



**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Fressingfield Parish Council
held in the Sancroft Hall, Fressingfield
on Tuesday 21 May 2013**

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

In Attendance: Cllr Guy McGregor; Cllr Marilyn Curran; PCSO Ben Oswick; Carol A Smy (Clerk)
2 Members of the public

Public Forum: *nothing was brought to the Council's attention at this time*

13.1 Election of Chairman: Peter Davidson proposed that Prue Rush be re-elected Chairman for the coming year; this was seconded by Garry Deeks and with no further nominations was agreed unanimously.

13.2 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended the Council's condolences to Warren Last on the recent sudden death of his mother. The Council's thoughts, during the moments silence at the opening of the meeting were with the motorcyclist killed on Buckingham Hill and also with the driver involved in that accident.

13.3 Apologies for absence were received from: Philip Eastgate; Warren Last;

13.4 Members' Declarations of Interest: Prue Rush, Paul Clark and Peter Vincent declared an interest in item 13.11.3

13.5 Dispensations – no requests were received

13.6 The Minutes of Last Meeting – 19 March 2013- were agreed and signed; prop PC, seconded GD, agreed by a majority (1 abst. JF not present at March meeting)

13.7 Election of Vice Chairman: the Chairman proposed that Garry Deeks be elected Vice chairman for the coming year; this was seconded by Peter Davidson and agreed unanimously

13.8 Election to committees and working parties: see appended lists. All posts filled by unanimous agreement

13.9 To consider any Planning Matters including

13.9.1 There were two applications for consideration that, unfortunately, went into the Clerk's junk mail. These applications were held over to an extra planning meeting to be held on Tuesday 28 May 2013 at the Baptist Chapel.

0950/13 erection of a single storey rear extension

8 Laxfield Road

3171/12 erection of detached single storey dwelling and alterations to existing garage including partial demolition; provision of parking spaces to serve The Stores

The Stores, New Street

13.9.2 Applications considered at previous Planning Meetings:

0940/13 Installation of 2 No micro scale wind turbines (14.97m to hub, 5.6m diameter blades) to provide renewable energy for use at

White House Farm, New Street

0945/13 Erection of single-storey dwelling (following demolition of existing garage and store)

Land to the rear of The Old Post Office, Church Street

0946/13 Demolition of existing store and garage and erection of single storey dwelling

Land to the rear of The Old Post Office, Church Street

Refusal was recommended for all the above applications

13.9.3 Notification of decisions reached by MSDC:

Approval was granted for:

3715/12 provision of car parking spaces

Land at Sandpath

0040&1/13 infilling of garage doors on south elevation, insertion of 3 no. windows on west elevation and formation of internal doorway

Street Farm Barn, Cratfield Road

13.9.4 There were no other Planning Matters for discussion

13.10 Matters of Report:

13.10.1 Updated Village Plan - ongoing

13.10.2 Jubilee Triangle - the undulating condition of the surface had been reported to SCC and the area had been inspected; it was deemed to be in a satisfactory state so no re-surfacing would be undertaken at the moment. It was suggested that quotations be sought from outside companies and the Council could consider these.

13.10.3 The Big Tree Plant – GD reported that the application for funding of £4000 for this project had been granted and the tree plant would proceed. A stipulation had been that the trees should be planted in front gardens, to improve the visual aspect of the area, but this would not be practical and a modicum of

flexibility would be required. 300 fruit trees and 700 natural species trees would be planted. The school was keen to be involved. Match funding would be needed and this would be considered by the PC at the next meeting. The group would have a stall at the Fete. Fressingfield was very lucky to have succeeded in this application as the original project was for urban areas.

13.10.4 **Telephone Kiosk** – the exterior re-painting had been completed and the Chairman thanked PGD for arranging this.

13.10.5 **Overflow of water at the entrance of School Lane** – the Clerk had contacted the Highways Department and had been told action had been taken. This would be monitored.

13.10.6 **Sandbags** – PV had ascertained the whereabouts of the sandbags; they were stored in garage at 10 Chapel Close. Bill Vincent held the key and there was back-up for his absence.

13.10.7 **Play Area** – the Clerk and PV had a meeting with a representative of Sovereign Play. The Springer was definitely creaky, very aged and could probably do with changing but the advice was to wait for the results of the RoSPA inspection. He felt that all other equipment was serviceable. The see-saw could probably do with a lick of paint and this would be undertaken.

13.10.8 **Flood Risk Management** - mail out received from SCC concerning flood management.

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

13.11.1 Cheques for payment, as per appended sheet, were approved unanimously as per appended sheet. Prop MR, seconded GD, agreed unanimously

13.11.2 Account balances at 30 April 2013:

Current account: £19,987.65

Tracker account: £19,768.14

There was one unrepresented cheque: £112

Balance at 30 April 2013: £39,643.79

13.11.3 The Council agreed to the payment of a loan to the Fete Committee of £500, as previously discussed

13.11.4 The Annual Audit Report and governance statement were discussed, agreed unanimously and signed

13.11.5 Financial Standing Orders and Risk Assessment were agreed unanimously and signed

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

13.12.1 County Councillor – Cllr McGregor was welcomed back following the recent County Council elections. He reported he was to be installed as Chairman of the Council and Graham Newman would have responsibility for Highways. Jane Birch is the officer responsible for flooding.

13.12.2 District Councillor - Cllr Curran noted,, briefly, the main points in her report made to the Annual Parish Meeting

13.12.3 Police – PCSO Ben Oswick reported that briefly on the accident on Buckingham Hill. He mentioned the continued need for vigilance in ensuring sheds, garages and outbuildings were secure to deter theft

13.13 Social Club

13.13.1 Minutes of the last meetings noted

13.13.2 A small profit had been made in the last financial year. Working together had led to progress being made and events were being supported.

13.14 Playing Field Management Committee – nothing to report

13.15 Correspondence

13.15.1 Mid Suffolk has equipment available for sport coaching in the summer holidays

13.15.2 Information on Community Action Suffolk (formerly Suffolk ACRE)

13.15.3 SALC – forthcoming courses

13.15.4 Information sheet on Community Games

13.15.5 email ref ducklings

Tabled items: Information from Barcham Trees; Clerks & Councils Direct; TLC

13.16 To Receive the Clerk's Report

13.16.1 A Bill was put forward in the House of Commons concerning referendums on precepts – this included T&PCs and would have meant that a rise in precept of more than 2% would trigger a referendum. Dan Poulter advised the Clerk that the Bill had fallen through lack of time and so would not receive a second reading but it was likely to be resurrected in the new Parliamentary session. Dan Poulter shared the concerns the Clerk and others had raised and had written to the Secretary of State to emphasise the strength of feeling.

13.16.2 SALC has courses coming up: Allotment Workshop 03 July; Councillor Refresher Briefing 12 June; Village Hall Briefing 04 June; Saving Money Briefing 01 July.

13.16.3 It had transpired that a resident had contacted the Diss Express with a complaint about the Parish Council rather than using the Public Forum for this purpose. The complaint was that the PC did not take seriously enough the plight of ducklings in the village and that nothing had been done to prevent said ducklings falling down gratings and drowning (ref: 13.15.5). The Clerk had consulted the Highways Department and ascertained the gauge on all gully gratings was the same so there would be no point in the Council submitting a request for all gratings (at a cost of circa £200 each) to be changed to those with a narrower gauge as these did not exist. It was pointed out that the gauge of gratings was set thus for a reason – to prevent blocking and subsequent flooding.

13.16.4 The Clerk had reported the damaged fence at Sandpath but this needed to be pursued. Clerk to action

13.17 Matters of Information brought by the Chairman or Members:

13.17.1 It was mentioned that some planting had been undertaken on the road side of a fence at Rose Cottage.

13.17.2 It was reported that trees had been cut within the conservation area without the approval of the Tree Warden at MSDC. It was suggested that information relating to trees and the conservation area be placed in the magazine. Clerk to action

13.17.3 Ownership/responsibility for the hedges along Buckingham's Hill and near the Old School/the Low needs to be ascertained and arrangements made for cutting back to improve visibility. The ditch had been filled in or allowed to erode causing Buckingham Hill to ice over in bad weather and potholes were exacerbating the problem. Clerk to action

13.18 To receive Notice of Matters for Inclusion in the Agenda for the next Meeting of the Parish Council – 16 July 2013:

13.18.1 Consideration of contribution to the Great Tree Plant project for the village

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 20.55hrs. There was no further Public Forum.

**Signed:
Chairman**

16 July 2013