

FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Fransham Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 19th March 2019 in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Russell James (Chair)
Cllr James Sheringham
Cllr Gerry Taylor
Cllr Emma Spratt
Cllr Brian Drewitt
Cllr Richard Watts

County/Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris
Two Members of the Public
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies were received from Cllr Andrew Lake.

2. To consider the co-option of a new Councillor.

Cllr Sheringham proposed that Richard Watts be co-opted onto the Council, this was seconded by Cllr Taylor and agreed by Council. Cllr Watts duly signed his declaration of acceptance of office.

3. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were no interests declared.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15th January 2019.

Cllr Drewitt proposed the minutes be accepted as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Spratt and agreed by Council.

5. To receive an input from the Police Community Engagement Officer.

The officer was not able to attend, consequently, there was no input.

6. To receive County/District Councillor reports.

County Cllr Kiddle-Morris gave the following update:

Norfolk County Council agreed a net budget of £409.293m on the 11th February. It was agreed that NCC's share of Council tax would rise by 2.99% adding £39.51 per year to a band D property and that an adult social care charge of a further 3% rise was not to be made. Adult social care costs continue to escalate, and NCC has made provision in the budget to invest £6m to address growing demand. This year's NCC council tax bill will be divided into two lines, one for the general council tax showing a 2.99% rise and the other for adult social care showing no rise but currently £96.05 for a Band D property.

The Council set the Children's Services budget at £186m for the year. The Council has around 200 statutory responsibilities to children from birth to the age of 25 (government has revised the upper age of for which Children's Services are responsible from 18 to 25) and the pressure on this budget is increasing.

NCC are awaiting a government grant to allow a fibre broadband connection to Norfolk's schools, this will allow broadband speeds of 1Gigabit with access also available to nearby businesses and residential properties. Updates can be found on the Norfolk Better Broadband website.

Resurfacing of three junctions and the two miles of resurfacing of the B1145 had been carried out in this district using some of the £12.7m which the government had given to NCC for pothole repair and highway improvements.

The Chairman thanked the Cllr for his input.

7. Open Forum for Public Participation.

The applicant in respect of item 10a) Hyde Hall, gave a full explanation of the proposal. He outlined the need for such a site. Although it is a greenfield site it had been chosen over a brownfield one because it gave direct access to the A47 for the anticipated large vehicles, avoiding local roads and minimising wasted travel by staff. The location also benefited from being central to Norfolk. It would replace the current site at Thursford; 16 current employees will be offered employment at the new site and 4 new jobs created. Future expansion cannot be ruled out but the developer advised that is unlikely to take place in the next ten years. The applicant confirmed that they would be willing to support any travel restrictions put in place to restrict HGV vehicles to the main roads and, in addition, would be willing to fully screen the site, including the current grain stores.

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

- Hedge cuttings from the recent cut along Station Road remained in the road and were blocking the verge groups.
- Whilst hedge cutting had taken place, the 30mph sign and the double bend sign had both been damaged.
- The trod had been damaged by HGV vehicles using Station Road.
- There is a pothole near to the trod.
- The footpaths at Lime Tree Crescent are slippery and damaged by tree roots.

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris will take the above items forward.

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

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported that the Development Consent Order is ongoing and hearings are currently taking place; the Planning Inspectorate are being very thorough. A decision will be taken relatively quickly following the end of the hearing period.

In addition, Council agreed to sign up with a group of parish councils who are pushing for an offshore ring main to be installed. This has the support of George Freeman MP, who secured a debate in the House of Commons on this issue.

9. Highway Matters.

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

Council noted the following updates:

- Station Road Hedge – this has now been cut although problems were outlined at item 7. above. The Chairman reported that residents at lower Station Road were very pleased with the improved visibility and road width.
- Bridleway Gate at Great Fransham – an update is awaited from Highways.
- Speed Limit/Pedestrian Sign in Crown Lane – the new development does not meet the criteria for lowering the speed limit, particularly as no problems had been reported to Highways. However, this can be reviewed once the new development is completed. In respect of the pedestrian sign, the current remit is not to clutter the highways with additional signs and, accordingly, no sign will now be installed.

b) To consider any new highway issues.

The issue of the trod was raised again but had been dealt with at item 7. above.

10. Planning Issues.

a) New Applications:

- 3PL/2019/0089/F - Hyde Hall Farm Main Road, Great Fransham - Change of use of Agricultural Land and the Erection of an Agricultural Machinery Dealership and Associated Works and Infrastructure.

Council recommended approval on a majority vote with the following material considerations:

- That additional trees be planted to improve screening around the site to minimise the impact of the visual appearance.
 - That all HGV traffic must exit right from the site exit onto the A47, with the exception of any HGV traffic specifically heading to the Beeston Industrial Estate. This will ensure that HGV traffic does not use surrounding minor country roads which would be an issue of nuisance and highway safety.
 - That no future expansion of the site be permitted, as this is a greenfield site and incompatible with this use, and that a condition be included within the consent, if approved.
- To consider any applications received after the publication of the agenda.
No further applications had been received.

b) Decisions Due:

Council noted the following updates:

- 3PL/2018/1486/HOU - The Willows, Station Road, Great Fransham – Proposed rear two-storey extension – Permission.
- 3PL/2018/1488/HOU – Homestead, Main Road, Little Fransham - Proposed two storey extension and conversion of conservatory – Permission.
- 3PL/2018/1482/O -Land Adjacent Turnpike Farm, Main Road, Little Fransham - Residential Development (5 dwellings) – Undecided.
- 3PL/2018/1297/F - Curds Hall Barn, Moor Lane, Fransham - To convert the Large Barn into a Wedding venue and the Surrounding cart shed barns into accommodation associated with the barn. To hold weddings once a weekend on either a Friday or Saturday - Amended plan with changed red line boundary together with amended application form – Permission.

- 3PL/2018/0996/O - Land off Crown Lane (Adjacent No. 6 Council Houses) Fransham - Residential development including the erection of 5 detached dwellings, garages and new access onto Crown Lane with formation of agricultural access onto Crown Lane – Permission.
- 3PL/2018/0642/O – Top Farm, Main Road, Little Fransham – erection of up to 10 dwellings – Planning Committee Decision 7.3.2019 – the decision is awaited.

c) To consider a response to the Breckland Local Plan consultation.

Council agreed there was no comment to make.

11. To receive a report on the Bus Shelter Project.

The Chairman confirmed that the Road Safety Audit had been carried out and the final report was awaited from Highways England. The contractor is ready to commence works and all delays have been with Highways England, however, the anticipated start date is now the 25th March 2019.

12. To consider a new location for the seat.

The seat will be removed from the layby where the bus shelter is to be installed and stored for the time being. A decision will be made at the next meeting.

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

Cllr Spratt reported that the Committee had raised £12,000 which will allow for the replacement of the floor, with work commencing in June, following the local elections. It is hoped to raise a further £8,000 to carry out additional works including the installation of a damp course and other improvements.

14. To receive a Crime & Policing report.

The Chairman reported there had been three recordings of local crime in December, with a further four recorded in January.

15. Financial Matters.

a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2019.

The financial report was noted.

b) To consider any donations, including a request from NARS.

A possible donation to the Village Hall was discussed, Cllr's Spratt and Taylor both declared an interest as Village Hall Committee members, it was agreed to defer to the next meeting.

c) To approve cheques for payment.

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

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| • Clerk – Feb & March Salary/Allowance/End of Year Expenses | £288.04 |
| • HMRC | £24.40 |
| • Norfolk Parish Training & Support Membership | £36.00 |
| • Grass Contractor | £500.50 |

16. Correspondence for circulation.

The following correspondence had been received:

- Great British Litter Pick – Council agreed to continue the ad hoc litter picking currently taking place with no requirement for a formal litter pick.
- Hermitage & Launditch Newsletter – February issue – this was noted.
- Carers Matter Norfolk Newsletter – this was noted.
- Visit Breckland Website – Council agreed there was no need to subscribe to the Visit Breckland site, with the annual cost of £50.
- Western Link Update – this was noted.

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

It was agreed to discuss the website at the next meeting.

18. To confirm the date of the next meeting of Fransham Parish Council which will be held on Tuesday 21st May 2019 in the Village Hall, immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting, commencing at 6.30pm.

The date of the next meeting was noted.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed:

Date:
