

## FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Fransham Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021 in Curd's Hall Barn.

**Present:** Cllr Richard Watts (Chairman)  
Cllr Russell James (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr Andrew Lake  
Cllr James Sheringham  
Cllr Gerry Taylor

Four members of the public  
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received from Cllrs Emma Spratt, Brian Drewitt and County & District Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris were approved.

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

Cllr Watts declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8a, Meadow Cottage, and will not take part in the discussion.

### **3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021.**

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

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

In his absence, a written report was received from Cllr Kiddle-Morris (attached).

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

Members of the public raised the following issues:

The pavements at Lime Tree Crescent have been cleared, with hedges cut and moss removed. The tree at No 4 has been cut back – Council had been informed that further works will be carried out.

The dip in the trod has been repaired although there is still standing water at the end where pedestrians step off. Council noted that it had been patched up but agreed it was likely to sink again, ideally it also needs to be wider. Unfortunately, the HGVs destroy the verge which does not help the situation. Council agreed to chase this up once again.

Some metal frames for signage have been left behind by National Highways on Station Road and Crown Lane – this will be reported to Highways.

The litter bins at the bus stops are not being emptied regularly and are full – this will be reported to Breckland.

Members of the public who were in attendance because of the planning application on Beeston Lane will be invited to speak when the application is discussed by Council.

**6. To receive a report in respect of the Proposed Vattenfall Wind Farms and the Offshore Transmission Network.**

Council noted the letter to the Secretary of State from the Parish Group, of which Fransham is a member, regarding the re-determination of the Norfolk Vanguard offshore wind farm project, to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. Council agreed that excellent work was being carried out by this group.

Cllr James circulated an article regarding the future of North Sea windfarms which highlighted that international links are likely to be required in the future.

**7. Highway Matters.**

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

Council noted the following updates:

- Dropped manhole covers on A47 – reported to National Highways, works awaited.
- Overgrown hedges/footpaths on A47 – works completed by National Highways.
- Overgrown Tree – 4 Lime Tree Crescent – letter sent to occupier and confirmation of works received – see item 5 above.
- Road Surface Dressing – loose chippings – C/Cllr will report to Highways – no action to date.
- No. 3 Station Road – Hedge root removal – works programmed by Highways – no action to date.
- FP4 – junction with Dereham Lane – broken stile – reported to Highways – no action to date.

Cllr Taylor reported that the Village Hall Committee will be repairing the broken gate at the Village Hall Field.

**b) To receive an update and consider any further action re the trod.**

This item had been discussed at item 5.

**c) To receive an update regarding HGV use of Station Road and the request for a ‘unsuitable for HGVs’ sign.**

Cllr James said it was disappointing the lack of progress in respect of this request and Council agreed to submit formal requests to National Highways and Norfolk County Council for signage. Cllr James will prepare draft letters for consideration of Council members.

It was noted that the transport licence for the depot at Great Dunham is due for renewal in the near future and Cllr James will investigate any action Council could take.

**d) To receive a report regarding Fransham in respect of the “A47 Alliance’s Priorities”.**

Council agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

**e) To consider the purchase of hedging plants, using the Highway reserves, for the westbound bus stop.**

Council agreed that as a goodwill gesture to the landowner who had kindly assisted during the installation process for the bus shelters, replacement hedging plants could be purchased to replace the hedge destroyed when a vehicle crashed into the bus shelter. Options for ‘free trees’ will be investigated initially.

**f) To consider any new highway issues.**

There were no new highway issues raised.

At this point in the meeting, Cllr James took the Chair.

**8. Planning Issues.**

**a) New Applications.**

- 3PL/2021/1365/F – Meadow Cottage, Beeston Lane – Erection of two detached houses and garages – members of the public raised the following issues in respect of this application and all were strongly opposed to the development:
  - Does not meet the criteria in the Local Plan – no services, pavements, limited electric supply, poor broadband, flooding issues.
  - Poor drainage, historically inappropriate – ex-common land, no new dwellings in area – all replacement dwellings on existing footprints.

Cllr Taylor proposed that Council object on the grounds that the development does not meet planning criteria, specifically Policies HOU05, TR01 and TR02 of the Local Plan and Policy CP14 of the Breckland Core Strategy and Development Control Policies (2009), and in support of local residents. This was seconded by Cllr Lake and agreed by Council.

- 3PL/2021/1371/D – Top Farm, Main Road - Approval of Reserved Matters Application (Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale) following outline permission 3PL/2018/0642/O - Erection 8 No. dwellings with associated parking – Council agreed a ‘no comment’ response.
- 3PL/2021/1385/F – Development site at Top Farm, Main Road - change of use of cartlodge to residential annex – Council agreed a comment that if permission is granted, a condition be imposed that the annexe must remain ancillary to the main dwelling.
- 3PL/2021/1447/HOU – High Gren Farm, Beeston Road - demolition of single storey double garage and utility room to be replaced with a two storey extension – Council agreed a ‘no comment’ response.

**b) Decisions Due.**

Council noted the following two decisions:

- 3PN/2021/0047/UC – Manor Farm, Main Road - Application for Prior Approval for the change of use of three agricultural buildings to four dwellings (Class C3) with associated development – APPROVED.
- 3PL/2021/1324/VAR – Development site, Crown Lane - Variation of Condition No 4 on 3PL/2018/0996/O – WITHDRAWN.

At this point in the meeting, Cllr Watts returned to the Chair.

**9. To receive a report from the Village Hall Committee regarding building works.**

Cllr Taylor reported that building work continued at the Hall, with the rainwater pipes recently being cleared as they had been causing further damp issues. The building is now drying and it is hoped painting will resume, with the Hall re-opening in the new year.

**10. To receive a Crime & Policing report.**

The Chairman reported there had been three reports in the Station Road area of anti-social behaviour, violence and a sexual offence, with one public order offence elsewhere.

**11. To consider any issues arising from the regular inspections of council assets including the repair/replacement of the two wooden benches and the dedication plate on the Village Sign.**

Cllr Lake reported that the bench on the Main Road was safe and no work was required. The bench at Church Farm was rotten and the slats needed to be replaced. Cllr Lake will make the bench safe and Cllr Taylor volunteered to look at replacement slats.

The plate on the Village Sign is blemished and Cllr Lake will investigate.

The War Memorial at Little Fransham Church, which the Parish Council has taken responsibility for, needs cleaning and the Clerk will investigate any available grants.

**12. To receive an update on the Local Quality Council Award Scheme.**

Cllr James reported that he had produced two further policy documents, as required by the scheme, a Donation policy and a Staff Assessment Procedure Policy.

**13. To receive an update from the Village Hall Committee regarding a village commemoration to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee in 2022.**

Cllr Taylor advised Council that the field adjacent to the Village Hall is the property of the Norwich Diocese and their permission would be required for any tree planting. A suggestion to replace two fallen trees in Great Fransham church will be taken forward and the Clerk will investigate any free trees available.

**14. To consider any action in respect of the Climate Change Emergency, including support of the CEE Bill.**

Council agreed there was little they could do as a parish council and agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

**15. Finance & Governance Matters.**

**a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2022.**

Council noted the fall in recycling income, probably due to lockdown at the pub. The report (attached) was noted.

**b) To appoint an internal auditor for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.**

Cllr Watts proposed that Mr Bergin be appointed as internal auditor for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 at a cost of £25, this was seconded by Cllr James and agreed by Council.

**c) To consider the budget and set the precept for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.**

Council accepted the budget and Cllr James proposed that the precept remain at the current rate of £4,250, this was seconded by Cllr Watts and agreed by Council.

**d) To consider approval of the following payments.**

Cllr James proposed approval of the following payments, this was seconded by Cllr Watts and agreed by Council.

- Clerk Salary & Allowance – Oct/Nov & HMRC Refund £230.40
- Grass Contractor £612.00

**16. Correspondence for circulation.**

Breckland Landscape and Settlement Character Assessment Survey – Cllr Watts will submit a response on behalf of Council.

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

There were no new items received for the next agenda.

**18. To confirm the next meeting of Fransham Parish Council will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 in the Village Hall.**

Council noted the date of the next meeting and the meeting then closed at 8.07pm.

Signed:

Date:

FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL - YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2022					
FINANCIAL REPORT - November 2021					
<b>BUDGET UPDATE</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Bank Balance at 01.04.2021</b>	<b>5,729.78</b>
	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Spend</b>	Plus Receipts at 29.10.2021	5,681.29
				Less Expenditure at 29.10.2021	<u>1,774.41</u>
<b>PAYMENTS*</b>					<b>9,636.66</b>
Admin	1,168.00	547.61	47%	<b>Balance at 29.10.2021</b>	
Salary	1,280.00	845.20	66%	Community Current Account	9,643.72
Maintenance	150.00	-		Business Savings Account	<u>27.94</u>
Grass Cutting	1,120.00	1,020.00	91%		9,671.66
Donations	50.00	-	0%	Less any outstanding payments (ICO)	<u>35.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,768.00</b>	<b>2,412.81</b>			<b>9,636.66</b>
				including:	
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			<b>Received</b>	Highway Reserves	2,656.61
Precept	4,250.00	4,250.00	100%	<b>GENERAL RESERVE</b>	<b>6,980.05</b>
Bank Interest	-	-			
Recycling	75.00	19.62	26%		
HMRC	-	23.20			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,325.00</b>	<b>4,292.82</b>			
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>557.00</b>	<b>1,880.01</b>			

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

**Breckland District Councillor for Launditch Ward**  
**Report November 2021**

Planning: The Breckland Local Plan was adopted by the Council in November 2019 and is set to run until 2036. However, 2 factors will affect the future viability of the plan. Firstly, the inspector when examining the plan in 2019 inserted a policy, INF03, which stated that 4 policies would need to be updated within 2 years of adoption. These areas were development requirements (HOU 01); economic development considering the A47 dualling between Tuddenham and Easton (EC 01); provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites (HOU 08) and technical design standards for new homes (HOU 10). Secondly the 2019 Local Plan was written according to the national guidance set out in the 2012 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF has been amended twice since 2012 (in Feb 2019 and again in July 2021) and many policies in our 2019 plan will need revisiting. In addition, there are various government initiatives which will affect planning policies going forward. There is no provision in the current Local Plan to take account of climate change.

The cabinet has decided to update the entire plan incorporating the requirements of INF 03. For various reasons (including the government moving the goalposts on housing requirement calculations, the A47 dualling having little economic impact on the economy until 2025 and a recent ongoing court case which would impact the definition of gypsy and traveller) the work on INF 03 has been delayed and is better incorporated in the full revision.

The NPPF requires all Local Plans to be reviewed within 5 years of adoption, the review is to decide whether the plan policies require updating with regards to national policy changes, local appeal decisions and other criteria. If the review identifies the need for some or all of a Local Plan policies to be updated then work will be carried out. A Local Plan does not become out of date after 5 years. Some policies may have less weight in planning judgement if they differ from national policy but a “free for all” for developers after November 2024 as has been quoted in some quarters is not likely.

The current Local Plan took over 6 years to produce and it is likely that any complete update may take as long. We may take comfort from the fact that Breckland is one of only 2 authorities to have a Local Plan in place.

Mark Kiddle-Morris.