

FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Fransham Parish Council held virtually at 7.00pm on Tuesday 19th January 2021.

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
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

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

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none received.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 17th November 2020.

Cllr Watts proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Lake 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 previously circulated a written report and this is attached. In addition, he reported that a Highways Engineer is now being recruited and, once in position, outstanding issues can then be moved forward.

Flooding issues were occurring, with more heavy rain forecast, but Highways, together with the Flood Authority, were dealing. He advised that any instances of internal household flooding should be reported to him as he could then advise in taking them forward.

In respect of Breckland Planning, it is anticipated that the Authority will have their five-year land supply until April 2022. However, the Government are revisiting the proposed changes to the planning system and it is anticipated that in the future more houses will need to be built in rural villages.

5. Open Forum for Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present.

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

Council noted that the Judicial Review was going ahead.

7. Highway Matters.

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

- Obstructing Hedge at 3 Station Road – C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris will chase this up once a Highways Engineer is in post.
- Dropped manhole covers on A47 – this has been reported to Highway England.

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

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris was advised that the trod was being damaged by HGVs, using it as a passing place. The C/Cllr will arrange for an inspection to be carried out and a plan for action to prevent this, as well as making it more user-friendly, will be put in place.

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

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris has submitted this request to the County Council/Highways England Liaison Committee for consideration as any signage will have to be placed on the A47, which is under the jurisdiction of Highways England and not the County Council. It was noted that there is an increased use of the road by HGV contractors.

d) To consider any new highway issues.

The Chairman requested that the dirty/slippery pavements alongside the A47 be reported to Breckland.

A complaint had been received regarding drainage issues along Station Road and C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris will take this matter forward.

8. Planning Issues.

a) New Applications.

There were no new applications for consideration.

At this point in the meeting, C & D/Cllr Kiddle-Morris left the meeting, the Chairman thanked him for his input.

b) Decisions Due.

Council noted the following decisions:

- 3PL/2020/0604/F – Field House Farm, Station Road - change of use of land for proposed manege & associated fencing – APPROVED.
- 3PN/2020/0048/UC – Agricultural Barn off Station Road - Prior approval for Conversion of agricultural building to dwelling House (C3) and works reasonably necessary Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q – REFUSED.
- 3PL/2020/1176/O – land to the rear of 2 Wood Farm Cottages, Goggles Lane - Erection of a rural worker's dwelling in association with long standing agricultural (game farm) business operating on the site and adjacent fields – APPROVED.
- 3PL/2020/1337/F – Land at Station Road – erection of a four-bedroom detached dwelling with garage – APPROVED.
3PL/2020/1361/F – development site, Main Road - proposed Development of 4 Bungalows with associated garages – Undecided.

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

Council noted that the replacement bus shelter was now in place and this item can be removed from the agenda.

10. To request a volunteer to carry out inspections of council assets.

Council agreed to a schedule of monthly inspections of council assets, including the bus shelters, seats and notice boards. Cllr Watts volunteered to carry these out and an inspection report form will be drawn up. It was also agreed to display a notice, requesting members of the public to report any issues to the Clerk.

11. To consider a noise complaint.

A complaint of noise from a property had been received but Council agreed this was not a parish council issue and will advise the complainant to contact the District Council, who had procedures in place to deal with such issues.

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

Cllr Spratt reported that the Hall remained closed at present due to the Covid situation, with the exception of one education booking, which was permitted under the current rules. Plans are in place for the damp repairs to be carried out in the summer.

Council noted a report from Cllr Taylor who had advised that the clothing bank, which had been supplied by a now-bankrupt company, was being removed. The Village Hall Committee had been unable to find an alternative supplier or anyone to remove the contents. No other company is prepared to take it on as they state it is too far from the A47.

13. To receive a Crime & Policing report.

Council noted that no crimes had been reported in November but three crimes of violence had been reported in Little Fransham during October.

14. Financial Matters.

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

Council noted the financial report.

b) To review the following policy documents.

The following documents were due for review, with only minor amendments being made. Cllr Lake proposed approval of all the documents, this was seconded by Cllr Drewitt and agreed by Council.

- Financial Regulations
- Risk Assessment & Management Policy
- Asset Register
- Code of Conduct
- Publication Scheme
- Retention & Disposal Policy

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.

• Clerk Salary & Allowance – Dec/Jan	£230.66
• ICO (Data Protection Renewal)	£35.00 (direct debit)
• Bus Shelter Replacement	£7,032.00 (paid 22.12.20)
• Annual Website Renewal (refund to Clerk)	£98.86

15. Correspondence for circulation.

- Transport East Survey to help shape the future of transport in the East of England – Council noted the survey but declined to comment.
- Letter of complaint with the following issues:
 - Blocked soakaways on Station Road – C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris is taking this matter forward (see item 7d).
 - Trod being used by HGVs as a passing place – C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris is taking this matter forward (see item 7b).
 - Vehicle obstructing Station Road – this has been reported to the police.
 - Damaged Clothing Bank at Village Hall – see item 12.
 - Fly Tipping at Lime Tree Crescent – this will be reported to Breckland and Council saw no merit in a warning entry in the Village Magazine.
- Council noted that an application had been submitted to County Council to amend the Definitive Map in respect of a restricted byway between Ivy Todd Lane at Necton and Crown Lane at Little Fransham, and that this is a decision for the County Council to make.

16. To note the meeting dates for 2021.

Council noted the meeting dates for 2021:

- Tuesday 16th March
- Tuesday 18th May (Annual Meetings)
- Tuesday 20th July
- Tuesday 21st September
- Tuesday 16th November

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

Cllr Sheringham requested that the website be added to the next agenda.

18. To confirm the next meeting of Fransham Parish Council will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 16th March 2020.

Council noted the date of the next meeting and the meeting then closed at 7.41pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

County Councillor for Necton and Launditch Division
Report January 2021

Budget:

The Council will set its budget for financial year 21/22 at a meeting to be held on 22nd February. The settlement from central government is broadly neutral; there has been a small increase in the Rate Support Grant and the Rural Services Delivery Grant but a reduction in the payment from new homes bonus. Despite this the Council will set a balanced budget which maintains the current level of services. However, inevitably there will be an increase in council tax; a 1.99% increase in the general rate and a 2% increase in the adult social care precept (up to 3% is permitted). As with all local authorities the Council must set a budget which is balanced over a 3-year period; the projection for 22/23 is for a tax rise of 2% plus 1% for adult social care.

Grass Cutting:

As reported in November the Councils mandatory consultation on the budget for 21/22 included a proposal to reduce the highways verge cuts on both C and U roads from 2 to one cut per year. In response to the consultation 63% of respondents agreed with the reduction, this will obviously be the subject of debate at the council tax setting meeting in February.

Members Code of Conduct:

In 2019 the Committee on Standards in Public Life requested the Local Government Association (LGA) to produce a model elected member code of conduct. The draft LGA model code was issued for consultation between 8th June 2020 and 17th August 2020. The final version of the LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct has now been issued. The NCC Standards Committee will consider its adoption on 18th January. Governments has indicated that all councils should adopt the code with or without minor amendments so that a standard code applies across all elected local councils.

Mark Kiddle-Morris.

Member for Necton and Launditch.

Norfolk County Council.