

## **FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of Fransham Parish Council held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025, at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Richard Watts (Chair)  
Cllr Emma Spratt  
Cllr Jessica Jones  
Cllr Peter Howells  
Cllr James Sheringham  
Cllr Andrew Lake

Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

### **1. Welcome and apologies for absence.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received from Cllr Taylor were approved. Apologies were also received from County & District Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris.

### **2. To receive any declarations of interest.**

There were none received.

### **3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025.**

Cllr Howells proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Jones and unanimously agreed by Council. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

### **4. To receive County/District Councillor reports.**

The Cllr had circulated written county reports; no matters were highlighted by Council.

### **5. Open Forum for Public Participation.**

There were no members of the public present.

### **6. Highway Matters.**

#### **a) To receive updates in respect of issues previously reported.**

- New Gate on Footpath 6 (Station Road) – Highways are investigating to see if there is a valid reason for the gate – this item will be removed from the agenda until Highways make a decision.
- Loose drain covers on A47 – reported to National Highways.
- Grit Bin on Crown Lane – Highways have been requested to refill.
- Pothole and Grass Verge on land at Crown Lane – investigations have revealed that responsibility lies with Flagship/Residents.

- SLOWS – Council noted that at least one has been painted and checks will be made on the others.
- Hedgerow opposite trod on Station Road – reported to Highways and letter sent to landowners.

**b) To receive an update on requests to National Highways for a pedestrian crossing and an extension of the pavement from Spicer's Corner.**

Council agreed that this matter should be chased up in the new year.

**7. Planning Matters.**

**a) New Applications.**

There were no new applications to consider.

**b) Decisions Due.**

Council noted the following application has been refused.

- PL/2025/1430/FMIN - Barn Off Station Road Station Road, Great Fransham - resurrection of a previously existing brick & tile single storey calf house.

No decisions have been made on the following applications.

- PL/2025/0998/FMAJ – land at Dykewood Farm, Beeston - proposed construction of ground mounted solar panel arrays and associated infrastructure.
- PL/2025/1312/FMIN – The Cottages, Drury Square, Beeston - proposed change of use of land for the stationing of 3No mobile homes for residential use, a proposed day room ancillary to that use as well as 3No touring caravans, hardstanding and parking areas as well as refuse storage area.

**c) To consider any response to the Breckland Local Plan consultation.**

Council noted that the site adjacent to Lime Tree Crescent has been included in the plan with approval for ten dwellings. It was agreed not to submit any further comments.

**d) To receive an update on the Planning Enforcement matter.**

Council noted that permission was not required for a new entrance on an unclassified road. Advice will be sought as to whether permission is required for new signage on the A47.

**8. To receive an update regarding the proposed local solar farms and any update from the George Freeman, MP, solar farm steering group.**

Council noted that the proposed sites are awaiting connections to the National Grid. Cllr Jones will attend a solar farm presentation next week.

**9. To receive a report and to consider any issues arising from the regular inspections of council assets.**

The Chairman reported that all is in good order.

**10. To receive an update regarding the plaque on the Village Sign and to consider new plaques for the bus shelters.**

There was no update in respect of this matter.

**11. To receive an update regarding the installation of a second defibrillator in the village.**

Council continues to await the reopening of the Canary & Linnet to progress this matter.

**12. To receive an update regarding improvements to the appearance of the village.**

Council noted that a permit is required to plant flowers on highway verges. It was agreed that bulbs may be preferable to wildflowers and members will consider suitable locations for the next meeting.

**13. To consider any action to improve phone coverage in the village.**

Cllr Lake reported that there had been a medical emergency during the recent unplanned power cut and no phone signal had been available. Council agreed to urge District/County and the local MP to take action on this issue.

**14. To note the meeting dates for 2026.**

The meeting dates for 2026 were noted.

- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May (Annual Parish (6.30pm) & Annual Council Meetings)
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July
- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November

**15. Finance & Governance Matters.**

**a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.**

The financial report (attached) was noted.

**b) To consider approval of a Lone Working Policy.**

Cllr Watts proposed approval of the policy, this was seconded by Cllr Sheringham and unanimously agreed by Council.

**c) To consider approval of the budget and set the precept for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027.**

Council considered the budget and noted the increasing costs and a possible spend for the extension of the trod. Cllr Lake proposed approval of the budget with a precept of £6,500 for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027, this was seconded by Cllr Watts and unanimously agreed by Council. This increase will result in an annual increase of £1.37 for a Band D property.

**d) To consider approval of the following payments and note any receipts.**

Cllr Howells proposed approval of the following payments, this was seconded by Cllr Lake and unanimously agreed by Council. The receipts were noted.

PAYMENTS

P14	Norfolk PTS – 2 x Induction Training for Cllrs	£156.00
P15	Grass Contractor – 2025 payment	£1,372.00
P16	Bus Shelter Clean	£100.00
P16A	SLCC Membership (Clerk)	£24.70
P13	Clerk – Salary & Allowance (October)	£154.35 (SO)
P13	HMRC – PAYE	£36.00
P17	Clerk - Salary & Allowance (November)	£154.15 (SO)
P17	HMRC – PAYE	£36.20

RECEIPTS

R3	Breckland Precept (2 of 2)	£3,000.00
	Bank Interest	£25.80

**16. Correspondence for circulation.**

There was no correspondence for circulation.

**17. To receive any new items for the next meeting.**

No new items were received for the next meeting.

**18. To note the next meeting of Fransham Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026, at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.**

The date of the next meeting was noted and the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.32pm.

Signed:

Date:

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FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL - YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2026						
FINANCIAL REPORT - NOVEMBER 2025						
BUDGET UPDATE	Actual	Budget	To	%		
	2024/25	2025/26	Date	Spend		
<b>PAYMENTS*</b>					<b>Bank Balance at 01.04.2025</b>	<b>9,044.24</b>
Admin	1,063	1,487	939.01	63%	Plus Receipts at 31.10.2025	6,187.49
Salary	2,063	2,199	1,442.84	66%	Less Expenditure at 31.10.2025	2,490.80
Maintenance	215	150	-	0%		<b>12,740.93</b>
Grass Cutting	1,734	1,764	1,764.00	100%	Balance at 31.10.2025	
Bus Shelters	300	520	350.00	67%	Community Current Account	4,977.77
Donations	100	50	-	0%	Business Savings Account	7,799.16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,475</b>	<b>6,170</b>	<b>4,495.85</b>			12,776.93
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				<b>Received</b>	Plus any outstanding receipts	-
Precept	5,750	6,000	6,000.00	100%	Less any outstanding payments	36.00
Bank Interest	130	20	51.69			<b>12,740.93</b>
Recycling	-	40	10.82	27%	including:	
HMRC	-		-		Highway Reserves	2,026.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,880</b>	<b>6,060</b>	<b>6,062.51</b>		<b>GENERAL RESERVE</b>	<b>10,714.93</b>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>		<b>- 110.00</b>	<b>1,566.66</b>			

\*includes payments awaiting authorisation at this meeting as listed on the agenda.