



Friston Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held in the Village Hall, Friston on the 26th June 2023.

There were present: Cllrs P Carlaw, S Jackson, M Mahony (in the Chair).
In attendance: P Welby (Parish Clerk), 8 members of the public.

Minutes

38/23 Apologies for absence – Cllr Schedrin and Shipman

39/23 Declaration of Interest & Requests for Dispensations - None

40/23 Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting of the 8th May 2023 were approved and signed by the Chair.

41/23 Open Forum – A member of the public bought the Old School House on Aldeburgh Road to the Council's attention. It is deteriorating as it would appear the new owners are not living in or maintaining the property. They also own a property in The Meadows. The Clerk was unsure if the Council had any powers to act on this matter but would enquire.

Another member of the public raised the parking round the village sign on the grass by the bus shelter. They asked if it would be possible to put a low post and chain fence round the perimeter to stop the parking. The Clerk stated that the area of land belonged to Suffolk County Council so would need their permission for anything relating to that piece of ground and she would make enquiries.

Another member of the public raised the issue of potential fire hazards in the village. They had identified 3 sites they thought were the biggest threat to housing if a fire started. Cllr Carlaw will visit these sites with them and take photos.

42/23 County and District Councillor Reports – No County or District Cllrs were present.

43/23 Energy projects update – Cllrs Mahony and Carlaw are meeting the Minister Andrew Bowie from the Dept of Energy security and Net Zero at the House of Commons on the 27th June. The main focus of the discussion will be the Community Benefits Scheme (to which the Council has responded to the consultation). Cllr Mahony will be making the point that the Community Benefits Scheme needs to be better for those communities directly affected by the projects. The developers need to recognise that the biggest impact is on community's well being. Related to this is the lack of engagement shown by SPR in the recent survey work. Cllr Mahony and Shipman are meeting with Naomi Gould at ESC to discuss this.

There has also been a meeting with Chris Bally the new Chief Executive at ESC. A variety of issues were discussed and Cllr Mahony pressed the point that these large scale projects impacting on communities were too much led by officers rather than elected officials.

SEAS are still waiting for their judgement following their recent High Court hearing.

TASC (together against SZC) unfortunately failed in their Judicial Review hearing.

SASES are still waiting for dates for their appeal hearing.

Thankyou also to the PCC who submitted a response to the Community Benefits consultation from a pastoral point of view.

44/23 Planning - [DC/23/2011/FUL](#) Conversion of Outbuilding to Garden Room, including the addition of a Bathroom and new glazing. 2 Aldeburgh Road – No objections to this planning application were raised.



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45/23 Village Green – The broken benches have been removed from the Green with the intention to replace them with one recycled plastic bench to compliment the ‘talking bench’. The Clerk is trying to tie down delivery of this as it is very heavy and it’s hoped to get it delivered to its final position.

Thank you to Cllr Shipman for organising the mowing of the Green at short notice for the Church event at the beginning of June, the grass should also be cut again for Classics on the Green. The Council will put together a specification and schedule for the mowing. Cllr Mahony raised the possibility of leaving some areas of the Green uncut for wildlife. This will be discussed.

The request from The Old Chequers to use the Green as overflow parking was also discussed in terms of the lease and it was concluded that this was not permitted. Cllr Carlaw had discussed parking with the Community Engineer and he had confirmed that parking on the B1121 parallel to the Green was permitted provided the parked vehicles were 10m from a junction. Clerk to write The Old Chequers.

46/23 Footpaths – Some of missing footpath signs have been replaced in the village. Path 35 round the Whin is overgrown. Clerk to report.

47/23 Highways – The junction of Mill Road and the A1094 is very overgrown and dangerous. Clerk to report. Cllr Carlaw met with a Highways Community Engineer on the 15th June and gave a report. They discussed Church Path and the Engineer stated that this was classified as a public right of way over private land and not maintained by Highways. The Public Rights of Way team would be responsible for this. The engineer suggested cutting back where the grass had grown over the tarmac to see how far the tarmac went and then sending this to the PROW team. Cllr Carlaw will do this and the Clerk will contact the PROW team. The strip of land that Church Path is on the Clerk was sure was not registered on the Land Registry. Not to say that no one owns it but it would be more difficult to find out.

They also discussed speeding along the B1121 and possible traffic calming measures. Any permanent structures such as chicanes, rumble strips or speed humps would involve installing street lighting first at the expense of the Parish Council. The village gateway signs are a possibility at the start of the 30mph zone as are painted 30mph roundels on the road surface. This would all be at the expense of the Parish Council unless funding could be sourced elsewhere. He also suggested that the Council apply for a police speed survey along the B1121. Clerk to investigate.

The refusal of Mill Rd as Quiet Lane was also discussed. The engineer stated that they may be an extra round of funding for Quiet Lanes and that the Council could reapply.

It was suggested that a meeting with Cllr Reid as our SCC Cllr be set up to investigate possible funding for some of the suggestions and for support in getting Church Path looked at and the surface improved.

48/23 Village Hall – The Clerk had found a potential source of funding to buy 80 cups and saucers and 80 side plates and a new kettle. These were the most used items in the kitchen by events in the village.

49/23 County Broadband – it was agreed to monitor the situation in respect of the Wayleave requests residents had been receiving.

50/23 Allotments – there are two free allotments currently.

51/23 Internal Audit 2022/23 – The Council had been sent the internal audit and agreed to use Heelis and Lodge next year as internal auditors. There was a recommendation to include the Precept amount in the minutes which the Clerk had done for this year.

52/23 Annual Governance and Accountability Return – The relevant sections including the certificate of exemption from an external audit were agreed and signed.



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53/23 Accounts – The statement of accounts was received by the Council. Clerk to send Cllr Mahony a copy of the Excel book as PDF.

54/23 Correspondence – A copy of the Church's response to the Community Benefit consultation had been received and circulated. There was also a request for the Council to hold a fund raised at the time of the Millennium totalling £455.80 as a ringfenced fund for a capital project in the village. This was agreed.

55/23 Date of Next Parish Council Meeting – 31st July 2023