

FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Fransham Parish Council, held on Tuesday 15th July 2025, commencing at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Richard Watts (Chair)
Cllr Andrew Lake
Cllr James Sheringham
Cllr Emma Spratt
Cllr Katharine Robinson
Cllr Gerry Taylor

County & District Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris (arrived late).
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

Cllr Sheringham declared an interest in item 8c and will leave the room when the matter is discussed.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 20th May 2025.

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

4. To note the one council vacancy and consider the co-option of a new member.

Council noted the continuing vacancy and an advert will be placed on Facebook and Church & Village.

5. To receive County/District Councillor reports.

This item will be dealt with upon the arrival of the County/District Cllr.

6. Open Forum for Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present.

7. Highway Matters.

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

Council noted the following updates:

- New Gate on Footpath 6 (Station Road) – Highways will be contacting the landowner.
- Footpath behind layby on A47 – foliage encroaching and now cleared.

- Flooding on Dereham Lane – reported to Highways and will be resolved.
- 2 x Potholes on Station Road –one repaired and one awaiting repair.
- Loose drain covers on A47 will be reported to National Highways.

b) To receive an update regarding activities in the Canary & Linnet car park and reported to the Police and National Highways.

Council noted that the Canary & Linnet is now in new ownership and this item will be removed from the agenda.

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

This item remains in abeyance until the next financial year.

d) To consider any projects for funding under the Parish Partnership Scheme, including an extension to the trod.

Cllr Watts proposed an application to extend the trod an additional five metres, to extend the end beyond the large puddle, this was seconded by Cllr Robinson and unanimously agreed by Council.

At this point in the meeting, County & District Cllr Kiddle-Morris arrived and item 5 was dealt with as follows:

County & District Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported on the following issues:

Norfolk and Suffolk will vote on a mayor in May 2026 and they will be responsible for strategic transport, infrastructure, housing etc, and also the PCC and Fire Service, if they wish.

The Norfolk Community Fund is open for applications from local groups and organisations for grants between £250 and £2,500, with match funding required for grants over £500.

The Local Plan call for sites has been completed and there are over 400 sites to consider. Breckland now needs to find an additional 300 homes per year and it is likely that some of those will have to go into rural parishes. In response to a query, no traveller sites are planned near to Fransham.

8. Planning Matters.

a) New Applications.

- PL/2025/0508/FMIN – Barn off Station Road, Great Fransham - Proposal: Resurrection of a previously existing brick & tile single storey calf house – after due consideration, Cllr Watts proposed that comments regarding the history of the site and a possible restriction be submitted, there was no seconder for this proposal. Cllr Taylor then proposed that 'no comment' be submitted, this was seconded by Cllr Robinson and unanimously agreed by Council.

b) Decisions Due.

Council noted the following application has been approved.

- 3PL/2022/0957/F – land at Grovewood House, Station Road - conversion of existing barn to holiday let.

c) To receive an update regarding the Local Plan, including the recent Round Table event.

Following due consideration, Cllr Watts proposed a submission to the consultation to include:

- There is a need for smaller, affordable housing in the village for families.
- The second part of Lime Tree Crescent should be the priority site, having been commenced some 50 years ago and never completed.
- Council has no objections to any of the sites put forward in the recent 'call for sites'.
- A community benefit would be a green space to site a play area which the parish council would be responsible for.

This was seconded by Cllr Taylor and unanimously agreed by Council.

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

There was no update in respect of this matter.

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

Cllr Watts reported that all was in order with the exception of the plaque on the Village Sign, which had faded lettering. Cllr Taylor volunteered to repaint it as it would be a challenge to remove the plaque. Cllr Taylor suggested fixing small plaques to the bus shelters, naming sources of funding.

11. To receive an update regarding installing a second defibrillator in the Village.

Council noted that no response had been received from the shop but with the reopening of the Canary and Linnet now likely, to consider this once it has opened.

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

Council noted the flyer has been printed and will be circulated in September, with the annual report.

13. To receive an update report regarding Community Resilience – Emergency and Civil Contingencies.

In the absence of any responses, it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

14. To consider the purchase of a new dog bin to site on Station Road at Great Fransham.

Cllr Sheringham proposed approval of the purchase of a dog bin for Station Road, at a cost of £129, plus £35 carriage, this was seconded by Cllr Lake and unanimously agreed by Council. Highways and Breckland have approved a new bin and it will be installed near the notice board.

15. Finance & Governance Matters.

a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2026.

The financial report (attached) was noted.

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

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

PAYMENTS

P6	Clear Councils Insurance	£529.24
P7	Clerk Salary & Office All (June)	£149.77 (SO)
P7	HMRC – PAYE	£35.00
P	Clerk Salary & Office All (July)	£149.77 (SO)
P	HMRC – PAYE	£35.00

RECEIPTS

R1	VAT Refund – 2024/25	£124.98
	Bank Interest	£25.89

16. Correspondence for circulation.

CPRE Norfolk Anti Mega Solar Alliance – Cllr Taylor proposed support of the Alliance, this was seconded by Cllr Spratt and unanimously agreed by Council.

Local Government Reorganisation – this was noted.

Roadside Nature Reserve – Lyons Green – this was noted.

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

There were no new items received for the next meeting.

At this point in the meeting, Cllr Robinson tendered her resignation to the Chairman. The Chairman thanked Cllr Robinson for all that she had done for the Council during her tenure and wished her well for the future. It was noted that volunteers to carry out regular checks on the defibrillator and manage the FB page would be required.

18. To note the next meeting of Fransham Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 16th September 2025, at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

The date of the next meeting was noted and the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.32pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL - YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2026						
FINANCIAL REPORT - JULY 2025						
BUDGET UPDATE	Actual	Budget	To	%	Bank Balance at 01.04.2025	9,044.24
	2024/25	2025/26	Date	Spend	Plus Receipts at 30.06.2025	3,150.87
					Less Expenditure at 30.06.2025	<u>1,408.62</u>
PAYMENTS*						10,786.49
Admin	1,063	1,487	744.31	50%		
Salary	2,063	2,199	699.08	32%	Balance at 30.06.2025	
Maintenance	215	150	-	0%	Community Current Account	3,157.53
Grass Cutting	1,734	1,764	-	0%	Business Savings Account	<u>7,773.36</u>
Bus Shelters	300	520	150.00	29%		10,930.89
Donations	100	50	-	0%	Plus any outstanding receipts	-
TOTAL	5,475	6,170	1,593.39		Less any outstanding payments	<u>144.40</u>
						10,786.49
RECEIPTS				Received	including:	
Precept	5,750	6,000	3,000.00	50%	Highway Reserves	2,196.66
Bank Interest	130	20	25.89		GENERAL RESERVE	8,589.83
Recycling	-	40	-	0%		
HMRC	-		-			
TOTAL	5,880	6,060	3,025.89			
SURPLUS/DEFICIT		- 110.00	1,432.50			

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