



The Swift

FRISTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting will be in the Village Hall on the 24th January - Covid restrictions allowing. There is currently no legislation to allow Councils to meet virtually as there was previously. NALC are lobbying the Government to allow this to happen on a permanent basis.

The Village Hall will be closed for most of January to allow the decorating and new doors to be installed.

Please check with the booking clerk (Jonathan Burch fristonvillagehall@gmail.com).

The Parish Council have also agreed to mount a sign at the Grove Rd end of Church Path to deter people from attempting to drive down there to access properties. Hopefully this will be effective enough to stop a repeat of the car in the ditch in the summer. The Council have also agreed to look at options for a bus shelter on the Green side of the B1121.

Happy New Year to all Friston residents and visitors alike.

News from St Mary the Virgin

Please note change of service time in 2022 - ALL services at Friston begin at 9.00am

Date	Service	Led by
2 nd January 2022	No Service	N/A
9 th January 2022	Common Worship Holy Communion	Archdeacon Jeanette
16 th January 2022	No Service	N/A
23 rd January 2022	BCP Matins	Reverend James Marston
30 th January 2022	No Service (Benefice Service at Aldeburgh)	N/A

Services are available at Knodishall, Aldringham and Aldeburgh when there is no service at Friston. Please see noticeboards for further details.

Friston Allotment Association.

With the start of another year, seed potatoes, onion sets & shallots will be available this month.

Early potatoes can be placed in trays or egg boxes to chit. January is now a good time to consider purchasing both flower & vegetable seeds ready for the coming year. Pruning of apples, pears, grape vines & soft fruit i.e. currants, gooseberries can be carried out while they are still dormant but not plums, peaches or cherries until frosts have passed in May. Containers or large pots can be placed over rhubarb to provide an early picking. Cleaning the glass, both inside & out, in our greenhouses now will allow maximum light in during the spring months to encourage strong healthy growth. Take care with grit & salt when used to keep paths clear of ice as it can damage plants. Try to keep it away from plants & soil. There are currently vacant allotments on the site, if anyone is interested in taking one on please contact the Parish Clerk or Cllr Alan Simpson.

Energy Projects Update - Will It Be A Happy New Year For Friston?

It was really heartening to read so many personal submissions in relation to the request for further information relating to the Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) / National Grid (NG) proposals for Friston from the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) whose Secretary of State, Kwarsi Kwarteng is to decide on the outcome of the Planning Inspectorate Inquiry. There were 97 submissions in total of which 71 were personal including 23 from residents of Friston. That is a substantial number considering this final stage of the process.

Specifically, the main questions related to flood risk and the dangers to offshore ornithology. SASES provided a detailed response, engaging legal and technical experts on flooding and procedural matters. Many of us took the opportunity of a last throw of the dice to express our wider concerns which we all felt had not been properly addressed or understood.

That led me to raise worries at the last Friston Parish Council meeting on 13 December. Those related to what extent other Interested Parties with material interests on the outcome - especially SPR, NG, and Suffolk County and East Suffolk Councils actually read the submissions of those organisations and members of the affected communities?

These are important since those parties should understand the depth and breadth of those concerns of the communities whose environment, landscape and lives will be most damaged. In truth, if these projects are consented, that will open the floodgates to the other energy projects which are in the pipeline and seeking an onshore connection point. In turn, by understanding our concerns they might be better enabled to ameliorate and manage the consequences.

Sadly, at the Parish Council meeting there was only one of our four representative councillors present - Tom Daly, one of our Ward councillors who has taken on board our concerns. Additionally, we emphasised the need for our Parish Council to be aware of meetings between the Councils and SPR and NG and about other projects all of which we know are in the pipeline. We await with some trepidation the decision of the Secretary of State which is due on 6 January 2022. The latest communication at the time of writing is that a further letter would be issued 'in due course'.

Be quite clear though that despite all our own personal concerns, the judgment rests on the full compliance with existing legal and national policy but may be overridden by considerations of the national interest. Whatever the outcome it has been a challenging and grueling process for everyone. SASES has concentrated on legal and policy compliance, but the breadth and diversity of all your own submissions have added considerable weight which has been missing in other Planning Inquiries. Thank you all. *Simon Ive* (simonive@aol.com) - Member of SASES

Continued Action

It was so encouraging to see the significant number of residents of Friston who wrote recently to express their views about the proposed energy developments and how it will affect this village. You may now be aware of the approval granted to Vattenfall for the Boreas wind farm off the North Norfolk coast. As a result, the RSPB has lodged a strong protest highlighting the danger to the habitats offshore and onshore in respect of our seabird population. If Scottish Power Renewables plans are approved the same threats face the seabirds off the East Suffolk Coast. Please write to the RSPB urging them to raise objections in respect of EA1 North and EA2 and the ecological effects their development will have on our seabird population. Many Thanks *Liz Thomas* Write to: RSPB Minsmere, Sheepwash Lane, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 3BY FAO Adam Rowlands Suffolk Area Manager. Email: minsmere@rspb.org.uk

Friston Wildlife Watch

So, after another trip across the fields to release yet another mouse from the humane trap I place regularly in an upstairs cupboard (*sigh*), I reflected that my good intentions were probably misplaced as the poor little chap was almost certainly destined to a sticky end anyway... most likely as another creature's supper. Nature is "red in tooth and claw", as a good neighbour of mine likes to remind me whenever I veer towards being too sentimental. I do try to keep realistic and pragmatic, but I'm afraid, as well as relocating mice, I have to confess to spending silly amounts of money on wild bird food every month, apologising to weeds when I pull them up and sometimes carefully transferring garden molluscs and other invertebrates to 'alternative' locations. In case there are any concerns: I am always careful to resettle any unwanted creatures well away from all other Friston residences! Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2022! *Briony Sones*



Another not very Merry Christmas for the Medieval Village of Friston

As for a Happy New Year, please consent the offshore windfarms but not the substations at Friston

**Friston Parish Council
&
SASES**
Substation Action Save East Suffolk

Your Swift, Your news! Anyone can contribute to the Swift, please contact the Clerk with any articles you may have, please keep them light, factually correct and village orientated. Space is limited but we do try to fit everything in.

The next deadline for articles is Monday 24th January 2022

All information correct at time of publication. This newsletter is funded by Friston residents and lightly edited by the Parish Clerk. Thank you to all contributors and deliverers.

Mrs. Phillippa Welby fristonclerk@gmail.com or phone 01502 478094.