



Friston Parish Council

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual meeting of the Council held in the Village Hall, Friston on Monday 20th May 2024.

There were present; Cllrs P Carlaw, M Mahony, W Ireland, C Slack and M Shipman.
In attendance Cllr S Whitelock (ESC), P Welby (Stand in Parish Clerk), 7 members of the public.

Minutes

1. Election of a Chair for the Municipal Year 2024/5

Cllr Ireland nominated Cllr Mahony for the position of Chair, this was seconded by Cllr Slack – all agreed.

2. Apologies for absence – None

3. Election of a Vice Chair for the Municipal Year 2024/5

Cllr Shipman was nominated by Cllr Mahony for the position of Vice Chair, this was seconded by Cllr Carlaw – all agreed.

4. Election of Representatives

To appoint Councillors to be the Lead on the following:

- Allotments – Cllr Carlaw
- Authorised signatories – Cllrs Shipman and Carlaw to remain with the addition of Cllrs Slack and Ireland.
- Energy Projects (including SPR, National Grid and SZC) - Cllr Mahony with support from Cllr Shipman.
- Sizewell A & B – Cllr Slack
- Checking of defibrillator – Sue Jackson (as volunteer)
- Health and Wellbeing – Cllr Slack
- Footpaths – North of the village – Cllr Shipman, South of the village – Cllr Ireland
- Highways – Cllr Carlaw
- Planning – Cllr Shipman
- Police and Crime prevention – Cllr Ireland
- Village Green including play equipment – Cllr Carlaw
- Village events liaison and Community Spirits grp rep – Cllr Ireland
- Village Hall Committee – Cllrs Carlaw and Slack – Cllr Carlaw is interim Village Hall Booking Clerk
- Swift – Cllrs Carlaw and Ireland

Signature of Chair _____ Date _____



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Cllr Mahony as the newly elected Chair welcomed those members of the public present and started with thank yous to both Sue Jackson and Mary Schedrin who were stepping down from the Parish Council. There are now four vacancies on the Parish Council. If anyone is interested then please contact a current Councillor.

Cllr Mahony also thanked Phillippa Welby for returning as interim Clerk due to the resignation of the Clerk.

The meeting then proceeded to items on the agenda for the usual Parish Council meeting.

1. **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations** - None
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 April 2024** – The minutes were accepted with minor corrections to Cllr Mahony's name and to replace Chases Lane with Mill Lane.
3. **Open Forum** – A member of the public raised the issue of that the footpath from Mill Rd to Low Rd behind Chases Lane was impassable. Cllr Ireland will take photos and approach Gwyn Church (Land Agent for Blackheath) to ask that it be cleared for Open Gardens.
4. **County Councillor's Report** – Cllr Reid was not present at the meeting. Cllr Mahony will ask Cllr Reid for more information on the application for a solar farm.
5. **District Councillors' Reports** – Cllr Whitelock introduced ESC's four priorities for their four year plan - Tackling Inequality, Environmental Impact, Thriving Economy and Sustainable Housing. She has asked Ben Woolnough (head of planning) for an explanation as to why the Friston Moor Barn application was approved so quickly after the Council had placed an objection.
Cllr Mahony referred to the leaders report. It could be perceived as there was support for the proposed energy projects in this area. The Council agreed that Cllr Mahony should write to Cllr Topping regarding this.
6. **County and District Councillors** – This was contained within the reports received.
7. **Energy projects** update – There has been no start to the infiltration testing on site. SPR had reported damage to their signage. The Council agreed that this had been badly placed in the first place and that the damage was probably not deliberate. This will be fed back to SPR. The next discharge of requirements application will be concerning archaeology. Cllr Mahony will follow up with Steve Merry (SCC Highways).
SZC – Cllr Mahony attended the southern transport forum. Dwell times (night freight movements) at level crossings in Melton and Leiston were discussed in regards to emergency vehicles. Cllr Mahony again raised the issue of cumulative impact with other energy projects. SZC agreed to ask representatives of other energy companies to attend the forum.
TASC – have been refused permission to appeal to the Supreme Court. This means that legal action concerning SZC is at an end.
SEAS/SASES – are still waiting for their appeal decision.
8. **Reports from other or external meetings** – None
9. **To discuss email arrangements for Councillors** - The Council discussed dedicated .gov emails for the Cllrs. There is quite a large cost attached to this currently. Cllrs agreed to continue with the Parish Clerk

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being the first point of contact. The interim Clerk did remind all Cllrs that they should be operating a separate email address for Parish Council matters for as best practice for GDPR reasons.

11. Planning training from Birketts via SALC – The Cllr agreed to book all sessions of the planning training so each Cllr can attend as many sessions when they are available.

12. To formally appoint Internal Auditors for 2024 audit – The Council agreed to appoint Heelis and Lodge as the internal auditor.

13. Village Events - The DDay event on the 6th June has been given grant funding from ESC to cover the expenses. Cllr Ireland to circulate the grant form so Cllrs know what has been agreed to be funded. The Parish Council are holding the grant money in a ringfenced fund for this event.

Open Gardens – to be held on the 16th June.

Classics on the Green – to be held on the 11th July. Cllr Mahony suggested that the fund raising aspect of this event could be made clearer.

14. Village Green – The materials for the fencing have been paid so work can now begin. Date to be arranged. There is a shortfall in VAT which is not covered by the grant but this can be covered by the Council until claimed back.

The Council agreed the contractor for mowing the grass.

Cllr Carlaw will look into lifting the crowns of the trees on the Green.

Cllr Shipman agreed to some research concerning the current lease. The results of this research will shape the approach made to Blackheath Farms.

15. Footpaths – Completed in the public forum.

16. Speed reduction plans – The Council approved the expenditure of £5501.40 for the road markings and posts.

Cllr Carlaw will follow up queries raised following the ANPR camera that was recently in the village. Cllr Ireland will enquire as to whether Friston can have a mobile speed camera/van. Cllr Shipman will research new village name signs.

17. Village Hall – a new cleaner has been found for the Hall. A lone working assessment will be undertaken by Cllr Carlaw.

18. Allotments - No updates this meeting.

19. Accounts – The accounts for payment were agreed by the Council

20. Correspondence - none

21. Exempt item - no longer required.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on the 8th July 2024 at 7pm

Signature of Chair _____ Date _____