



Fressingfield Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October beginning at 7pm Sancroft Hall

Minutes

Present: Parish councillors Stuart Balmer, (SB) Hilary Day, (HD) Garry Deeks, (GD) Cindy Engel, (CE) Tom Lindsay, (TL) Nick Stolls, (NS) Rachael Troughton (RT) Di Warne (DW) and Sharon Wilson (SW)

Also in attendance two members of the public. Lavinia Hadingham MSDC, (LH) Councillor Henry Lloyd SCC (HL)

1	Welcome from the Chair and introductions Agreement on management of this meeting	Cllr Di Warne welcomed everyone. The council welcomed the new county councillor Henry Lloyd.  It was agreed that DW would take minutes and RT would chair the meeting
2	To receive reasons for absence and give approval for absences	There were none
3	To receive members' declarations of interest and requests for dispensation 2m	There were none.
4	To record details of any lobbying relating to agenda items	Individual councillors had been lobbied by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Safe regarding information from SAFE for the NDP Review working group.</li><li>• from a resident in Stradbroke about the proposed wind turbine.</li><li>• from Fressingfield resident about tree reduction/felling.</li></ul>
5.	Appointment of Co-opted councillor Sharon Wilson	Sharon Wilson introduced herself. It was agreed unanimously to co-opt her to the parish council.
6	To resolve the minutes of previous meetings are correct: Full Council Minutes 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024 Finance Committee 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2024	It was resolved that the minutes of the full council meeting on 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024 are correct.  Members of the Finance Committee resolved that the minutes of the Finance committee on 1 <sup>st</sup> October are correct.
7.	Public Forum	The attending members of the public were interested in hearing what the council is doing and how it operates.
8	Reports from District and County Councillors	HL had prepared a tailored report for Fressingfield addressing the specific issues raised by councillors from residents, as well

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		<p>as providing a county report. The council welcomed this approach.</p> <p>LH provided a report from MSDC. There were no questions.</p> <p>She reported that discussions are underway between the Weybread parish council and Cranswick regarding the former chicken processing site. There are no details available.</p>
7	<p>Issues updated, not covered elsewhere in agenda: broadband poles, verges on New Street, drainage on Church Street, County Councillor election.</p>	<p>The broadband pole in the conservation area has been logged as a breach of planning and is being investigated by MSDC enforcement. EN/24/00540</p> <p>Although part of the verges have been repaired on New Street there are substantial areas of the road which remain damaged. Highways have said this does not meet their criteria for repair. <b>HL will question this with Highways and attempt to find a solution.</b></p> <p>Drainage on Church Street remains a concern. Although grit is available at the bottom of the hill it will be up to resident volunteers to spread this. Highways have said this is not a priority for them. The council agrees strongly that this is an accident waiting to happen when there is winter ice. <b>HL will speak with Highways to try and persuade them to re-prioritise the clearing of the two drains which are causing the outflow.</b></p> <p>The new county councillor will hold office until May 2025 when there will be statutory elections.</p> <p>Cllr NS explained that the trees on Church Street, on church land, will be felled where they have disease and will be reduced where identified. This will happen 30<sup>th</sup> October and take 3 days. This has been agreed by tree officers from the Diocese and MSDC.</p>
9	<p>Finance:</p> <p>2 Cllrs confirm payment and income vouchers scrutinised.</p> <p>Recommendation the council approves payments and acknowledges the receipts listed on the payment and receipt statement.</p>	<p>Cllrs RT and DW confirmed that payment and income vouchers have been scrutinised and recommended council approved payments and acknowledged the receipts listed on the payment and receipt statement. Agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Cllrs SB and GD confirmed that balances on the bank statements match those on the reconciliation statement.</p> <p>and recommended council accepted the bank reconciliation statement for September. Agreed unanimously.</p> <p>The RFO explained that the second instalment of CIL is coming in as an overdue payment from the developers.</p>

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	<p>2 other Cllrs to confirm that balances on the bank statements match those on the reconciliation statement.</p> <p>To accept the bank reconciliation statement for September</p> <p>Report from the chair of finance</p>	<p>Councillors agreed unanimously to transfer £30K to the Instant Access Account. The RFO confirmed that all funds are there to support the council's infrastructure plan.</p> <p>There are long standing funds, such as Neighbourhood watch and the Neighbourhood Scheme which will need consideration for future use.</p> <p>The RFO explained why there was £100 fine from HMRC for non-compliance in regard to reporting staff salaries. This is now resolved because Suffolk Association of Local Clerks are responsible for salary payments.</p> <p>The council received the report from the Chair of Finance.</p> <p>The council approved the New Financial Regulations unanimously.</p> <p>The council approved the changes made to the Risk Assessments of the council unanimously.</p> <p>The council approved the arrangements for staff performance review unanimously.</p> <p>The council was delighted to note that the External Audit report for 2023-24 has no additional matters requiring attention. This is testament to the excellent work from the now RFO (previously Clerk/RFO). The council accepted the report unanimously.</p> <p>The council welcomed the decision by the finance committee to engage in a project with the Bowls Club to improve the green and donate funding to pay for topsoil.</p>
10	<p>Planning applications:</p> <p>DC/24/04256 trim and reshape trees in conservation area Orchard Cottage Laxfield Road</p> <p>DC/24/04343 Storage of hazardous substances Fennings Farm Pixey Green</p>	<p>The council agreed this was a sensible course of action.</p> <p>The council was pleased to be informed about this application.</p>
11	<p>Wind Turbine Stradbroke</p>	<p>A resident in Stradbroke had contacted a councillor about a proposed wind turbine to be sited in Stradbroke. There are a range of views about the costs and benefits of this proposal. There is a meeting in Stradbroke community centre on 16<sup>th</sup></p>

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RT



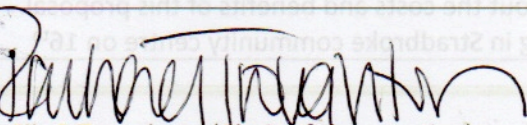


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		October from Octopus Energy explaining the proposal. DW and RT will attend, other councillors encouraged to attend.
12	Recruitment of Clerk	DW raised the need to recruit a clerk. Further adverts are to be placed in the community and councillors are encouraged to promote the need. The council is prepared to tailor the post for the right candidate.
13	Wood Lane Verges	NS Re-iterated his and residents' concerns about the destruction of verges on Wood Lane. It is assumed this is because of wide farm vehicles. Councillors discussed workable solutions but agreed that it was important to speak to the landowners needing to access the fields. The council will come back to this.
14	Post to Scout Hut	It was agreed to acknowledge the Scouts' request. This will not be resolved until Red House Building Site is completed. <b>Chair to contact Scouts.</b>
16	Feedback from NDP review group	It was agreed that councillors would email CE with examples of positive outcomes as a result of the current NDP.  DW outlined the lobbying she had received from SAFE.
	To receive report from chair	Councillors discussed the report. It was agreed to identify data on the need for a bus service in the parish.
	Urgent items to be brought to this meeting:  Full Council meeting 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan, Finance meeting in Feb	The council meeting 14 <sup>th</sup> January has been wrongly scheduled. The meeting will be 21 <sup>st</sup> January 7pm Sancroft Hall  The finance meeting in February is 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2025  Safety at the Redhouse Farm Site is a concern. HD to Log concerns with Enforcement
	Future items (tabled)	SIDs data  Emergency Plan update  Little Pump New Street
18	To confirm dates of next meetings. (2m)	Confirmed dates of next meeting: Tuesday Nov 5 <sup>th</sup> Full council 7pm Sancroft Hall (2m)
The meeting closed at 8.50pm		

Signed

  
Cllr R Troughton (Chair of the meeting)

Date: 05/11/2024

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