



Friston Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting 11th January 2021 (held via Zoom conference)

Minutes

Present: Cllrs Caplin (in the Chair), S. Jackson, C. Brooks, M Schedrin, A Simpson and R. Brooks

In attendance: District Cllrs J Bond, TJ Haworth-Culf, T Cooper, Philip Ridley (East Suffolk Council Planning)
Phillippa Welby (Clerk) and 18 members of the public

01/21 Apologies for absence – Cllr J Burch.

02/21 Declaration of Interest & Requests for Dispensations – Cllr Simpson declared an interest in item 15/21 with regards to the CAB donation.

03/21 Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the meeting 30th November 2020 were agreed.

04/21 Open Forum

Cllr Caplin opened this section by explaining that the District Cllrs and Philip Ridley were here to explain the District Council's change in stance to the potential SPR developments from against to neutral.

Cllr Cooper read the statement which Lisa Chandler had sent to explain the Council's change of position. Michael Mahony responded on behalf of SASES, Friston Parish Council and those residents attending. He asked to confirm whether or not any of the Parish's District Cllrs had spoken at the cabinet meeting. None of them did. Cllr Haworth-Culf responded by stating she thought she would just be repeating what they have already said at previous meetings. Mr Mahony responded by saying he understood the pressure that ESC must be under from Central Government and the developer however the recommendation to take a neutral stance is built on shaky ground. The Council paper is inaccurate in a number of respects. Mr Ridley responded to this by stating he was entirely satisfied that the District Council had discharged their function correctly, that a just decision was made based on the evidence and report received. The decision has to be set against the wider benefits and that this is a difficult concept to balance. He said that ESC would welcome discussions with FPC and other interested parties to ensure any packages offered are worthwhile. Cllrs Simpson and Jackson both responded that it would be very hard to envisage a package that would compensate for the damage that would be caused.

A short discussion ensued in which members of the public asked questions or made statements to which Mr Ridley assured them that ESC had taken into consideration before agreeing on the neutral stance.

Cllr Caplin thanked the District Cllrs and Mr Ridley for attending and hoped they understood the strength of feeling that this issue raised and that he hoped the District Cllrs would continue to support the residents of Friston.

A member of the public brought the South Sax neighbourhood garden development to the Council's attention. This is the plan for a potential 800 homes to the south of Saxmundham and an industrial site to the west of the A12.

Residents are urged to go to the website www.saxmundhamsouth.co.uk to register their view by the 31st January.

05/21 County and District Councillor Reports

The County and District Cllr reports were circulated prior to the meeting.

06/21 SASES Update – There is a SASES meeting on Thursday. A member of the public asked that representation to SPR be made to show that residents of Church Path, the PCC for the Church and Village Hall users be consulted on the closure of Church Road as SPR had stated they were only consulting residents of Church Rd. Liz Thomas confirmed that SASES had done this and SPR had updated this in their latest documents.

07/21 Village Hall – Cllr Jackson had contacts to request another quote for decorating the Village Hall. Clerk to send specs to her. The Clerk had been successful in obtaining grants from ESC to help with the running costs while the Hall is shut due to Covid restrictions. She had been sent the details of another grant to investigate.



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08/21 Footpaths – Cllr Jackson is putting together a map together of all the missing footpath signs to send to the Clerk so they can be reported in one go. She has also found a footpath blocked by an electric fence which she will report.

09/21 Village Sign – Cllr Haworth-Culf confirmed that her husband is still happy to help remove the village sign. He will contact Cllr Simpson.

10/21 Highways – Cllr Simpson reported that the grit had been left in a pile on the corner of Church Path instead of being put in the nearby bin. He will contact Cllr Reid. Cllr Haworth-Culf will also contact him.

11/21 Accounts – The accounts for November were circulated. The authorisation to pay was agreed.

12/21 Budget – The budget was discussed and agreed with the understanding that 2021/22 will be yet another experimental year as the Council had still yet to run the Village Hall to its full potential due to Covid restrictions.

13/21 Precept – It was proposed by Cllr R Brooks to increase the precept by 1% on the understanding that there may not always be grants to underpin the Village Hall. Cllr C Brooks seconded this. All agreed. This would increase the precept by around £77.

14/21 Financial Risk Analysis – This had not been circulated prior to the meeting so will be on the agenda for February.

15/21 Donations – Cllr Jackson suggested that the Council only give to those organisations who request a grant from the Council rather than just donate money to those it always had done. This was agreed. The Clerk reported that she always got a request from the CAB and the Disability Advice Service. Donations to CATS, EAAA and Friston PCC for the upkeep of the churchyard were always acknowledged. She had not received acknowledgments from either of the schools. It was agreed to donate to the usual charities this year except for the schools, however the money would be kept in the budget in case they approached the Council for a donation towards a specific project. The Clerk would write to each organisation to let them know they would need to request a grant next year. The amounts agreed were as follows:

Charity/organisation	Amount
Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)	£200
Disability Advice Service (DAS)	£50
Coastal Accessible Transports (CATS)	£100
East Anglian Air Ambulance (EAAA)	£100
St Mary's PCC	£150

16/21 Correspondence – as received by the Clerk or Councillors

The Clerk had been asked to make residents aware that the Church was running Zoom services for those who would like to take part.

17/21 Date of Next Meeting – 8th February 2021

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