

FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Fransham Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st January 2025, at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Richard Watts (Chair)
Cllr Russell James (Vice Chair)
Cllr Emma Spratt
Cllr Katharine Robinson
Cllr James Sheringham
Cllr Andrew Lake
Cllr Gerry Taylor

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

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none declared.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19th November 2024.

Cllr Lake proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting, with a small amendment to item 10 (amend Lake to Taylor) this was seconded by Cllr Watts and unanimously agreed by Council. The Chairman will duly sign the amended minutes.

4. To receive County/District Councillor reports.

In respect of County matters, C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris said that devolution and local government reorganisation is ongoing, with Norfolk and Suffolk moving to a Mayoral Combined Authority with unitary councils. Government will soon decide if Norfolk can be fast-tracked and cancel the 2025 local elections.

The Red Book, which are the rules under which Highways operates, has been amended and any road less than 7m wide will be subject to road closures for any works. The C/Cllr also reported that the White Line team is now defunct and all line painting is now 18 months behind schedule; it may be some time before the new 'SLOW's are painted in the village.

In respect of District matters, the review of the Local Plan has resumed with Breckland being required to build 903 houses per year. A large number of these will be in Attleborough and Thetford, with just 500 at Swanton Morley now more likely. This will leave up to 5,400 to build in rural locations for the duration of the plan, which will run until 2043. If the District Council fails then Government will step-in.

A question was asked regarding the cancellation of the Western Link road and the waste of money but the C/Cllr had no further comment.

A question was asked regarding the three large loads being transported to the Necton site which have been routed to the Easton roundabout, to then return to Necton. The C/Cllr said that this was a National Highways decision.

5. Open Forum for Public Participation.

There were no matters raised.

6. Highway Matters.

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

Council noted the following updates.

- A47 South Streetlight – fitted incorrectly - reported to National Highways but no action to date.
- New Gate on Footpath 6 (Station Road) – Norfolk County Council sending an ‘unauthorised structure’ letter to landowner and the gate should be removed.
- Flooding on Station Road – between no’s 3 and 7 – blocked drains reported to Highways and clearance works now carried out.
- Crown Lane/Goggles Lane/Bradenham Road – potholes/degradation – repairs programmed – some repairs have been carried out and the C/Cllr has met with Highways Engineer and an inspection will be carried out.
- Pothole on Dereham Lane, nr bridge –reported to Highways and repaired.
- Flooding on Station Road, just past church – reported to Highways and now cleared.
- Footpath behind layby on A47 – slippery with fallen leaves – reported to National Highways.
- Flooding on Dereham Lane – reported to Highways and will be resolved.
- Pothole on Dereham Lane, nr bridge – reported to Highways.

b) To receive an update regarding works to the trod exit.

The C/Cllr said he had met with the Highway Engineer and Highways would put in a gully to remove the water but there is no drain to take it to. They are looking to see if a soakaway would work. They will not fill the hole.

Council suggested that an easy solution would be to extend the trod so it does not exit into the water.

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris will continue to liaise with Highways to resolve this matter.

c) To receive an update on requests to National Highways for a pedestrian crossing and an extension of the pavement from Spicer’s Corner.

Council noted that both projects should be considered in the next financial year and a letter will be sent to National Highways to remind them.

d) To receive an update regarding the Council Verge and PROW cutting contracts and consider taking on the responsibility locally.

There was no proposal to take on the PROW cutting contracts and Council continue to await information regarding the other green areas in the village.

e) To consider a regular clean of five of the 'Fransham' village signs.

CLlr Robinson proposed two cleans of the signs per year, at Spring and Autumn, at a total cost of £50 per clean, this was seconded by CLlr Watts and unanimously agreed by Council. The budget will be amended accordingly.

7. Planning Matters.

a) New Applications.

There were no applications to consider.

b) Decisions Due.

Council noted the following application remained pending.

- 3PL/2022/0957/F – land at Grovewood House, Station Road - conversion of existing barn to holiday let - Amendment: Red line amended to incorporate new access point.

Council noted the following application had been refused.

- 3OB/2024/0029/DOB – Flower Meadow, Top Farm - discharge the planning obligation re clause 1.1,1.2,1.3,1.4 of the S106 agreement re 3PL/2018/0642/O to allow changes made to the layout of site due to construction and services providers constraints.

c) To consider the Planning Reform White Paper.

Council noted the White Paper.

8. To receive an update in respect of the Offshore Transmission Network and other matters relating to the infrastructure at Necton.

Council agreed that, until any new issues were raised, this item now be removed from the agenda.

9. To receive an update regarding the proposed solar farms.

Council noted that there were now at least two groups opposed to the Norfolk solar farms, with George Freeman MP, leading one of them.

10. To receive an update regarding the two applications to the RWE Community Fund.

Council noted that both applications have been submitted and are awaiting a decision. A decision is also awaited from the Village Hall Committee for permission to site a cycle rack and bench at the Village Hall.

11. To receive a report and to consider any issues arising from the regular inspections of council assets.

The Chairman had no issues to report.

12. To receive an update regarding installing defibrillators in the Village.

Cllr Robinson proposed that a successful grant application for the supply and fitting of a defibrillator be accepted, this was seconded by Cllr Watts and unanimously agreed by Council. The unit will be fitted at the Village Hall, be the responsibility of the Parish Council, and inspected regularly by Cllr Robinson.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Robinson for her efforts in obtaining the unit and this item will remain on the agenda as ideally a second unit should be installed on the south side of the A47.

13. To consider any action to improve the appearance of the village, including the foreground of the Canary & Linnet.

Council agreed to send a letter to the owners of the Canary & Linnet requesting that the foreground be weed killed and kept tidy, which would also be of benefit to the owners if they wish to sell.

Council noted that a flyer will be circulated with the Annual Report asking for new ideas and volunteers to improve the appearance of the village.

14. To note the meeting dates for 2025.

Council noted the meeting dates for 2025.

- 18th March
- 20th May – Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Council Meeting
- 15th July
- 16th September
- 18th November

15. Finance & Governance Matters.

a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2025.

The financial report (attached) was noted.

b) To consider approval of the following payments and note any receipts.

Cllr Sheringham proposed approval of the following payments, this was seconded by Cllr James and unanimously agreed by Council. The receipt was noted.

PAYMENTS

P21	Clerk Salary & Office All (December) (including back-dated pay award – to 01.04.2024)	£194.04 (SO)
P21	HMRC – PAYE	£45.40

P22	Bus Shelter Cleaning	£100.00
P23	ICO – Data Protection	£35.00 (DD)
P24	Clerk Salary & Office All (January)	£148.12 (SO)
P24	HMRC – PAYE	£33.80
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
	Bank Interest	£32.48

16. Correspondence for circulation.

Breckland Ward Boundary Review - Draft Recommendations – Council noted the recommendations but agreed that local government reorganisation was now likely.

Community Resilience Plan – Emergency and Civil Contingency – Cllr Robinson reported that she will be attending the webinar and will report back to Council.

NALC – Voting Paper re a special resolution regarding conversion from a co-operative society to a company limited by guarantee and related legal services – Council agreed that the conversion must take place and agreed that no vote was necessary.

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

There were no new items received for the next meeting.

18. To note the next meeting of Fransham Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 18th March 2025, at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Council noted the date of the next meeting and the Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.00pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL - YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT - JANUARY 2025

BUDGET UPDATE	Budget 2024/25	To Date	% Spend		
PAYMENTS*					
Admin	1,475	910.19	62%		
Salary	2,095	1,719.20	82%		
Maintenance	500	515.00	103%		
Grass Cutting	2,100	1,734.00	83%		
Donations	50	-			
TOTAL	6,220	4,878.39			
RECEIPTS			Received		
Admin	-	-			
Precept	5,750	5,750.00	100%		
Bank Interest	25	98.90			
Recycling	20	-	0%		
HMRC	-	-			
TOTAL	5,795	5,848.90			
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	- 425.00	970.51			
				Bank Balance at 01.04.2024	9,629.37
				Plus Receipts at 31.12.2024	5,907.49
				Less Expenditure at 31.12.2024	5,585.73
					9,951.13
				Balance at 31.12.2024	
				Community Current Account	1,279.89
				Business Savings Account	8,716.64
					9,996.53
				Plus any outstanding receipts	-
				Less any outstanding payments	45.40
					9,951.13
				including:	
				Highway Reserves	2,196.66
				GENERAL RESERVE	7,754.47

*includes payments awaiting authorisation at this meeting as listed on the agenda.