



Friston Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held in the Village Hall, Friston on the 11th March 2024.

There were present: Cllrs S Jackson, M Shipman, P Carlaw , W Ireland, C Slack, M Schedrin and M Mahony (in the Chair).

In attendance: P Welby (Parish Clerk), Cllr Sarah Whitelock (ESC), Andrew Reid (SCC) and 7 members of the public.

Minutes

20/24 Apologies for absence – None received.

21/24 Declaration of Interest & Requests for Dispensations – None.

22/24 The minutes of the previous meeting on 15th January 2024 were approved unanimously.

23/24 Open Forum – A member of the public raised the subject of bank closures. Cllr Whitelock has written to Barclays on behalf of the District. When Leiston shuts there will be no Barclays branch between Felixstowe and Lowestoft. Cllr Whitelock is trying to facilitate a face to face session in Leiston for account discussion only. Another member of the public reported that the daffodils planted last year that ESC provided were appearing round the defibrillator.

24/24 Update of Transition of Parish Clerk – The new Clerk Katherine Abbott will be taking over from Monday 18th March. The email will remain the same but the telephone number will change. This will be updated on the website and in the Swift.

25/24 County Councillor Reports – Cllr Reid arrived late and did not give an update but had circulated his report to the Clerk.

26/24 District Councillor Reports – Cllr Whitelock reported that the District Council had agreed their budget. Cllr Mahony and Slack had a meeting with Cllr Whitelock regarding the impact on mental health locally due to the energy projects combined with the cost of living crisis. Cllr Whitelock is facilitating the production of an A5 booklet which will be available through churches, pharmacies etc. In this ward only a more targeted approach will see a leaflet posted through all houses which gives details of the leaflet and where it's available. There will also be a QR code that can be scanned and the whole leaflet will be immediately available to download. Cllr Whitelock will also be arranging specialist mental health training for members of the public this will be free face to face and facilitated by MIND.

Cllr Mahony asked for any follow up from the letters Cllr Daly sent to DESNZ. Cllr Whitelock will contact Cllr Daly to ask re: responses.

27/24 County and District Councillors – Energy projects update - Cllr Reid had arrived at this point and reported on the TEC Register (Transmission Entry Capacity) run by NESO (National Energy System Operator). There are two more applications for Friston on here. A 249mw solar farm and battery storage facility. The solar farm is likely to be around 445 hectares. These are not at the planning application stage yet but if they progress to that stage they are likely to be dealt with by ESC at a local level due to the size rather than an NSIP.

28/24 Energy projects update – Cllr Mahony reported:

SASES – waiting for the decision on their appeal to the Supreme Court.

SEAS – waiting for the decision on their judgement on their appeal.



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SeaLink – the formal application is expected in the Autumn with no coordination with LionLink.

LionLink – The Council has responded to the scoping report. The statutory consultation is likely to begin in 2025

Nautilus - a decision on whether the connection will be at the Isle of Grain is expected this year.

SZC – Cllr Mahony attended the Southern Transport Forum and raised concerns over the non-tracking of LGV. It was also suggested that SPR and NG should be invited to attend.

Cllrs Shipman and Mahony have a footpath meeting with SCC regarding SPRs footpath applications.

Cllr Shipman has a meeting on the 20th March with SCC regarding flooding.

29/24 Reports from other meetings – Cllr Slack attended the Sizewell Stakeholder Group meeting. The further decommissioning of SZA was discussed as to the impact on the construction traffic for SZC and other energy projects in the area.

30/24 Reclaim the Rain – The RTR team are installing monitoring equipment in Church Rd, Village Hall, the Green end of Grove Rd, near the pond in Grove Road and in Low Rd. They have also met with SPR regarding the reuse of water on their site.

31/24 Financial Risk Assessment – this was agreed and signed by the Chair, The Asset Register was also agreed by the Council with the addition of the new bench on the Green. It was also noted that there were no updates to the Financial Regulations or Standing Orders this year.

32/24 CIL Money update – Cllr Shipman proposed the Clerk's suggestion to reallocate CIL funds to cover village sign, bench and to earmark the remainder for the highways speed reduction project and village hall lights. This was seconded by Cllr Jackson. All agreed.

33/24 Village Events (Friston Goes Green, DDay celebrations, Classics, Open Gardens) – Cllr Ireland reported on the DDay celebrations preparations. She can apply for some funding through ESC. If the Parish Council organises the event she will need to complete a risk assessment. Preparations for the other events listed are also underway.

34/24 Village Green – The Community Payback team are currently training a new supervisor so will be back in the village when this is complete. Cllr Carlaw has approached another contractor for grass cutting and is waiting for a quote.

Cllr Mahony will draft a letter to Blackheath Estates regarding the renewal of the Green lease and will circulate to Cllrs.

35/24 Footpaths – Cllr Jackson has pinned up 'clear up after your dog' notices on every footpath signpost in the village. Cllr Ireland suggested a leaflet to go through the door of every house in the village reminding dog owners of their responsibility.

The Council also agreed to write to all landowners and tenants to remind them of their duties to footpath reinstatement.

36/24 Highways – Cllr Carlaw proposed that CIL money be used to cover the costs of marker posts and road markings along the B1121. The quotes received were £575 plus vat for the road markings and £4536.40 plus VAT for the marker posts. This was seconded by Cllr Jackson. All agreed.

The Council are still waiting for Highways to agree the post installation method and the use of our own contractor for the line painting.



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Cllr Carlaw will also contact the speed camera team for the results of the ANPR camera that was in the village recently.

Cllr Shipman will contact SPR for the results of their traffic survey in the village.

37/24 Village Hall – The committee agreed to repairing the heater in the Hall, the blown window in the kitchen and the bolt in the attic. Cllr Carlaw is organising trades to cover these jobs. He has also agreed to take on the booking clerk's role for six months. A replacement will need to be found after 6 months. The Clerk has put an advert in this month's Swift.

38/24 Allotments – There are currently three allotments spare. Anyone interested in taking one on should contact the Parish Clerk.

39/24 Donations – There have been no requests for donations this year.

40/24 Account – These were agreed and signed with the following payments agreed.

	Service/Goods	Net	Vat	Gross
P Welby	Clerks Expenses	£58.22	£0.00	£58.22
P Welby	Salary Jan	£337.57	£0.00	£337.57
P Welby	Salary Feb	£337.57	£0.00	£337.57
Hetty's Little Copy Shop	Newsletter Feb	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00
Hetty's Little Copy Shop	Newsletter March	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00
Barry Smith	Internal Keysafe	£55.00	£11.00	£66.00
RH	Village Hall Cleaning Jan	£42.00	£0.00	£42.00
RH	Village Hall Cleaning Feb	£36.00	£0.00	£36.00
Pat Donnelly	Debris Clearance Village Green	£100	0	£100
Total		£966.36	£11.00	£977.36

41/24 Correspondence – The Clerk had received the subscription renewal for ESTA which the Council agreed to. The Clerk had also received a letter regarding the delivery of concrete to Church Row which had churned up the entrance to the allotments. A member of the public confirmed that this was a one off due to the ground being too wet for the lorry to deliver from the Grove Road field.

42/24 Date of Next Parish Council Meeting – 15th April 2024