Minutes of the Meeting of Friston Parish Council held in the Village hall on **Monday 2nd December 2024 at 6pm**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Councillors present:** | **Also present:** |
| Cllr Paul Carlaw | Jess Palmer (Parish Clerk) |
| Cllr Mary Shipman | 8 members of the public |
| Cllr Wendy Ireland |  |
| Cllr Carole Slack |  |
|  |  |

**MINUTES**

**127/24 Apologies for absence**

Cllr S McNicoll and Cllr M Mahony sent their apologies.

**131/24 Chair of Friston Parish Council**

Cllr Ireland was appointed Chair of the Council

**128/24 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

Wendy received a packet of seeds from East Suffolk Council.

**129/24 Minutes of the previous meetings**

It was unanimously resolved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting, subject to a change in item 112: SPC to be amended to National Grid

**130/25 Open Forum**

A member of the public raised an issue with being able to hear during the Parish Council meetings. It ewas agreed to move public seating closer and for Councillors to speak louder.

A member of the public identified himself as Steven Barett of Myrtle Cottage. He wanted to make the Parish Council aware that he did not object to the planning application his neighbour had submitted (item 135a) and that he is concerned with nuisance – engaging with a dialogue with neighbour regarding the diminution of his property and the enjoyment of his property and wants to make the Parish Council aware of his approach to his concerns – to seek an amicable, neighbourly resolution. applied for planning for extension which he did not object to. A further application for 2 structures has been submitted – he will not object to that. Is Does not want

Annabel and Simon from Grove Road have asked Elizabeth to raise the works in Grove Road and how it is negatively impacting them. Regularly blocked in by construction, have been dismissive. Noise is impactful and construction noise is starting before the allowed time. Cllr Shipman gave the name of SPR representative who she is in contact with. Residents have contacted SPR already and seek a better, more direct way to resolve the issue. Requested the Parish Council place noise monitoring equipment and offered his land as a site for them.

Action – JP to contact Suffolk County Council and Highways (Steve) Sarah Whitelock suggested copying in District Councillor too. Cllr Whitelock recommended keeping a log and taking photographs.

MOP – spoke to another resident who was stuck behind a large plant vehicle as something was unloaded – there are no signs to warn drivers of the road being closed & it is a difficult place to turn around.

Action – JP to publish SPR contact details and what to do when encountering problems with Grove Road closure and plant vehicles. PLUS Highways reporting tools

MOP raised issues with damage to road signs and footpaths – JP will remind residents of reporting tools.

MOP raised a letter received from National Grid that their property may be affected by works going on. Making Parish Council aware. Cllr Shipman relayed residents reporting that they find these communications unsettling.

Action MOP will scan & email to the Clerk so the Parish Council can consider whether we can advise.

**132/24 Reports:**

1. County Councillor reports – Cllr Slack raised that it has now been over a year that a County Councillor has been present at a meeting, we should invite Cllr Reid to a meeting. Action – JP will add to website each month. Cllr Shipman highlighted a portion proposing joining Suffolk, Essex and Norfolk to create a larger local authority. Cllr Whitelock reported that a white paper is expected before Christmas which should make things clearer. It is likely that there will be a mayor for East Anglia. Shared concerns that proposed changes will take Councillors further from residents.
2. District Councillor reports – Cllr Whitelock highlighted: bin collections over Christmas – Action – JP to add to website. East Coast Flyway: from Humber to Thames designated Natural Wild Heritage Site UNESCO – has been accepted as a possible, on a shortlist. Brings worldwide recognition but no extra protection. Council will be written to for their comments. Encourage residents to re-gift unwanted items, shop local, buy pre-loved, gift experiences; partly for green agenda, partly because waste services cannot cope. Information about it can be found on East Suffolk website – JP to share on Friston website too.
3. Other meetings – none

**133/24 Energy Projects**

1. Reports from Cllr Mahony - Cllr Shipman delivered an update from Cllr Mahony. Frison watercourse – SPR will only maintain between Church Road and Grove road, leaving out Low Road. Environment Agency have weighed in stating that they have the right but not the obligation to maintain the watercourse. FPC are pursuing a meeting between all bodies to resolve. Flood risk during construction and operation are both significant. Timing/schedule of construction is not clear, SPR have suggested preparatory work may start Easter next year. Southern Transport forums demonstrate impact of construction is being felt at Friday Street junction, 2 village bypass is going ahead but won’t be ready in time for the main…..highlighted pressure on surrounding roads.
2. Reports from County and District Councillors or external bodies – Report from Naomi Hayes was delivered. Cllr Shipman Highlighted a new project mentioned called Manor Farm.

**134/24 Finance**

1. Reserves policy – It was unanimously approved
2. Financial regulations – It was resolved to defer
3. Payments, rec
4. Budget Vs Actual and forecasted spending
5. General reserves
6. Earmarked reserves
7. Budget 2025/2026
8. NALC pay rise – Unanimously resovled
9. NALC back pay - approved
10. Pre-approved payments
11. Upcoming payments – Remove E Fire and add waste clearance, up to £100 - Approved

**135/24 Planning**

1. planning application DC243084FUL (4 Church Walls Cottage) – Cllr Shipman precised the plans. Cllr Slack queried that the pottery studio is for a hobby, not commercial use. Council opt for no comment, subject to neighbour consultations.
2. planning application DC243780FUL (1 Church Road) - Unanimously resolved – no comment.

**136/24 Thermal Imaging camera project -** Clerk delivered – unanimously resolved to not engage. Action – JP to place in the SWIFT.

**137/24 Defibrillators –** Cllr Ireland has been approached to request defib training. Due to remote location, she feels it would be beneficial. Had been made aware of a charity which provides defibs, training and maintenance. Is based in Norfollk but would be willing to come to Friston to deliver training as long as there were around 20 people interested in training. Action – JP to approach Sue Jackson to ensure she is happy to continue. JP to check ownership and whether Sue is happy to continue monitoring it.

Action – Wendy to contact Norfollk charity re training and adding another defibrillator.

Noted that training was requested but the Council could not afford it.

**138/24 Village Green**

1. **Tree maintenance** Noted HSE issue with height of lower branches of 13 trees on the green and obscuring footpath and road signs– trim the trees to a height of 2m quote for £500 for the works. Cllr Slack shared concerns regarding potential harm to biodiversity and whether access to beneath the trees was necessary and whether the grass needs cutting underneath. Cllr Carlaw noted the worry that people will hit their heads onto the branches. Cllr Shipman concurred. Cllr Ireland suggested off-setting the works with re-planting elsewhere. Cllr Slack relayed information she has been gathering regarding the Council’s duty toward biodiversity and suggested the managing the green, as a whole, needs a holistic approach and that this should be part of a larger discussion about the biodiversity in general in the village. Cllr Shipman suggested that the Councillors meet on the green to formulate a plan.

Cllr Slack agrees that some work is required and requested more time. Item deferred to January after Cllrs have been able to meet on the green. Cllr Ireland suggested setting a budget and agreeing, Proposed and carried.

Scope of work to be decided, budget set at £500

1. **Rocker plank -** £100 quoted from Barry Smith to – unanimously resolved. Action – Paul to contract Barry to carry out the work.

Cllr Ireland reported on bulb planting project on the green – 800 planted. A map has been made so the mower can avoid Cllr Ireland noted her thanks to the members of the community who carried out the project.

**139/24 Village Hall – Clerk delivered update – MOP suggested Waveny Valley Fire**

PAT Testing – Action JP to get us on schedule. Paul raised that bookings Clerk role – standing down. Cllr Ireland will ask someone to take over. Cllr Carlaw will stand down at the end of Jan

**140/24 Community events**

1. **Calendar** – Cllr Ireland reported the project is in profit and estimates several hundred £s will be donated to the Village Hall as a result.
2. **Bulb -** covered

**141/24 Highways and Byways**

1. **Speed –** Resident has agreed to co-ordinate the project (Caroline). Waiting for the codes from Police which will allow them to carry out the speedwatch days

Traffic calming measures – dragons teeth and roundels have been installed. Contractor has noted discrepancy between plans and quotes, FPC have requested 16 posts in total. Contractor is stating FPC will need to pay more for the work but cannot give a figure, FPC are maintaining they need to swallow cost since the mis-quote was their mistake. FPC stance is that the work should go ahead but do not expect to pay more.

1. **Footpaths –** Badger site – no.7 from Grove Road to allotment is impassable, signage is broken. Cllr Ireland has reported it on reporting tool, encouraged others to do the same. – Action – add into SWIFT. JP to report to Rights of Way. Wendy to send photos. Footpath has very large badger set on it. There are licensed traps present. Natural England have directed Cllr Ireland to request FOI to know the details in this. Action – JP to look into this. (contact Wendy for details) Diagonal path towards Friston Hall – Farmer has been accommodating while cows were in the field – most people reported positive feedback, one complaint about smell and noise.
2. **Dog waste bins –** Complaints from residents about them being missed by East Suffolk Services.
3. **Repeater signs reporting tool –** Cllr Ireland has reported to Highways the speed repeater signs have been reported and replaced.

**142/24 Allotments**

1. **Agreements –** Adopted
2. **Plot holder –** Noted all plots are occupied.
3. **Fees –** Keep fees the same – action: JP to research whether fees are in line with other parishes.

**143/24 Insurance –** delegate authority to Paul & JP to amend insurance. £300k valuation on insurance policy.

Update Clerk’s details.

**144/24 New Councillor on-boarding process -** defer

**145/24 Correspondence –** Will engage – Action: Mary will reply.

The meeting closed at 20:15

**The next meeting of the Parish Council is on 2nd December at 6pm**

Jess Palmer

Parish Clerk