



Friston Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Friston on the 15 April 2024

Present: Councillors P Carlaw, W Ireland, M Shipman (Acting Chair) and C Slack.

In attendance: K Abbott (Parish Clerk), District Councillor Sarah Whitelock and 12 members of the public.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Jackson, M Mahoney and M Schedrin.

2 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

No Declarations or Requests were received.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 March 2024

The date at the top of the Minutes was incorrect. Subject to this amendment, the Minutes were unanimously approved as a correct record.

4 Public Forum

A question was raised about carers and what help might be available to them. In response, the East Suffolk Council website and its Ease the Squeeze page which provided details of assistance available locally and nationally. Councillor Whitelock also referred to booklets published to assist with well-being, emotional support and mental health matters. The Clerk undertook to place all details in the next edition of *Swift*.

5 County Councillor's report

This had been received from Councillor Reid and circulated to the Council. In summary:

- 98% of pupils received a place at one of their preferred Secondary Schools on Offer Day
- Final bascule span arrives for Gull Wing Bridge, Lowestoft
- SCC formally responds that it considers LionLink proposals to be unacceptable and unfair
- Residents encouraged to have their say on proposed devolution for Suffolk
- £7.3m investment in electric vehicle charging

6 District Councillor's report

A report had been received from Councillor Whitelock and circulated to the Council. In summary:

- Cost of annual parking tickets reduced
- Residents encouraged to grow their own produce with the Grow For It grant funding
- ESC had issued a strong rebuttal of LionLink's proposals

7 District Council's update on the range of energy projects

A report had been received on behalf of Councillor Daly with an update on the energy projects.



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8 Energy Projects update

Councillor Shipman provided a comprehensive update on the current status of the various energy projects. This would also be summarised in the next edition of the Swift and placed on the website in its entirety. With reference to the infiltration testing to be undertaken by SPR from mid-April, it was stated that the Parish Council would welcome residents' observations and feedback on the locations and methods of the current infiltration testing by SPR as these may be critical to the flood risk to the village.

SASES - SASES has applied for permission to appeal to the Supreme Court. A decision on permission is awaited but it is hoped this will be before August.

SEAS - SEAS has lost its appeal in the Court of Appeal and is seeking permission to appeal to the Supreme Court. Seas continues to campaign and argue for a better alternative and engages with neighbouring communities.

SPR - SPR met with the PC in late March, principally because it wishes to carry out what are known as "infiltration tests" at the substation site and along the cable route. These tests are primarily designed to see how much surface water can be absorbed into the ground rather having to be discharged through the village. The tests will be carried out from mid-April and therefore contractors and some plant and machinery will be seen at the substation site. **See main update for information on the PCs serious concerns about flood risk to the village, Public Rights of Way and diversions.**

Lionlink - National Grid has reported back on its non-statutory consultation and announced that landfall for this project will be either at Walberswick or just north of Southwold. The cable route will then make its way to the proposed converter station site at Saxmundham and from Saxmundham the cable route will go to the National Grid connection hub at Friston. **Please see main update for the PCs comprehensive response to the Planning Inspectorate's scoping report and the cumulative impact on the health and well-being of the villagers, as well as flood risk.**

National Grid's Study into its transmission infrastructure in East Anglia and this has now been published. In short the results of the study are a disaster for this community. **Please see main update on the website.**

Sizewell C - This project is no longer owned by EDF Energy but majority owned by the UK Government.

9 Reports from external meetings

There were no updates for this meeting.

10 Reclaim the Rain

Councillor Shipman said she had attended an online webinar which Reclaim the Rain had supported. A drone had been flown over the village and the resulting footage was now available to view online at Reclaim the Rain on Facebook, Instagram, or LinkedIn to view. The video footage recorded the catchment prior to project delivery with repeat filming to take place in 2027, as the project draws to a close, providing 'before' and 'after' data to help support resilience to the effects of flooding and drought now and into the future.



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11 Grass cutting

The Clerk referred to the quote received in March 2024 from an applicant to establish a grass-cutting arrangement. This had been provided to Councillors and their agreement, in principle, sought to the granting of the informal arrangement in recognition of the need to start maintaining the village green etc. as soon as practicable. This was in accordance with item 4.5 of the Council's Financial Regulations. The Clerk now sought formal ratification of the earlier, in principle, decision.

It was proposed by Councillor Carlaw that the arrangement for grass-cutting services be formally ratified. This was seconded by Councillor Ireland and, by unanimous vote, approved.

12 Village events

Friston Goes Green would be held on 11 May 2024 on the Village Green and aimed to raise funds for St Elizabeth Hospice.

D Day commemorations would be held on 6 June 2024, including bell ringing and the lighting of a beacon. Councillor Ireland undertake a risk assessment.

Open Gardens on 16 June 2024 with eighteen gardens currently participating. This year there was also a wish to decorate the church.

13 Village Green

Councillor Carlaw advised that there was a potential issue with a property adjacent to the village green. Vegetation from the village green had been removed from outside the property boundary, the ground had been levelled and new trees and hedging planted. The debris from these works had been left on the green behind a property. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the resident on behalf of the Council.

It was hoped that the Community Pay Back team would be undertaking further work in the village by the end of April. It was suggested that the ditch by Church Path was also in need of maintenance. The path was also being made hazardous by elm roots. Councillor Carlaw said he would ascertain when the Team could be expected and advise them of the work required.

Councillor Shipman advised that a contractor for the erection of fencing around the play area had attended the site to take measurements etc. so that an accurate estimate could be provided. This work was being paid for by grant funding.

14 Footpaths

There was a discussion about the footpath at the rear of Chases Lane as pigs were being kept here. It was agreed the Clerk would write to the owner on behalf of the Council.

15 Speed reduction plans

Councillor Carlaw stated that the recent use of ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) between 26 February and 4 March had provided data to confirm that there was an issue with speeding vehicles through the village (B1121). A total of 1264 photos of vehicles exceeding 30 mph had been taken; 875 had been travelling at 30-34 mph; 389 at 35+mph; 81 who were travelling at 40+mph; four were travelling at 50+mph and one at 64mph who had been reported to the police.



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Councillor Shipman referred to the proposals for zig zag road markings and graduated posts to draw the eye to the 30mph signs. It was suggested that the ANPR be repeated once the measures were in place to compare their effect. There were also concerns raised about speeding in Mill Road.

16 Village Hall

Councillor Carlaw, on behalf of the Village Hall Committee, advised that in the 2023/4 financial year the Village Hall had provided an income of £4874. In March 2024, income had been £1207.

A new cleaner was required and an advert for this would be included in the next Swift.

17 Allotments

The Clerk advised that there were currently three vacant allotments. An advert for these would be placed in Swift. It was suggested that if Friston residents did not apply then they should be advertised more widely.

The Clerk was asked to write to the holder of two allotments who was currently in breach of the terms of agreement for renters to ascertain if they wished to retain the allotments or were experiencing issues.

18 Responsible Finance Officer's (RFO) report/Accounts

The RFO referred the Council to the end of financial year summary of expenditure, income and ear-marked funds for 2023/4.

Invoices were submitted for authority to pay – authority was granted.

19 Correspondence received by the Clerk or Councillors

- **Field to Fork Grant Scheme** – The Clerk said that this had been shared with Alan Simpson who had suggested that there was insufficient interest in the allotments to warrant an application.
- **100 mile walking event** – The local branch of the Long Distance Walkers' Association was planning an event on 24/25 May 2025 for 500 walkers and the proposed route would pass through Friston at around the 48 mile mark between Saturday evening and Sunday morning. The event was self-sufficient and did not seek the use of any facilities or water stations etc.

The meeting closed at 20.42 hours.