the coming financial year. Deliberations were underway on the future of the Fire and Rescue Service and further possible amalgamation with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. He was concerned that saving money might not improve the service, or may even reduce it and issues of top level pay would be a consideration.

12.8.2 District Councillor – Cllr Curran reported that Boltons had ceased to operate the recycling Centre at Brome but this had been taken over by a local family firm and was fully operational. MSDC was awaiting comments and approval from the Highways Department and the various services involved for the project at Sandpath to improve parking. A Community Engagement Event was to be held at Wingfield Barns on 04 October 2012 from 2-5pm or 6-9pm. Everyone was welcome to attend; cost savings and efficiencies would continue to have to be made and this was a way for residents and groups to have their say. Councillors were asked to advise the Clerk of attendance to facilitate the provision of refreshments.

12.8.3 Police – PC Thomas reported there had been five crimes since the July meeting – 2 burglaries where ride-on mowers were stolen and remained untraced; a public order offence which had been dealt with; internet fraud, currently under investigation; an assault which was being dealt with. Crime figures for the year so far showed a small reduction. A prolific burglar who had targeted properties in South Norfolk and North Suffolk had been sentenced to 33 months in prison after stealing £30,000 worth of property. There was currently a telephone scam in operation: businesses in the area were called by an individual purporting to represent the Suffolk Police Federation and asked to donate to a book of remembrance. Once this was declined the caller hung up but it was stressed there is no such book and these calls were not genuine. Eye Police Station was moving from its current premises on Victoria Road to The Lodge on Castleton Way (at the Hartismere Hospital site).

12.9 Traffic calming

12.9.1 proposal from Highways Department concerning Harleston Hill: gates had been received by SCC's contractor and when associated signs were received the project should be completed quickly. Digging up the road to change the camber would seem to have been discounted.

12.9.2 proposal for 20mph in New Street: this seemed to have been given a low priority as it had to go before the police, yet again. Next March looked to be the earliest point at which completion could be expected. This type of speed reduction initiative was proving popular with central government but so so with the Police.

12.10 Use of remaining Village of the Year funds – it was unanimously agreed that a commemorative bench be purchased. It would cost £295 plus lettering (example: Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee 1952 – 2012 - £78), all prices plus VAT. PGD kindly agreed to undertake the base work for the siting of the bench. The owner of the piece of land at the corner of Laxfield Road and the Playing Field lane had been approached to see if he would consent to the bench being sited there. A decision was awaited.

Clerk to action

12.11 Social Club

12.11.1 Shaun Swan had undertaken to cut the grass at the Playing Field for the rest of this financial year. Adoption of responsibility for the grass cutting would be discussed at the next meeting.

12.11.2 There was some disagreement between members involved with the Social Club about the cooperation with Adnams for support and possible modest sponsorship. There had been something of a hiatus over the summer period and it was hoped that things would begin to move forward again following the AGM. This was to be held on 25 September and all were invited to attend.

KW no longer wished to be the PC representative on to the SSC. He agreed to remain until after the AGM.

12.11.3 It was hoped the Social Club sign could be refurbished or removed, the directional post and sign refurbished or replaced by SCC Highways and the waste bin moved to a convenient position.

12.12 The Big Tree Plant - nothing to report

12.13 Sancroft Hall Car Park – the work had been completed and it was clarified that the previous request for consideration of a PC donation had concerned the area around the telephone kiosk. Since the last meeting the Chairman had received a letter (circulated) concerning the propriety of the PC contributing to work undertaken by the Parish Church and whether or not this could be construed as bias. PE agreed to provide quotations of the work involved to spruce up the kiosk area at the next meeting, when a decision could be made. **NOTE:** Fressingfield PC had always been very ecumenical in its support, providing financial assistance when required, subject to a satisfactory case being made, regardless of denomination of the source of the request or the beliefs of the councillors making the decision. **PE to action**

12.14 Telephone kiosk – an email had been received expressing concern that the kiosk was not presenting Fressingfield in the best light, referring to the one at Mellis which had been transformed by the installation of stained glass panels. He suggested something similar for the village. The Chairman and Clerk visited Mellis and the kiosk looked very smart. Research showed that a local class would cost £120 for five evenings. If several people were interested a discount could be negotiated. Alternatively, there was an evening class at Stradbroke for 10 weeks. Someone could be commissioned to do the work. Sally at Phoenix Glass would be prepared to teach volunteers to do the work (approx £120 per course as above) or would do a pane for between £60 and £100 depending on design. She would be happy to do some work with children so they could produce panes and would be keen to assist with a community project. Village organisations could design a pane. This was not universally well received as it was thought damage could easily occur. A previous suggestion for use as a display area for children's artwork (from the Primary School) had not been supported by the school. A suggestion for use had been received from FLHAG whereby the kiosk could be used as a local history resource. This would be discussed at the next meeting.

12.15 Village Caretaker – Bob Stanley resigned his post wef 23 September 2012. An advertisement had been posted on the website, would be placed on the boards and would feature in the next edition of 5 Alive.

12.16 Correspondence

12.16.1 MSDC – consultation on proposed main modifications to the Mid Suffolk core Strategy Focused Review

12.16.2 Temporary prohibition of traffic granted for the wreath laying ceremony on 11 November 2012

12.16.3 MSDC – Gambling Act 2005: statement of principles (review) consultation closes 26 Oct 12

12.16.4 email received from a resident concerning street lighting

12.16.5 SPS annual conference in November – Localism, Neighbourhood Planning & Self-Build

12.16.6 A community support and funding road show to take place at Bildeston on 24 October

12.16.7 SALC AGM at Haughley Barns on 12 November 2012 from 4pm

Tabled Items: Suffolk View; Clerks & Councils Direct; AgeUK volunteering information; TLC; services offered by Urban Forestry;

12.17 To Receive the Clerk's Report

12.17.1 A notice was placed on the bus stop bin stating it was not for dog waste. This had been removed.

12.17.2 The Clerk would be away from 10/14 October for the SLCC annual conference and quarterly NEC meeting; she would also be unavailable for the whole of November wef 30 Oct. It was agreed to change the date of the next meeting to 04 December (designated planning meeting). The meeting of the FGPWP (budget/precept setting) would need to take place in late October so a budget could be finalised at the next meeting. It was agreed this should take place on 03 October at Manor Farm House at 7.30pm.

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

12.18.1 Some members of the Scouts, working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award, had cleared footpaths and painted the storage container at the Playing Field. They were warmly thanked and congratulated for their hard work and enthusiasm.

12.18.2 The impending retirement of Dr Greg Read was noted and there was a brief discussion about how to mark this occasion. It was noted that a collection was taking place at the surgery and anyone who wished could contribute. This was to be publicised in the magazine flyer. The Chairman would make enquiries about the suitability, or appropriateness, of any other event.

12.18.3 Mention was made of a caravan sited in a field at the top of Harleston Hill and the possible extension of a garden into agricultural land. No action was to be taken at this time but the situation would be monitored.

12.18.4 The leylandii on Victoria Terrace had been cut back but it seemed that residents had expected a more radical response. PGD had spoken with George Brown following the last meeting and the work had been undertaken immediately. The Council had done all it was required to do in ensuring the road was unimpeded but PGD kindly agreed to speak again with Mr Brown to see what else could be done.

12.18.5 It had been mentioned earlier in proceedings that perhaps external reports could be kept to items pertinent to Fressingfield rather than much extraneous detail relevant to the wider county. This was not a universally held view as some members appreciated information on such topics as education, health and highways that affected the whole county.

12.19 To receive Notice of Matters for Inclusion in the Agenda for the next Meeting of the Parish Council – 04 December 2012

12.19.1 Consideration of financial contribution to work to improve the ground around the telephone kiosk

12.19.2 FLHAG's suggestion for the use of the telephone kiosk as a local history resource

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.17hrs

Signed:

Chairman

04 December 2012

No items were brought to the Council's attention at the Closing Public Forum.