



Friston Parish Council

Minutes of the Council meeting 24th January 2022 held in Benhall Social Club, Benhall.

Present: Cllrs M Caplin (in the Chair), S Jackson, M. Schedrin, A Simpson, M. Mahony and M. Shipman
In attendance: Cllr A Reid (SCC) Cllr R Rainger (ESC) Cllr T Daly (ESC), Phillippa Welby (Clerk) and 1 member of the public

Minutes

164/22 Apologies for absence – Cllrs R Brooks and C Brooks.

165/22 Declaration of Interest & Requests for Dispensations – None were declared.

166/22 Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting of the 13th December 2021 were accepted as a true record.

167/22 Open Forum – There were no items raised.

168/22 County and District Councillor Reports – The District Council had sent through updates regarding the various local energy projects and the Clerk had circulated them. Cllr Reid asked for a copy – Clerk to forward. The Cycling and Walking strategy consultation had closed and has yielded good ideas around leisure and tourism cycling with possible commuting routes proposed alongside main routes around the county. There has also been a change in the Highway Code that recognises the most vulnerable road user as the most important.

Cllr Reid had submitted a report prior to the meeting which the Clerk had circulated. SCC will agree a budget this week which will mean a 2.99% rise in Council tax. There is an electric bus pilot scheme from Framlingham to Wickham Market station which also takes in Campse Ashe and Snape. It is hoped it will be used by commuters and tourists. If successful, the scheme will be able to apply for more funding.

Cllr Mahony asked if the County Council could also provide an energy project update like the District Council.

169/22 SASES Update – The decision on the Scottish Power wind farm projects has been delayed until the 31st March. This has meant there is in total a six month delay to the decision. Flood risk is still under discussion, the submissions for this are due in by the 31st January. SASES have also commented on the site ecology.

The Boreas wind farm which had no challenge has had permission granted.

The Vanguard project has been challenged on cumulative impact and is waiting for a decision.

National Grid Electricity Transmission has written speculatively to land owners in the village making the likelihood of the other projects connecting to the Grid at Friston more likely. If this is the case the North Falls and Severn projects may also connect here, encircling the village.

NGET has asked the Parish Council for a briefing opportunity but no date has yet been set.

Cllrs Reid, Daly and Rainger leave 19:31

170/22 Bus Shelter – Cllrs Simpson and R Brooks have had a site meeting with a local builder to discuss the possible bus shelter. The design will use oak, larch board and pantiles. Measurements have been given to the builder for costings.

171/22 Reclaim the Rain – The Clerk has spoken to the project manager and there is £6 million available in a new fund for six projects – three in Norfolk and three in Suffolk. Projects will be assessed by the team for their viability. The projects will focus on saving and reusing rain water rather than flood prevention. The Council agreed to put Friston forward for the next stage.

172/22 Footpaths – Naomi Goold at ESC has agreed to speak to SPR about the footpaths they disturbed in their exploration work.

The footpaths across Friston Common field have not been reinstated since being ploughed. Clerk to report.



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173/22 Highways – The Clerk has collected the sign for Church Path and Cllr Simpson will site the post and mount the sign. He will meet with Cllr Shipman to agree the position of the post and sign. This combined with the new footpath sign will hopefully be enough to deter any more vehicles from trying to access the houses via Church Path.

174/22 Village Hall – The decorating is well under way. Cllr Shipman has agreed to get quotes and advice from builders regarding the damp issues in the corner of the hall. She will also get a free survey from a specialist damp company.

The Clerk was waiting to hear from the Council's insurers to see if the toilets can be used whilst the Hall is under work.

The Parish Council agreed to allow the funeral on Monday to use the Hall toilets without charge but in future when the Hall is fully operational, Church events requiring just the toilets will be considered on a case by case basis at the Council's discretion. The Council also agreed that they should reserve the right to charge a fee. The Hall is an asset for the whole village and any hirer should be prepared to support the Hall financially to ensure it's able to continue to operate.

175/22 Talking Bench – This is a Community Partnership initiative to supply the Council with a free bench. The Council agreed to ask for a bench. It was agreed to place it either on the Green or next to the Jubilee Shelter. Clerk to write to the project manager.

The Council also agreed to ask the PCC whether they would like to have the Oak tree gifted to the Parish Council from the District Council for the Churchyard. This is to mark the Queen's platinum jubilee. Clerk to contact.

176/22 Allotments – There are two new tenants for the allotments. There are still plots available.

177/22 Precept – In order for the Precept to stay the same this year, the Council agreed to the 1.46% rise in the Parish portion of the Council tax.

Clerk to look for grants to cover the cost of the bus shelter and work in the Village Hall.

178/22 Accounts – There were two more payments to add to the authorisation this month. Cllr Simpson £44.18 for the Oak post and £24 for the room hire at Benhall Social Club.

179/22 Correspondence – as received by the Clerk or Councillors – Any correspondence was dealt with during the meeting.

180/22 Date of Next Parish Council Meeting – 7th March 2022

Phillippa Welby Parish Clerk Fristonclerk@gmail.com