

FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Fransham Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th July 2019 at 7.00pm, in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Russell James (Chairman)
Cllr Richard Watts (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr James Sheringham
Cllr Gerry Taylor
Cllr Brian Drewitt

District & County 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 Emma Spratt.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none received.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21st May 2019.

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

4. To receive County/District Councillor reports.

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported that the Council had returned to the cabinet system and two meetings had been held. At the most recent meeting, Council had approved the Western Link preferred route, however, protests were expected as the River Wensum was highly protected but it is anticipated that any problems can be mitigated. Funding has yet to be confirmed but the application will be submitted via a Development Consent Order which is a faster process than the normal planning procedure. A start date of 2022 is anticipated, with the road due to open in 2025.

County Council are currently looking at the transport strategy for the next five years, there is currently a £36M backlog of repairs, predominantly footpaths.

The C/Cllr continues to raise the issue of the trod with Highways; unfortunately, the inspection cycle on C roads is every six to twelve months, but trods, which are mostly on C roads, need a more regular inspection. He will also raise the issue of the quality of the trod surface.

The verge grass cutting has been poor this year, however, meetings with the contractors have taken place and the service should now improve, particularly at the visibility splays.

D/Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported that the Breckland Local Plan was due to be signed off by the Inspector in August, with Breckland ratifying it in September, there will then be a five-year land supply; approximately 700 houses need to be built every year.

In respect of the Bridleway gate at Great Fransham, the Cllr advised that the Clerk takes this forward via her BHS access officer contact.

5. Open Forum for Public Participation.

The following issues were raised by a member of the public:

- They no longer trim the trod due to the lack of public liability insurance and consequently it has become overgrown - Cllr Drewitt suggested that the council provide insurance cover for the volunteer and C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris will investigate the liability for volunteers working on highway land.
- The village looks neglected, weeds on the pavements and long grass in places where it should be cut. This should now improve (see item 4 above, paragraph 4).
- The S bend sign on Station Road needs repair – this will be reported.
- The trees on Station Road were not cut back over the road and consequently branches are being knocked off by HGVs onto the road – this will be reported.
- A car has been parked on Station Road for six months or so, obstructing the pavement, and despite being reported to the police, it remains there – the Chairman will speak with the owner of the vehicle.
- Overgrown Hedge at No. 10 Station Road – the Chairman will speak with the owner of the property.

6. To consider the one vacant Council seat.

The Chairman will approach a previous member of the Council to determine if they wish to rejoin.

7. To receive a report in respect of the Proposed Vattenfall Boreas & Vanguard Offshore Wind Farms.

The application has now been submitted via a Development Consent Order, and a prompt decision will be made. Cllr Drewitt expressed disappointment that the application did not include the offshore ring main as promoted by George Freeman MP.

8. Highway Matters.

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

- Bridleway Gate at Great Fransham – a BHS access officer will be consulted.
- Flooding at Love Lane/Bradenham Road junction – Highways will not take any action at this time. The Clerk requested photos of the problem when it occurs. Members of the public can assist with this.

b) To consider any action required re the trod.

This had been dealt with earlier in the meeting at items 4 and 5.

c) To consider an application under the Parish Partnership Scheme.

Council will consider any ideas for consideration at the September meeting. Applications must be submitted by December 2019.

d) To consider any new highway issues.

A pothole on Station Road at Great Fransham will be reported.

Members were asked to report any highway issues to the Clerk as soon as possible, rather than waiting for the next meeting, so Highways can deal promptly.

9. Planning Issues.

a) New Applications:

- 3PL/2019/0612/O - Land at Kirkhams Meadow Little Fransham - Residential development - three dwellings.

It was agreed that the Council can only recommend approval of this application subject to no objections from the Highways Authority. However, previous applications on this site have been rejected because of the access road, with specific reference to its width. The Council believes the 4.8m width can only be achieved by taking into account the footpath and kerbstones. This is an area where children regularly play and Council wish to ensure that the footpath remains safe for them to do so. In view of this Council feel that approval should be refused.

b) Decisions Due:

The following decisions were noted:

- 3PL/2018/1482/O -Land Adjacent Turnpike Farm, Main Road, Little Fransham - Residential Development (5 dwellings) – Undecided.
- 3PL/2018/0459/O - Land at Kirkhams Meadow Little Fransham - Residential Development (amended scheme) - Appeal to Secretary of State – REFUSED.
- 3PL/2019/0371/0 – land off Station Road, four dwellings – reserved matters – APPROVED (2 dwellings at the present time).
- 3PN/2019/0022/UC – Manor Farm, Main Road, Little Fransham - change of use from redundant Agricultural Buildings to 4 dwellings – APPROVED.
- 3PL/2019/0502/HOU – 17 Station Road, Little Fransham - to add a new conservatory to an existing bungalow – APPROVED.
- 3PL/2019/0532/HOU – Jemaks, Beeston Road - proposed single storey side extension, new porch canopy and fenestration changes to existing front door – APPROVED.

At this point in the meeting Cllr Kiddle-Morris left the meeting.

10. To receive a report on the Bus Shelter Project and to consider the installation of litter bins.

The Chairman reported that Highways England had carried out their final inspection and had approved the installation.

A quotation for two bins had been received and it was agreed to request that this be included within the grant funding for the bus shelters received from the Dudgeon Community Fund. Breckland has confirmed they will empty the bins on a regular basis.

11. To receive an update regarding the new location for the seat.

A site in the layby was agreed. It was also agreed to approach the Dudgeon Community Fund to request that any costs in respect of moving the seat be included in the bus shelter grant, as moving the seat was a consequence of the bus shelter installation.

12. To consider any maintenance of the Village Sign.

Cllr Taylor volunteered to try to clean the graffiti from the village sign.

13. To receive an update in respect of the Village Hall.

Cllr Taylor reported that works will commence at the end of July and it is hoped they will be completed by the September council meeting.

Cllr Drewitt raised a query regarding funding but as this was a matter for the Village Hall Committee, and not the Parish Council, the Committee would respond direct to Cllr Drewitt.

14. To receive a Crime & Policing report.

The Chairman was pleased to report that no crimes had been reported in the current period.

15. To receive a report re the parish website.

Council noted the recent update of the website and agreed to monitor the situation.

16. Finance & Governance Matters.

a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2020.

It was agreed not to close the savings account at the present time. The financial report was noted and Cllr Sheringham returned the financial records, having satisfactorily checked the bank reconciliation.

b) To consider approval of an Equality Policy.

Cllr Taylor proposed approval of the equality policy, this was seconded by Cllr Watts and agreed by Council.

c) To consider Council attendance at a Planning Matters Training Session.

Cllrs' Drewitt and Watts will attend the training session.

d) To consider a request from Norfolk Age UK for a donation.

It was agreed to consider this application at the year-end meeting.

e) To approve cheques for payment.

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

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| • Clerk Salary & Allowance – June/July | £210.26 |
| • Norfolk PTS (Training) | £38.40 |

Cllr Taylor proposed that Cllr Watts be added as a cheque signatory to the accounts, this was seconded by Cllr Drewitt and agreed by Council.

17. Correspondence for circulation.

The following correspondence was noted by Council:

- Police Parish Newsletter – June & July editions
- 4G Internet Provider – Superfast Broadband
- Breckland Council – New Leader
- Breckland Council – Local Plan Consultation
- Western Link Road Update

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

There were no new items for the next meeting.

19. To confirm the date of the next meeting of Fransham Parish Council which will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 17th September 2019 in the Village Hall.

The date of the next meeting was noted.

The meeting closed at 8.19pm.

Signed:

Date:
