

## FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Fransham Parish Council held virtually at 7.00pm on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

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

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

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

The Chairman, Cllr James, had been unable to join the meeting due to poor internet connection and in his absence, Cllr Watts took the Chair. Apologies from Cllr Taylor were approved.

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

There were none received.

### **3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

Cllr Drewitt 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.**

County & District Cllr Kiddle-Morris had circulated written reports and these are attached. In addition, he reported that planning application at item 8b. 3PL/2020/1361/F would be put before the Chairman's Panel to consider if the decision should be considered by the Planning Committee, due to an unusual condition in the application.

He had met with the new Highway Engineer and the soakaways and grups on Station Road, the hedge at 3 Station Road and the location of a new grit bin would be investigated and progressed.

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

There were no members of the public present but Cllr Kiddle-Morris declared his candidacy in respect of the county elections being held on the 6<sup>th</sup> May.

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

Cllr Drewitt reported that the Judicial Review had been completed and was successful. C & D/Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported that the judgement was against the process, not the planning decision, particularly in respect of public consultation.

## **7. Highway Matters.**

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

As reported at item 4, C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris has taken the following two items up with the new Highway Engineer.

- Obstructing Hedge at 3 Station Road – Highways to remove.
- Soakaways/grups along Station Road.

The dropped manhole covers on A47 have been reported to Highway England who will programme the works in due course.

Both the dirty pavements along the A47 and the fly-tipping at Lime Tree Crescent were reported to Breckland and it was hoped that the fly-tipping had been dealt with, Cllr Drewitt will inspect.

The abandoned vehicle on Station Road had been reported to the Police and removed, however, it had only gone to a nearby layby on the A47 and this will again be reported to the Police.

Highway flooding issues were discussed and C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported that the water level was 140% higher than it should be and some gardens in the locality had water seeping up through the ground. A Norfolk Flood Forum has been established to address these issues and bring together the 36 flood agencies currently working in the county. Climate change will make flooding worse and it must be addressed. The County Council has set aside £3.5M for investigations.

Cllr Sheringham highlighted the planning decisions which allowed building on flood plains and the C/Cllr agreed that this was one area which needed addressing. Cllr Sheringham also queried the lack of dredging works etc done on the waterways, despite landowners paying their drainage rates. C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris stated that the Internal Drainage Boards are carrying out these works but the Environment Agency, with responsibility for some rivers, do not and are not accountable to anyone.

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

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris met with the Highway Inspector on site and this is being investigated.

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

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported that the request for a sign from the A47 had gone to the NCC/Highways England Committee for a decision. There were too many other routes onto Station Road to make any further signage practical.

### **d) To consider a request for a grit bin the Station Road/Drive junction.**

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris met with the Highway Inspector on site and this is being investigated.

### **e) To consider any new highway issues.**

Council noted that the potholes on Station Road had now been repaired and the Chairman advised members to report any highway issues to the Clerk immediately so any works could be programmed promptly by Highways.

## **8. Planning Issues.**

### **a) New Applications.**

- 3PL/2021/0268/VAR – Station Road, Little Fransham - Variation of Condition No 2 on 3PL/2020/1337/F – Council considered this application and agreed a ‘no comment’ response.
- 3PL/2021/0316/F – Crowe Hall, Dereham Lane - Replacement of existing nissan hut style agricultural building with modern insulated agricultural building – Council considered this application and agreed a ‘no comment’ response.

### **b) Decisions Due.**

Council noted that approval had been given to the following two applications:

- 3PL/2021/0055/D – Development Site, Crown Lane - Reserved matters application following outline pp 3PL/2018/0996/O- Residential development including the erection of 5 detached dwellings, garages and new access onto Crown Lane with formation of agricultural access.
- 3PL/2021/0056/D – Top Farm, Main Road, Little Fransham - Reserved matters application following outline application 3PL/2018/0642/O - for the erection of up to 8 No. dwelling.

A decision is awaited on the following two applications:

- 3PL/2021/0078/F – Agricultural Barn off Station Road - Conversion of agricultural barn to single storey four bedroom residential dwelling with associated landscaping and parking.
- 3PL/2020/1361/F – development site, Main Road - proposed Development of 4 Bungalows with associated garages.

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

Cllr Spratt reported that the Hall remained closed and the one regular booking had been lost, due to a more suitable location becoming available. It is planned to carry out the damp works in the summer.

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

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

Council noted that there were a very low number of crimes in the local vicinity reported in the latest Police newsletter.

## **11. To consider any issues arising from the inspection of council assets.**

The Chairman reported that he had inspected all Council assets and the notice boards were in good order. The two benches may need some remedial works in the future and he requested that other councillors take a look prior to the next meeting.

The plaque on the Village Sign is showing signs of rust and this may need to be addressed in the future.

## **12. To receive a report regarding the village website.**

The new in-house website was a great improvement on the previous site and Council agreed to add an item in the next village magazine to ensure everyone was aware of its existence.

Cllr Drewitt reported that there had been no Speedwatch volunteers come forward in response to the request on the website.

**13. To receive a report on the Local Quality Council Award Scheme.**

In the absence of Cllr James, this item was remitted to the May meeting.

**14. Finance & Governance Matters.**

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

Council noted the financial report.

**b) To consider any charity donations.**

During the year, requests had been received from the Village Hall Committee and Norfolk Citizens Advice. Cllr Sheringham proposed that a review be carried out in respect of the needs of the Village Hall once Covid was over, and a donation of £50 be made to Norfolk Citizens Advice. This was seconded by Cllr Lake and agreed by Council.

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

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

- Clerk Salary & Allowance – Feb/Mar & Expenses/HMRC Refund £283.58

**15. Correspondence for circulation.**

Council noted the correspondence and no actions were required.

- Email from NALC re Extension of Regulations to hold Virtual Meetings & Date of 2021 Annual Meetings.

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

There were no new items received for the next meeting.

**17. To confirm the Annual Meeting of Fransham Parish Council will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020, following the Annual Parish Meeting, commencing at 6.30pm.**

Council noted the date of the next meeting and the meeting then closed at 7.55pm.

Signed:

Date:

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## **District Councillor for Launditch Ward – Report Mark Kiddle-Morris**

### Budget:

At the budget and council tax setting meeting of the Council on the 25<sup>th</sup> February an increase of £4.95 for a band D property was agreed, making £98.73 payable. Over 70% of the properties in Breckland are in bands A – C, the annual increase will be lower for those properties. The budget for 2021/22 is balanced with no cuts to service delivery. However, there is pressure for savings requirement in the following years. Assumptions on the level of future funding from government have had to be made, the level of business rate retention and new homes bonus are at present uncertain and the government have not carried out the promised Fairer Funding Review. To alleviate the hardship that Covid has placed on families a £65k council tax hardship fund has been put in place to help those that are struggling to pay the tax.

### Partnership with South Holland:

At the meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> it was decided to start to unpick the long association with South Holland Council in Lincolnshire. For more than a decade the 2 councils have shared a chief executive and senior management team with consequent savings to the revenue budget. Place based working was necessarily introduced at the start of the Covid lockdown in March last year which led to both councils working independently, this and the potential for local government reorganisation occasioned a rethink of the partnership.

### Waste Collection:

A waste collection partnership between Breckland, Kings Lynn and West Norfolk and North Norfolk councils is due to start on 1<sup>st</sup> April. The waste collections in all 3 council areas will be carried out using the combined fleet of waste vehicles from all participating councils. Breckland has purchased a new fleet of vehicles to be wholly owned by the council to ensure continuity of collection in the event of any future breakdown in the partnership. The waste collection schedule within Breckland will remain unchanged.

Currently 99.5% of wheelie bins are emptied on the appointed day. In the last 3 months, to December, 106 waste collections were missed out of 62,020 properties in the district. Missed collections are generally collected within 3 days.

Mark Kiddle-Morris

## **County Councillor for Necton and Launditch Report March 2021**

### Budget:

The County Council set the budget for 21/22 at the February meeting. As related in previous reports the general council tax has been raised by 1.99% and the adult social care part of the tax has been increased by 2%. There is significant pressure on the budget through growth in demand especially in adult social care and making over £18m provision for short term Covid 19 pressures. However, the budget represents a continued sustained investment in maintaining and strengthening the councils key services while simultaneously providing the maximum possible resources to address ongoing Covid 19 costs which are expected to continue into 2021/22.

Included in the budget is £400k to be spent on renewal and expansion of local footpaths as well as a further £495k over the next 3 years on the Greenways project to which will benefit the health and wellbeing of Norfolk residents.

Members personal budget has been increased from £6k to £10k and as well as small highway improvements can also be used to support environmental projects.

### Highways:

At last, a new highway engineer has been appointed and he started work last week. I have planned to escort him around my division next week to impart some of my local knowledge as he does not know this part of Norfolk. Another 2 members of staff have also been recruited to the highways team for this area so there is now a full complement of inspectors and technicians.

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