

Minutes of the planning committee meeting held on Tuesday 6th February 2024 at 7pm at Sancroft Hall

Present: Councillors Stuart Balmer, Garry Deeks, Tom Lindsay, Nick Stolls, Rachael Troughton and Di Warne.

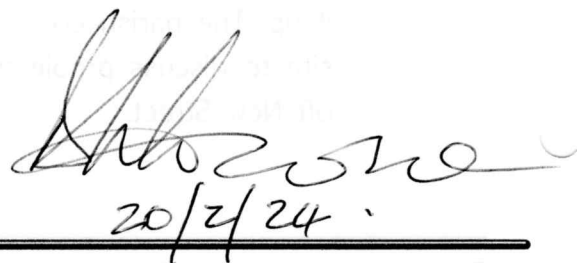
Also in Attendance: Five members of the public, Andy Parris, clerk to the council.

- 1 Cllr DW chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone. She briefly explained how members of the public could contribute to the meeting via the public forum at item 5 on the agenda.
- 2 The council received an explanation for the absence of Cllr Day. This was accepted.
- 3 Cllr NS declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6.1.
- 4 To record details of any lobbying relating to agenda items – there had been none.
- 5 The public forum. Three residents raised concerns about the planning application to reduce the height of trees on the perimeter of the church yard (See 06.1 below). Their information and comments were extremely helpful when the council discussed the matter. Another resident asked about whether the parish council or the county council would provide a grit bin and keep it filled on Church Street. This would lessen the risk of accidents in icy weather.
- 6 Planning matters
 - 1 To respond to planning application Babergh Mid Suffolk District Council planning reference DC/24/00143. Tree removal and reduction at St Peter and St Paul Church, Church Street, Fressingfield, IP21 5PE
After considering the views of residents the council decided to recommend that the work is approved and is carried out as per the application. This would mean that the crown of tree no. 4 should be reduced by 50%. The council also recorded its concern that a) the summary information on the original letter inviting the council to comment had been changed and b) comments from a resident about this application have been logged as objections when they are supportive of the plan. In their discussions, councillors were sympathetic to the opinions of residents that the tree could pose a threat to life and substantial damage to their properties. Cllr NS did not vote on this matter
 - 2 The council was informed of the difficulties the district and county councils have in getting repairs done to the verge and roads around building sites. Unless the damage is seen to be happening at the time and reported, the district councils and highway authorities cannot follow it up. The parish council decided that a small delegation would visit the site to discuss problems with the site manager of the new development off New Street.

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- 3 The council discussed recent developments on land on Laxfield Road which was refused planning permission in May 2023.
- 7 Councillors decided to interview candidates for the posts of clerk and responsible financial officer on Wednesday 28th February.
- 8 Councillors confirmed that the annual parish meeting (APM) will be on Tuesday 16th April beginning at 7pm. Like last year, it will be held at the Baptist Church, School Lane. It will be organised like a community market, not selling produce but informing fellow residents about what groups there are in Fressingfield, what they do, and perhaps encouraging people to join a new club. Any club in the parish will be able to host 'a stall' at this meeting. Another part of the APM is the report from each club about its years activities. These reports will be collected together and placed on the parish website. There will be refreshments, organised by the church. Clerk to send out invitations to all groups linked to the parish.
- 9 Cllr GD gave details of 'Sustainable Saturday' which he has organised for Saturday 17th February.
- 10 Cllr DW confirmed that Andrea Long will attend the council's meeting on Tuesday 5th March. AL is the independent planner who guided a Fressingfield group that wrote the Fressingfield Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). She will talk to the council about how to approach the revision of the NDP. It is recommended that an NDP is reviewed every five years.

There being no further formal business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm



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