

Fressingfield Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 17th June 2025 beginning at 7pm Sancroft Hall
Minutes

Present: Parish councillors Hilary Day (HD), Rachael Troughton (RT), Nick Stolls (NS), Di Warne (DW), Stuart Balmer (SB), Cindy Engel (CE), Tom Lindsay (TL), Elizabeth Manero (EM)
Also, in attendance County Councillor Henry Lloyd (HL) and District Councillor Lavinia Hadingham (LH), Clerk - Calvin Edwards (CED) & 2 residents of the Parish

Apologies from Sharon Wilson (SW)

1	Welcome from the Chair and introductions Agreement on management of this meeting (2m)	DW welcomed councillors, County Councillor and District Councillor and members of the public
2	New Councillor, Elizabeth Manero signs Declaration of Office (2m)	EM signed the declaration of office. She had submitted register of interests to MSDC elections department.
3	To receive reasons for absence and give approval for absences	SW had offered his apologies – this was accepted by the PC
4	To receive members' declarations of interest and requests for dispensation (2m)	SB declared an interest in item 12(b)
5	To record details of any lobbying relating to agenda items (2m)	All councillors had been lobbied on Trees for item 12(b) There was a discussion on what actually constituted lobbying. Also a reminder given that official feedback from the council on lobbying issues was handled by the clerk. A thank you had been received for the VE80 event – that it perfectly captured the mood of the occasion
6	To resolve the minutes of previous meetings are correct Full council minutes 6th May 2025 (2m)	It was resolved that the minutes of the full council meeting on the 6th May 2025 are correct.
7	Public forum – councillors will hear questions or comments from the public on agenda items (15m)	Andrew Vessey, the Village Recorder spoke about his serious desire to retire from this position in the summer as he reaches the age of 80. He asked if the Parish Council would look into finding someone who could take on the role. Andrew Vessey & Michael Pickstock had also come to hear progress on the emergency plan as they had been previously involved in this project with Garry Deeks. DW suggested that item 15 would be brought forward on the agenda to after item 11.
8	Donation of a bench for the village cemetery – A Resident (5m)	A resident had asked if he could donate a wooden bench for the cemetery in Stradbroke Road in memory of his wife. RFO Andy Parris had been speaking with him about obtaining a recycled material bench instead. As neither were present this will be taken forward outside of the meeting.

9	District Councillor report (5m)	There was a discussion on various elements of the report – Free Trees scheme, Grant for Pride in Your Place now open. Funding for Sports Club buildings. Also the MSDC survey. All these initiatives are things that we can help to publicise within the parish DW discussed the letter of complaint taken up by LH in reference to polling cards for the uncontested election. It was agreed to make a further complaint about explanations from MSDC which were clearly incorrect. To ask that some of the cost that was levied to the Parish should be refunded due to the incompetence and errors made by MSDC in the election process, which it is wholly their responsibility to manage.
10	County Councillor report (5m)	There was a discussion about the 12 metre poles that Connexion were aiming to have installed in the surrounding villages. They had not made the request for permits correctly with correct paperwork, and therefore SCC revoked all the permits. It is likely that permission will be granted as they have the legal right through legislation but only when the paperwork has been correctly completed.
11	Feedback from SCC Devolution Meeting (DW/HD) (5m)	HD outlined the recent meeting at Eye suggesting it was a sales pitch for the reorganisation. 1 Council to replace SCC and the district councils. Probably based in Ipswich maybe with satellite offices. There was generally a lack of information on things such as CIL money, Local plans and how planning would work. There were a lot of questions mainly around the loss of locality – decisions being made further away from our parishes. Costings were taken from other areas and therefore could be wildly inaccurate. This will not be decided locally but in central government by a handful of people (Deputy PM, their assistant and the Chancellor) DW mentioned that because MSDC had not been invited to the meeting she had written to MSDC to ask for their perspective on this process, suggesting that currently we are only hearing one side of the argument. A meeting has now been setup by MSDC with Arthur Charvonia & Andy Mellen attending from MSDC, at Stradbroke on July 4 th to present the District Council's thinking. We will display the link to the MSDC online survey on our website and paper copies can be printed for those who don't use online systems.
12	a) DC/25/02512_Householder Application - Erection of a single storey extension and new porch, Hillside Church Street Fressingfield Eye Suffolk IP21 5QB	The Parish Council recommended approval

	b)DC/25/02340_Notification of works to trees in a Conservation Area - Silver Birch Tree, Full removal - and replanting of a new tree (Sapling from the original tree) a safe distance from the existing wall---Chapel Close Cratfield Road Fressingfield Eye Suffolk IP21 5QD	There was a discussion which led to the decision that this application should be objected to by the parish council. CE would provide some wording which would be posted as the parish council consultee comments. It was felt that there were other solutions that should be explored before this tree should be considered for removal.
13	Policy Updates – Adopt the recently updated GDPR Documents also the Recruitment Policy & the Councillors Leaving Policy (CED)	This item was not discussed as more work is required by CED and therefore this would be brought back to the July meeting for discussion and adoption of the revised and new documents.
14	<p>Issues updated, not covered elsewhere in agenda:</p> <p>a)Update on Community land trust invitation from Stradbroke (DW)</p> <p>b)Meeting with resident concerning highways work (DW)</p> <p>c)CPR Course costs (NS)</p> <p>d)Email from Shopkeeper (Dog Poo & Bins) (All)</p> <p>e)Meeting Venue Update (CED)</p> <p>(15m)</p>	<p>DW had been contacted about joining to discuss with Stradbroke about Community Land Trusts. RT/HD and CE expressed an interest if another meeting is organised. Currently there is no such trust in Fressingfield.</p> <p>DW and CED met with a resident who has experience with various Highways Departments – they were offering to help if there was anything suitable. This has been noted should something specific arise. CED will organise a meeting with TL to discuss whether help with SID Data Analysis would be a suitable option</p> <p>NS stated the costs of a ½ day CPR course are £375 + VAT for 15 people to attend. NS & EM will look into when to hold this and how to advertise. There was support from the Parish Council to go ahead and plan an event.</p> <p>Roger has now put up new signs – hopefully that will help the situation and dog owners will be more considerate. There is not really much more that can be suggested at this stage.</p> <p>CED updated the council that September/October and November full council meetings will be held at the Baptist Church as a trial as agreed in the May full council meeting. During this 3-month period there would also be 1 finance committee meeting held at the Baptist Church. After these have been held a decision would be made about the long-term venue choice for council meetings.</p>
15	Emergency Plan (CE) This was brought forward to after item 11 – just before planning.	CE described how after attending the councillor induction course she became aware that there was a need to develop an emergency plan – it is required in a specific format and there was a template to follow. On July 1 st CE will meet with Dawn Wnukoski (MSDC

		Emergency Planning Support Officer) to review the template. After that a meeting would be organised with a group of volunteers, to start planning what needs to be done.
16	NDP Review meeting feedback (DW) (10m)	<p>The last meeting began to look at policy and drafting. This will be brought back to the next meeting. DW wrote to Robert Hobbs (Head of Planning) to challenge the figures for housing in the village. His reply asked for evidenced planning constraints that would make these figures unachievable and then he would be willing to discuss.</p> <p>The Parish Council discussed issues including lack of public transport, water supply, lost businesses, sewage issues, can't sell existing housing. No electric charging points.</p> <p>Anecdotal evidence that younger people prefer other local villages to Fressingfield.</p> <p>It was decided to contact Robert Hobbs to ask for a meeting date after the next full council meeting which is on July 22nd. At the next full council meeting the council will decide on an organised response with the evidence required to object and ask for a reduction in the numbers that have been allocated.</p> <p>It was noted that the parish council need to give serious consideration to the younger demographic who do want to live in the parish – and also consider some of the issues on why others do not want to come to Fressingfield.</p>
17	Chair's Report (DW) (3m)	The report had been circulated before the meeting there were no specific questions. Report in future to be sent to both district and county councillors along with the agenda.
18	Clerk's Report (CEd) (3m)	The report was circulated before the meeting there were no specific questions. CED highlighted that the parish council must own the email addresses that it uses. We have .gov.uk email addresses purchased but these need to be setup as a priority.
19	Finance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 2 Cllrs to confirm that balances on the bank statements match those on the reconciliation statement for May 2025 b. to accept the bank reconciliation statement for May 2025 c. 2 Cllrs to confirm that the payment and receipt 	<p>SB & HD had reviewed the bank statements</p> <p>RT proposed, NS seconded, and the parish council accepted the bank statement reconciliation for May 2025</p> <p>CE & DW reviewed the payments and receipts vouchers.</p>

	<p>vouchers have been scrutinised</p> <p>d. to approve payments and acknowledge the receipts listed on the payment and receipt statement</p> <p>e. to decide to order new bench in memoriam to Cllr Garry Deeks</p> <p>f. CIL Report submitted to MSDC in April 2025</p> <p>g. Letter from Citizen's Advice (CEd)</p>	<p>TL proposed, RT seconded, and the parish council approved the payments and receipts for May 2025.</p> <p>The parish council formally decided to order the bench and it was decided that Andy Parris (RFO) would go ahead and arrange for it to be installed on the playing field in a suitable position.</p> <p>The CIL report was shown as reported to MSDC. A decision needs to be made as to how these monies are to be used. HD suggested that this is an agenda item on the next full council meeting on July 22nd 2025. There was a discussion concerning the Playing Field Management Committee (PFMC) obtaining a definitive quote for work on the roadway to the recreation ground if work is needed at all. SB will ask for confirmation about when this will be done.</p> <p>A letter has been received from the local Citizen's Advice service asking for a donation this will be taken to the next finance committee meeting for review.</p>
20	Urgent items to be brought to this meeting:	<p>DW raised that work is still required on the water pump. Thanks to Peter Davison for arranging for the pump area to be cleaned. It looks much better but it does still need repair and painting. CED to approach Peter Davison to see if we can get a quote for this to be done.</p> <p>DW raised that All Saints Schools Trust have written to MSDC with interesting information on housing figures and school numbers and have asked for a meeting with MSDC to discuss. They have invited us to be part of that so when the meeting is announced details will be circulated as it will be interesting to hear what is said in relation to development in the local area.</p>
21	Future items : (5m)	<p>CIL money decisions</p> <p>document housing arguments before meeting with Robert Hobbs</p> <p>Emergency plan progress report</p> <p>Consider issue of the younger demographic within the parish</p>
22	To confirm the dates of next meetings :	The next full council meeting will be Tuesday July 22 nd 2025 at 7pm in the Sancroft Hall
23	The council proposes, pursuant to	

	<p>Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the confidential business specified below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Staff remuneration b. Grant Application (Fressingfield Shed) c. Grant Application (Chapel Hall Arts) 	<p>These items are minuted in the separate confidential minutes document.</p>
The meeting closed at 9:37pm		

Chair _____

Date: _____

DRAFT