

Fressingfield Parish Council Meeting
 Tuesday 17th Dec beginning at 7:30pm Sancroft Hall
 Minutes

Present: Parish councillors Hilary Day, (HD) Tom Lindsay, (TL) Rachael Troughton, (RT) Nick Stolls, (NS) Di Warne, (DW) Sharon Wilson, (SW)

Also, in attendance 2 members of the public. County Councillor Henry Lloyd (HL) and District Councillor Lavinia Hadingham (LH) for part of the meeting. Calvin Edwards, clerk; and Andy Parris, responsible financial officer (RFO).

Apologies from Garry Deeks (GD), Cindy Engel (CE)

1	Welcome from the Chair and introductions Agreement on management of this meeting 2m	DW welcomed councillors and members of the public, and the new Clerk to the Parish Council Calvin Edwards
2	To receive reasons for absence and give approval for absences 3m	Reasons for absence were accepted from GD and CE
3	To receive members' declarations of interest and requests for dispensation 2m	NS declared his interest as a member of the St Peter & Paul PCC in the grant application in item 11. He took no part in the decision making
4	To record details of any lobbying relating to agenda items 2m	A resident had lobbied the Council as to whether it was necessary to review the NDP. Another resident had lobbied in relation to the Precept proposals.
5	To resolve the minutes of previous meetings are correct full council minutes 5th November 2024 are correct	It was resolved that the minutes of the full council meeting on 5 th November 2024 and the Finance Committee meeting on 3 rd December 2024 are correct.
6	Public forum – councillors will hear questions or comments from the public on agenda items 15m	The Chairman of Fressingfield Playing Field Management Committee (FPMC) addressed the meeting. He reported that both the Playing Field Management Committee (PFMC) and the Sports and Social Club (SPSC) are doing well. There are many users of the site (Tennis Club, Bowls Club, Classic Car Club, Dog Training Club.) The Fete had been a success and generated a small profit. Some issues to tackle in 2025 are on-going issues with the roadway, marquees needing replacement panels and adding

		<p>to the outdoor gym. The PFMC bank balance has £8K and expected costs for items needing attention and insurance are between £6K and £7K. This leaves £1K-£2K in reserve for future years insurance.</p> <p>There is work that is required on the building, rented by the Sports and Social Club, such as leaks in wall cladding, the door to the bowls green is rotten, problems with guttering, and further rotting and deterioration of the outside cladding. He explained that there were differences of opinion about who is responsible for repairing the building. There is a view from the SPSC that they have responsibility for repairs to the inside of the building and the PFMC have responsibility for the external repairs. There is also disagreement over the nature of the rental arrangements. It has been difficult to verify the responsibilities as there appears to be no written agreements.</p> <p>He stated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it is evident that the building is a decaying asset and will need more money to keep going. • FPMC cannot dedicate all its resources to the cause of the pavilion • It is pointless having two organisations dedicated to the same structure (outside & inside) <p>Councillors suggested that: FPMC checks documentation to see what formal agreements there are in place if any; A meeting is convened with all parties including some members of the Parish Council to work out how to move forward considering the following: The tenancy agreement Review of the current constitution and investigating other options such as establishing a single management committee, becoming a community interest company or similar, no longer operating as a charity.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Parish Council had heard one side of the situation and that it will invite representatives of the SPSC to come to the 21st of January Parish Council Meeting to present their views on the issues from their perspective. Clerk to contact SPSC and invite to next meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed that after this meeting, some Parish Councillors would then be willing to attend a meeting with both parties in February to try to find a way forward with a</p>
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		workable and amicable conclusion. As both organisations are adding value for members of the Parish and providing well used amenities it makes sense to get this relationship working well for all parties involved.
7	County Councillor report	<p>HL talked about the following areas: Suffolk County Council partnership with Virginia Beach USA represents a good fit as it has a focus on technology and renewables. They are expanding the 2021 partnership Highways agree that New St meets the criteria for further fixes. Please provide pictures if there are still issues and he will chase up. Henry had signed off on £1K for the scouts to move gates and fences to the new entrance. This will be dependent on the situation with the Red House development He will continue to chase Highways on the overflowing drains onto the road outside the church. He will also chase County Broadband to see what is happening here. Devolution was discussed – there would be more details in the next few months. SCC is expecting that there will be a Unitary Authority either starting in 2026 or 2027. The Mayoral post is likely to be geographically Norfolk/Suffolk wide.</p>
8	District Councillor report	<p>LH had provided a written report and invited questions. A councillor asked if the solar panels on schools may be extended to primary schools. LH did not know. LH said if she were given the name of the builders at the Red House development, she would see what she could find out about the rumours that they may have gone into administration. There was a discussion about CIL monies that are owed and what may happen with this situation as it stands. More information is required. DW to send information to LH</p>
9	Playing field management committee innovations	This is minuted above in item 6
10	<p>Issues updated, not covered elsewhere in agenda:</p> <p>War Memorial water pump, reply to resident, Development Day (RT), website issue, village signs,</p>	<p>NS had reviewed the water pump and recommended that repairs are needed to the wooden base and concrete surround. Clerk to obtain costs and possible repairer. A reply from the full council has been made to a letter received from a resident The development day (RT) agreed that this would be brought to the January Meeting Some residents have had difficulties accessing Parish meeting documents on the website. There are no issues with desktop computers but there are some issues from phone and tablet access. These are currently under</p>

		<p>investigation and a more robust solution will be sought. Village signs options will be looked at for the next county council budget.</p>
11	<p><i>Finance (2024-25)</i> <i>2 Cllrs to confirm that the payment and income vouchers have been scrutinised</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To recommend the council approves payments and acknowledges the receipts listed on the payment and receipt statement</i> • <i>2 Cllrs to confirm that balances on the bank statements match those on the reconciliation statement</i> • <i>To accept the bank reconciliation statement for November</i> • <i>To receive a report from the chair of finance inc . details of committee meeting on 03/12/24</i> • <i>Grant application from St Peter and St Paul Parochial Church Council (15m)</i> 	<p>Cllrs SB and CE had scrutinised payments and income vouchers.</p> <p>The council approved payments and receipts statement.</p> <p>Cllr HD confirmed that she and Cllr GD had scrutinised the reconciliation statement. She confirmed balances on the bank statement match those on the reconciliation statement.</p> <p>Council accepted the bank reconciliation for November 2024</p> <p>The council received the report from the chair of the finance committee. This discussed the items to be bought as item (12) below: Agreeing a budget for 2025/26 and a draft plan for 2026-2027 and deciding on a precept for 2025/26. The Council agreed to the proposed budget revision for 2024-25.</p> <p>Councillors reviewed the Grant application from St. Peter and St. Paul PCC for £1500 towards work required in the graveyard of the Parish Church. It was resolved to release £1500 from funds for this application.</p>
12	<p><i>Finance (2025 -27)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To receive a report from the RFO</i> • <i>To agree a budget plan for 2025-26 and a draft plan for 2026-27</i> • <i>To decide on a precept for 2025-26 (15m)</i> 	<p>Councillors received the report from the RFO. This explained the use of a 3-year budget model. That an extra line for NDP review costs and for CIL monies would be introduced to the budget. The money for these would be held in the reserves and transferred to the lines in the accounts as the money was used.</p> <p>The recommended budget for 2025/26 and a draft plan for 2026/27 was agreed.</p>

		The councillors agreed on a precept for 2025/26 of £37,800. Based on Mid Suffolk District Council's information, this will mean there will be no increase in the council tax for parishioners living in band D home.
13	Planning	There were no matters under planning
14	Feedback from NDP Steering group- (DW) (15m)	The NDP Steering Group Chair had sent some wording to be included in the Terms of Reference. With a minor amendment councillors agreed this as an addendum to the Terms of Reference. This would be taken back to the steering group.
15	To Receive report from Chair (5m) <i>Verbal</i>	The Chair mentioned that HL County Councillor was following up on the matter of County Broadband.
16	Urgent matters brought to the meeting (please inform chair asap).	None
17	Future items: to be tabled	From Item 10 – development day (RT) this will be discussed in January's Full Council Meeting Invitation to SPSC
18	To confirm dates of next meetings. (2m)	Confirmed dates of next meetings: Full council 21 st January 2025
19	Meeting closed to the public. Membership on NDP review Staff Remunerations	Confidential Items – minuted separately
The meeting closed at 10:08pm		