

FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a virtual meeting of Fransham Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 15th September 2020.

Under the Coronavirus Act, the Secretary of State has published meetings regulations which remove the requirement to hold annual meetings and allow virtual meetings up to 7 May 2021. These are contained in The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

Present: Cllr Russell James (Chair)
Cllr Richard Watts (Vice Chair)
Cllr Emma Spratt
Cllr James Sheringham
Cllr Andrew Lake
Cllr Brian Drewitt

County & District Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris
One member of the public

Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Gerry Taylor.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none received.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21st July 2020.

Cllr Watts proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Sheringham and agreed by Council. The Chairman will sign the minutes in due course.

4. To receive County/District Councillor reports.

C & D Cllr Kiddle-Morris had circulated reports prior to the meeting and these are attached to the minutes. There were no issues raised in respect of the reports.

5. Open Forum for Public Participation.

A member of public was in attendance but had no issues to raise.

6. To receive a report in respect of the Proposed Vattenfall Wind Farms.

It was noted that this may go to a Judicial Review for which funding is being sought, which would delay any progress.

7. Highway Matters.

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

Council noted the following updates.

- Broken street light adjacent to westbound bus shelter – Highway England works programmed.
- Obstructing Hedge at 3 Station Road – there are now new branches growing out of the old stumps which need removing and the stumps injected to kill them. Highways are due to remove them but there had been a long delay and C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris will follow this up again.

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

Council noted that the trod was much improved this year due to the regular cutting of the surrounding verge, which had made it much easier to use. However, works to widen and resurface the trod were awaited and C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris will follow this up although the delay is likely due to the Covid-19 situation.

c) To receive an update regarding HGV use of Station Road.

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported that Highways would not install a 'unsuitable for HGVs' sign on Station Road as it would simply send vehicles onto other, as unsuitable routes. However, Council are keen that this option continue to be explored and the C/Cllr will go back to Highways.

Cllr Lake reported that there was little could be done about the local traffic, particularly that related to farming, however, vehicles using their sat-nav to get to Beeston were being sent down Station Road and a 'unsuitable for HGVs' sign would eventually stop this.

Cllr Drewitt volunteered to carry out a traffic census and to meet with a local traffic depot manager but there was no support from Council for this option.

d) To consider any new highway issues.

The hedge at The Pottery is obstructing the pavement and the residents will be requested to cut it back. Two manhole covers on the A47 have dropped and these will be reported to Highways England.

8. Planning Issues.

a) New Applications.

- 3PL/2020/0879/VAR – Lane Farm, Main Road - Variation of Condition No 2 on 3PL/2008/1332/F - Garden Room and Porch / Landing extensions are to be added – Council had no comment in respect of this application.

b) Decisions Due.

Council noted the following updates:

- 3PL/2020/0625/F – Peridaal, Beeston Lane - Change of use of outbuilding (currently gym/spa) to annexe – APPROVED.
- 3PL/2020/0604/F – Field House Farm, Station Road - change of use of land for proposed manege & associated fencing – Undecided.

9. To receive a report on the Bus Shelter Project & Repair.

Progress continued to be made regarding the repair to the damaged shelter and it was hoped works would be carried out during the last week of October, prior to any bad weather.

10. To receive a report from the Village Hall Committee regarding repairs & Covid-19 situation.

Cllr Spratt was pleased to report that a £10,000 grant had been received from Breckland and this will be enough for the damp works. However, a committee meeting will be held to make a decision as funds are required for on-going costs such as the insurance. The hall was not being used at present so there is no other income, although one new weekly booking had been received.

At this point in the meeting, D & C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris left the meeting.

11. To receive a Crime & Policing report.

The Chairman reported that in June there had been three reports of violence, with one ASB and one report of violence in July, however, he did remind Council that the locations may not be entirely accurate but this does give a picture of the local crime rates.

Cllr Drewitt reported that a recent police report had indicated that two vehicles with speeds of 105mph had been caught on the A47, with others caught doing 90mph.

12. Financial Matters.

a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2021.

There were no queries raised in respect of the financial report and it was noted.

b) To consider approval of the recommendations as set out in the Local Government Services Agreement 2020-21.

Cllr Watts proposed approval of the recommendations in the agreement, which related to pay and annual leave conditions for the Clerk, this was seconded by Cllr Sheringham and agreed by Council. The pay increase will be back-dated to 1st April 2020.

c) To consider approval of the following payments.

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

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| • Clerk Salary & Allowance – Aug/Sept & half year expenses | £241.90 |
| • HMRC | £0.40 |

13. Correspondence for circulation.

Council noted the following correspondence and there were no issues raised.

- Covid 19 Correspondence
- NALC Wellbeing – Various topics
- Norwich Western Link Local Access Consultation
- Boundary Commission Review

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

There were no new items received for the next meeting.

15. To confirm the next meeting of Fransham Parish Council will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 17th November 2020.

Council noted the date of the next meeting and provisionally agreed to continue meeting virtually.

The meeting closed a 7.48pm.

Signed:

Date:

County Councillor for Necton and Launditch Division

Report September 2020

Covid-19:

The latest information from NCC on the measures and response to the Covid-19 outbreak in Norfolk has been forwarded to you all. The recent outbreak in the Banham Poultry facility in Attleborough is being addressed through the Norfolk Local Outbreak Control Plan. This is a multi-agency operation involving NCC Public Health, Public Health England, NHS and Breckland Council. So far (Monday) 96 people have been tested positive out of 477 tests carried out. All staff at the plant are being asked to self-isolate for 14 days if they have not tested positive and for 10 days if they have had a positive test. Households of those workers who have tested positive should isolate for 14 days. Contact tracing is taking place to alert anyone who has been linked to a Banham Poultry worker. Support for those families in isolation who need food and medicine supplies is being given by the Norfolk Assistance Scheme.

Local Government:

A White Paper is expected this month which will outline the government's plans to reform local government. The proposals are widely expected to include the compulsory formation of unitary councils and to arrange several unitary councils into combined authorities which will be obliged to have an elected "mayor".

Waste Amnesty:

NCC are holding free hazardous waste disposal days during September and October at the recycling centres. The following are the dates and times for the nearest ones:

Dereham 2nd, 3rd, 4th October.

Hempton 9th, 10th, 11th October. Both centres are open from 9am to 4pm.

School Transport:

Changes in regulations regarding public transport mean that any bus or coach company offering fare paying transport to the public must use disability access buses (ie crouching buses). Unfortunately, this rule also applies to children whose parents purchase a discretionary seat on a home to school transport. Currently none of the school transport providers have purchased crouching buses. I have asked the local MP to make representations to government to reverse the decision, I await a response.

Mark Kiddle-Morris.

District Councillor for Launditch Ward Report for September 2020

Planning:

“Planning for the Future”: - The government is currently consulting on radical proposals to reform the planning system. The consultation, under the title Planning for the Future started on the 6th August and will run until the 29th October. The paper outlines 5 fundamental proposals: Streamline the planning process with more democracy taking place more effectively at the plan making stage; a radical digital first approach to modernise the planning process; bringing a new focus on design and sustainability; improve infrastructure delivery, ensuring developers play their part through reform of developer contributions; ensure more land is available for the homes and development people and communities need. Implementation of any of the above reforms will require primary legislation and it is anticipated that this will be pushed through in the next 12 months.

There is another planning consultation “Changes to the Current Planning System” also running from the 6th August but finishes on the 1st October. This details interim changes to the current planning guidance until the reforms detailed above take effect. Briefly the changes are: amendment to the standard method for assessing housing need; securing of First Homes which are sold at a discount (this separates(30%) to first time buyers through developer contributions; raising the small site threshold below which developers are not required to contribute affordable housing from the current 10 dwellings to 40 or 50 to support SME builders; extending the current “Permission in Principle” (this separates the consideration of matters of principle for proposed development from the technical detail) to major development.

A further consultation ending on 30th October is underway called “Transparency and Competition” which is proposing changes to improve the transparency of contractual mechanisms used to exercise control over land such as land options, rights of pre-emption and estate contracts.

All the details on the documents mentioned above and how to respond to the consultation are available on the gov.uk website.

Community:

The Breckland community Match Funding Scheme will be open to receive new bids for local improvement projects from 1st September. Details on how to apply are on the Breckland website.

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Waste Contract:

Your wheelie bin waste may be collected by vehicles other than those which display a Breckland logo. This is because Breckland has entered a joint agreement with the Borough of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk and North Norfolk District Council to pool resources and reduce the cost of waste collection. To ensure continuity in the event of contractual failure Breckland have purchased waste collection vehicles of sufficient number to carryout independent collections if necessary.

Mark Kiddle-Morris