



FRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Council Meeting** held on **Monday 30th October 2017** at 7.00 pm
in Friston Village Hall, Church Road IP17 1PU

Members: Cllr. M. Caplin (Chairman) Cllr. A Simpson Cllr. S Jackson
Cllr. D Brooks Cllr. A. Patterson Cllr. C Brooks
Cllr. M. Schedrin Cllr. J. Burch

Also present: K. Forster - Clerk to the Council, District Councillor Jones & 3 members of the public.

76/17 Apologies: There were apologies from Cllr. Schedrin & Cllr. Patterson

77/17 Declarations of Interest & Request for Dispensation:

Cllr. Burch declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item regarding parking as he was a resident in Church Road.

78/17 Minutes of the previous meeting:

Minutes of the meeting of the 4th September 2017 were submitted for approval. **It was unanimously RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record and were duly signed by the Chairman.**

79/17 Open Forum

Regarding the proposal of fencing on the green, a resident suggested that trees could be planted to achieve the same affect.

A member of the public stated that there was a seriously overgrown hedge along Church path. The Clerk was asked to write to the owners and ask them to cut back to the railings.

On the property – Acacia – the hedge is falling into the ditch.

The same member of the public also suggested that a questionnaire is put around the village regarding the fencing of the green. Historically the Village green was surrounded by hedges but that proved dangerous with children running onto the road, through the hedge. In the 80's the hedge was removed.

80/17 County and District Councillor Reports

County Councillor Reid sent his apologies. His report has been circulated.

District Councillor Jones was present and outlined the following items. Their report will be circulated:

- a) The planned merger of Waveney District Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council is scheduled for spring 2019.
- b) The closure of Wood Lane which will affect traffic on the A12 and in Woodbridge is scheduled from 6th – 30th November and then again 8th January to 13th April 2018.
- c) There is presentation of the proposed siting of the sub-station at Knoddishall near to the church by Scottish Power.

Cllr. A Simpson asked where SCDC were on the building of new houses. DC Jones replied that it had not been reached. SCDC was currently appealing against the allocation of 650 houses p.a. as they believe it should be 495 p.a.

81/17 Accounts

- a) The Statement of Accounts was presented. The Clerk confirmed that there was £ 20,530.92 in the bank accounts as at the end of September. The Chairman signed the bank reconciliations for August and September. It was noted that the 2nd half of the Precept had been received. The Clerk pointed out that normally the donations would be paid out in October however with the new Donations policy these needed to be reviewed. Cllr. C Brooks is to discuss with the school. This item is to be referred to the next agenda.
- b)



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- c) The Authorisation to pay was reviewed and £ 904.38 was presented for approval. **It was unanimously agreed that the Authorisation for Payment was approved.** It was noted that the PAYE & Salary had already been paid.
- d) A further payment of £604.35 had been received for CIL money. To date £ 3,432.27 has been received and nothing spent. The account details are shown at the bottom of the Statement of Accounts.
- e) A draft proposal for the 2018/19 budget had been circulated. The Chairman asked council to review ready for the meeting in December.

82/17 Siting of the new bench and the remaining CIL funds

- a) The benches have not been completed. Cllr Simpson to chase up. Cllr. Simpson asked what the material was of the plaques that had been made. The Clerk is to confirm. **NOTED**
- b) A further letter had been received from the people who sent the letter last month which questioned the use of CIL money for the bus shelter and play equipment and made alternative suggestions. **NOTED.**
- c) The Clerk presented 3 options for the bus shelter.
 1. A hardwood solution made in Leicester. Including transport, the total would be £5,420. A concrete plinth would be required at additional cost.
 2. A softwood solution made in Ipswich. TA quotation is expected this coming week and examples of their work is in Old London Road Copdock.
 3. Whitehouse Enterprises (Realise Futures) have installed a recycled plastic bus shelter in Stradishall.

The Councillors asked if the Clerk could find out the locations of any examples of the above that are in situ. **NOTED**

Cllr. Simpson was concerned about the orientation of the bus shelter.

District Councillor Jones said that she would check the planning requirements for a bus shelter at this location.

83/17 Village Hall

- a) The transfer documents had been received and circulated. Cllr Simpson was concerned about the map from the land registry as there is a strip of land between the hall and the neighbouring property. The Clerk is to discuss with the Solicitor. **NOTED** The decision to accept the transfer was deferred to next meeting.
- b) The Clerk and Cllrs. Jackson & Burch are arranging a meeting with 2 members of the village hall committee to discuss the priority of the repairs so as to gain quotations.
- c) Cllr. Burch and the representative from the Village Hall committee reported that at the last meeting the transfer and repairs required had been discussed. Bookings and consequently revenue for the hall have been dropping off and the lunch will cease at the end of the year.

84/17 Parish Council Vacancies

There are no applications for the remaining vacancy

85/17 Parking Issues

Cllr. Jackson explained that she and the Chairman had met and decided to explore the possibility of allocating some parking spaces on the green. The Clerk had contacted the land agent who had replied that in principle the owners were in agreement with the proposal. The area would be fenced with a security gate. No overnight parking would be allowed. The area would accommodate up to 10 cars and would have a slatted surface to allow grass to grow through. It would be used to provide additional parking to the village hall and church and for people using the play and sports area as well as the green.

The Clerk explained that the Church had written to Council to say that they were not prepared to increase the use of the church carpark and that SCDC had stated that they did not have any land to give Friston PC in Friston.



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There were a number of comments including that it didn't solve the problem of Church road and that residents might object.

The clerk was asked to contact two other land owners, Mr Mann and Mr Heald, to see if they had land that they might provide that might be more suitable. **NOTED**

86/17 Highways & Footpaths Update

- a) Cllr. Simpson presented a short report from the AGM at SALC where the main discussion was highways. A copy is attached.
- b) Cllr. Jackson reported that the Sandlings ways footpath had been reinstated. The footpath parallel to Chases Land had been dug over but following discussion with Langmead, this had been reinstated. The paths across the herb field had also been reinstated. Council were grateful to Langmead for their prompt action.

The Chairman reported that the footpath at the back of Hazelwood Hall has gone. The Clerk advised that this needs to be reported on the SCC website

87/17 Allotments Update

Cllr. Simpson asked for an update on the contract which was sent to the solicitor for updating. Clerk is to follow up. **NOTED**

88/17 Playground Update

The RoSPA inspection had been completed and there were no major issues. Cllr. D Brooks said that there was some corrosion on the swings and that the swing seats will need replacing in the next couple of years.

89/17 Fencing around the Green

Cllr. D Brooks presented his proposal to fence the green. A copy is attached. There were concerns expressed by members of Council regarding obscuring the view for drivers and using softwood posts.

The Chairman proposed that a public meeting be held as there had been a number of items discussed regarding the Village green and it was important that the village were asked for their opinions and suggestions. The items that would be on the agenda were

- i. Proposal to fence the green
- ii. Parking on the green
- iii. Sports equipment
- iv. Play equipment
- v. Bus shelter.

It was unanimously agreed that a public meeting be held on Monday 15th January 2018 and members of the parish invited to put forward their views. It was agreed that there should be an independent chairman as this is not a Parish Council meeting.

90/17 The Mill

The item on the Mill was deferred to the next meeting.

91/17 AOB

- a) The Clerk reported that due to significant changes being adopted in the Freedom of Information Bill, there would be a requirement for an "expert" in data collection and retention. She is attending a seminar from SALC, which was approved by the Chairman, in November and will report back.
- b) The Clerk reported that SCDC had never received the application form that she sent regarding the adoption of the phone box. She had been in contact with the responsible person at SCDC who had given her some contacts details so she will pursue adoption for a £1. The Phone box was now empty and locked.



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- c** Cllr. C Brooks reported on the meeting with the planning officer. She and Cllr. Patterson had expressed concern over the lack of infrastructure to support any future housing development, in particular, no bus services, limited school and no shops. The planning officer appeared empathetic to their concerns.
- d** A member of the public stated that no reference had been made to the letter that he sent regarding the Right to Bid in connection to land for parking, which he had been sent by Terese Coffey. He was concerned that there was a lot of money set aside for this but was not being pursued. The Clerk apologised but said it was part of the meeting papers and had been circulated. However, firstly the District Council has to approve the application and this is normally applied to building such as church halls, pubs, monuments etc., and secondly, even if a piece of land is identified and it is approved as an asset of Community Value, the owner needs to be selling it before the Right to Bid can be enacted.

The meeting closed at 9.02 pm.

The next meeting will be 7.00 pm Monday 11th December 2017 in Friston Village Hall.

Karen Forster

Clerk to Friston Parish Council, Orchard House, Chediston Road, Wissett, Halesworth, IP19 0NF



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Report from Cllr. Simpson regarding the Highways from the SALC AGM

Mark Stevens, Director of Operational Highways SCC reported:

1. In 2014 SCC was the worst for highways repairs in the country. Now only Lincolnshire is better than Suffolk.
2. To repair a road is £18 m². To resurface with tar and gravel is £3 m². Consequently he is focussing on resurfacing.
3. There are 116 potential flooding issues in Suffolk Coastal district council. This is very high as the next district in the list has 56 potential issues.
4. He is hoping to set up third party insurance for Parish Councils for maintenance of the highways, in addition to equipment and training. He also wants to give Parish Councils the authority to enforce hedge cutting in their area.
5. He passed on phone numbers to report highways issues:
0330 311 7838 (Halesworth) and 0345 606 6171 (service centre for Suffolk)



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Proposal that the Parish Council should arrange to fence *The Green*:

1. The fence to run from the corner adjacent to *Newton House*, to the corner adjacent to *No.1 Hillcrest*.
2. Gaps to be left for pedestrian access, for example at the corners of *The Green*, at the bus stop, and any other appropriate or popular access point.
3. The fence to be post and rail (2 rails), with posts 1.8m apart, the lower rail to be at a height sufficient to allow for ease of grass maintenance.
4. Posts: 1.8m x 125mm x 75mm. Rails: 3.6m x 87mm x 37mm.
5. The fence to be set back from *Grove Road* and from the pavement along *Saxmundham Road*, to allow for ease of grass cutting, and to avoid possible underground utilities.
6. Vehicular access to be through a pair of 10ft gates at the point where the kerb has been lowered, providing generous access for popular events.
7. The gates would normally be locked with a combination padlock, the number of which would be known to all members of the Parish Council and the Clerk, any of whom could authorise access as required.
8. The padlock number would be changed and recirculated whenever it was considered that it was known by unauthorised parties.

NB:

- a) The cost of the project would be around £2500, and part of this sum might be realised through the games equipment allowance, as a fence would contribute to the safety of those using the play equipment.
- b) In the absence of fencing, *The Green* is vulnerable to occupation by Travellers, and to unauthorised use by vehicles associated with the play equipment and exercising dogs. These vehicles appear to belong to passers-by rather than residents of *Friston*.
- c) *The Green* is presently irregularly used for relief parking by residents in the area of the *Village Hall*. This project would result in the cessation of this practice, and therefore could worsen the parking situation in the vicinity of the *Village Hall*.
- d) Aesthetically, a smart fence would enhance the appearance of *The Green*.

On balance, I propose that we carry out this project.

RAB/16.10.17