

**Friston Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2009 in Friston Village Hall**

**Open Forum:** There were no comments raised.

The parish council meeting started formally at 7. 35

**Present:** Cllrs. C. Duncan (Chair), A. Patterson, P. Watkiss, D. Smith, B. Duncan, F. Cardy and M. Gow. SCCllr. R. Clarke, SCDCllr C. Fidler, the Clerk and one member of the public were also present. Apologies received from PCSO Taylor (another meeting)

**1. Apologies**

There were no apologies

**2. Declarations of interest**

None

**3. Minutes**

3.1. The minutes of the meeting 26.1.09 were **approved** as an accurate record

3.2. Matters arising: It has still not been possible to identify who is applying weedkiller along Church Path. A resident living there has agreed to contact Cllr Patterson when next observed. It was **agreed** this will be a standing agenda item until it is resolved.

**4. Finance**

4.1. The receipt of VAT claim January to Dec 2008 of £460.29 was noted

4.2. The following cheques were **approved** for payment and signed:

VHMC	Hall Hire 19.1.09/9.3.09/23.2.09		101086	£24.00
Lynne Moore	Jan 2009 £162.55			
	Feb 2009 £120.70		101087	£283.25
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>£307.25</b>

4.3. The following bank reconciliations were noted

Barclays Community Account:	£975.34 (includes VAT refund)
Barclays Instant Access Savings account (former Bus Prem Acc)	£3,350.20
Ipswich Building Soc VG Account:	£4,921.20

**5. Planning**

Planning application CO9/0233 for temporary repairs to The Mill, Mill Road, Friston were discussed and will be returned to Suffolk Coastal District Council with no objection.

**Action:** Clerk

**6. Parish Clerk**

The appointment of new clerk, Lesley Sutton, was confirmed and **approved** with effect from 2.3.09. This allows for a handover with the current clerk before she finishes work on 31.3.09. Full contact details for the new clerk will be sent to councillors on handover. The outgoing Clerk was thanked for her work and wished well for the future.

**7. SCDC consultations on Local Development Framework and Site Specific Allocations**

The meeting was closed to receive information from Cllr Fidler about these policies. The meeting reopened to discuss the draft reply of Friston PC in response to the letter from the Principal Planning Officer (both previously circulated). The **agreed** response was a strong objection to development of the plot behind Orchard Bank (776e), and to request the change in hierarchy of Friston from Local Service Centre (Level 4) to Other Villages (Level 5).

It will be submitted to the Principal Planning Officer in time for the extended deadline of 16<sup>th</sup> March. It was noted that several residents had also sent in objections to development of plot 776e

**Action:** Clerk

#### **8. SCC**

The meeting closed to hear a report from Cllr Clarke (on file) and reopened to agree that it would not submit any further comments to the Local Government Review

#### **9. SCDC**

Nothing to add to comments recorded under item 7

#### **10. Police**

A report from PCSO Taylor was previously circulated. Cllr Patterson noted reports of a further theft of fuel oil from a house in Mill Road. Cllr Gow referred to vandalism by motorbikes riding on the village green and splay, resulting in damage to the grass. The matter was reported to the police but the response was not helpful. Cllr Clarke offered to pursue the matter by informing the Safer Neighbourhood Team and keep councillors informed through the clerk.

#### **11. To approve Risk Assessment, Review of Internal Controls and Review of Internal Audit for 2009**

A updated version of each of the above reviews were circulated with the agenda. They were each **approved** and signed.

#### **12. Correspondence**

The following correspondence was noted:

- From Mr. C. Wentworth : acknowledgement of e-mail from clerk about parking alongside Grove Road
- From Mr. and Mrs. Shipman – copy of correspondence with Suffolk County Council re maintenance of Church Path.

#### **13. Dates of forthcoming meetings**

Meetings about the Shoreline Management Plan and Local Government Reorganisation were noted. Cllr Clarke was asked to let the Parish Council know of the amount of money spent by the County Council on work for the Boundary Committee.

#### **14. Village of the Year competition**

It was **agreed** that Friston would enter this for 2009. Cllr Patterson will do a draft of the entry form. The closing date is 15<sup>th</sup> May, with judging rounds taking place in June and August. The council learned that judges considered such things as up-to-date notice boards, community spirit, atmosphere, verges and litterbins.

#### **15. Spring Clean Suffolk 2009**

It was **agreed** that councillors would undertake the Spring Clean in April as in other years, but that the event was an opportunity to involve the village more widely. It was also **agreed** a leaflet to invite villagers to take part in keeping the village tidy in June, to coincide with the Open Gardens and judging of the Village of the Year competition, would be circulated with the village information sheet and Parish Council newsletter. **Action** Cllr C Duncan will liaise with the Clerk to get this notice drafted, printed and to councillors for distribution

#### **16. Bespoke training**

An invitation from Snape Parish Council to link up with bespoke training was discussed but no training needs were identified.

## **17. Matters of concern raised by Councillors**

- The grass cutting contractor has said he could not cut the green because of the number and size of molehills. Councillors **agreed** the stones and earth needed clearing and the village handyman would be asked to do this. **Action** Cllr Patterson will co-ordinate the clearance and first cut of the year between the handyman and contractor.
- Once the new Clerk has started, the council will consider creating a small finance committee and giving over the December meeting each year to full consideration of the budget. This will strengthen the Council's planning process
- Cllr Patterson noted that two footpath sign posts are down and will contact SCC to reinstate
- There was a recent incident when paramedics had difficulty finding a house in the village, stating they were not told the name of the person, only the address. Cllr Patterson said she would try to establish if this was standard procedure. Councillors expressed concern that this restriction would slow down how quickly emergency services could respond.
- The date of the October meeting would need to be changed and this is to go onto the agenda for the next parish council meeting.

## **18. Date of next meeting:**

The Annual Parish Meeting is on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2009** at 7.30, to be followed by a short business Parish Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Mrs. H. Wright raised the following points after the meeting:

- a) it was hard for people to comment on agenda items in the Open Forum at the start of the meeting as they don't always know what is to be discussed (The Council will review the Open Forum at the end of the trial period)
- b) recent flooding on the road to Saxmundham at the Fulford's first gateway. Flood signs were up quickly but then removed shortly before further flooding. The ditch itself was empty (Cllr Patterson has raised this with Highways)
- c) The grass along both sides of Church Path is not always cut in time and can be difficult for pushchairs (the village handyman will be cutting the grass between the hedge and footpath).