

## FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Fransham Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th July 2022 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllr Richard Watts (Chair)  
Cllr Russell James (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Andrew Lake  
Cllr Emma Spratt  
Cllr Brian Drewitt  
Cllr Gerry Taylor

County & District 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 received from Cllr Sheringham were approved.

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

Cllr Taylor declared an interest in item 8a – 3PL/2022/0816/O.

### **3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022.**

Cllr Spratt proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Lake and unanimously agreed by Council. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

### **4. To receive County/District Councillor reports.**

The District Cllr reported that the Breckland call for planning sites would be published soon, listing all 278 sites put forward for consideration, including one in Fransham. They will now be considered for suitability. He went on to advise that Government are likely to make major changes to planning policy, with the five year land supply no longer being required.

He also reported that, due to the extreme hot weather, the bins were being collected earlier than normal.

The County Cllr reported that a decision on the dualling of the Tuddenham to Easton section of the A47 is due in August and, if approved, works are likely to commence early next year, at the latest. He confirmed there were no plans to dual the A47 through Fransham.

The County Council continues to support the Western Link road, despite the increased costs due to inflation. However, there are many hurdles to be overcome before any works can start. He said that without the infrastructure, added to the lack of public transport, communities were likely to become isolated.

In response to a question regarding 'Levelling Up', he confirmed that the East is included and a pilot 'County' deal was being considered with an elected leader, which could bring in more funding.

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

The two members of the public raised concerns regarding the speed of the HGVs using Station Road, which was causing damage to property, trees and was a safety issue for pedestrians. They supported any action the Parish Council could take in this respect. The C/Clr outlined the difficulties they were facing as there was no alternative route, with Little Dunham, Great Dunham and Litcham all facing the same problems.

Suggestions were made such as an extended 30mph speed limit on Station Road and additional trods. The C/Clr advised requesting a boundary search to see where any additional trods could go, although, generally speaking, Highways had rights to between 1 and 2m from the edge of the road.

The members of the public also raised concerns regarding the speed of vehicles on the A47 and requested speed cameras. This would be a matter for National Highways and the C/Clr will make enquiries.

## **6. Highway Matters.**

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

- Dropped manhole covers on A47 – reported to National Highways and no action to be taken – road inspected fortnightly and two repairs made. Reported again but no action taken to date.
- FP4 – junction with Dereham Lane – broken stile – reported to Highways but no action taken to date and will be reported again.
- Street Lights – A47 – eastbound on left side – reported to National Highways but no action taken and will be reported again.
- Crown Lane – a 30mph speed limit had previously been requested and refused but at that time Council were advised that if there was any major development in the area then this could be reconsidered. As there is now development commencing, the C/Clr agreed to consult Highways.

### **b) To receive an update regarding repair works to the trod.**

The works to improve the trod have been programmed although a date has not been fixed.

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

A response to Council's letter had been received from Highways which set out the reasons for not approving a sign. These included the need for movement of commercial and agricultural traffic which supported the local economy and any restrictions would mean significant increases in journey times and push traffic towards neighbouring parishes. The route hierarchy had been reviewed some years ago, with extensive consultation, and there were no plans to review it again. When setting speed limits and weight limits, NCC applies the Norfolk Speed Management Strategy. They went on to say that this issue is one which a

rural county like Norfolk has to contend with and including urban features into rural roads can destroy the heritage of the county. There have only been two incidents recorded and this would not make the road a high priority to investigate further in terms of casualty reduction benefits.

**d) To consider any action in respect of the footpath leading from St Mary's Church to the A47.**

Cllr Lake informed Council that the path was not a public right of way but an access route to the church and, accordingly, no action was required by the Parish Council.

**7. Planning Issues.**

**a) New Applications.**

In respect of the following application, Cllr Watts proposed that objections be submitted similar to those recently submitted to the application for two dwellings on Beeston Lane. This was seconded by Cllr James and unanimously agreed by Council.

- 3PL/2022/0816/O – land off Station Road, opposite Brookfields - erection of 4 Dwellings.

**b) Decisions Due.**

Council noted that the following application had been approved.

- 3PL/2022/0100/F – Great Dunham Hall, Litcham Road - proposed reconstruction and extension of existing storage building.

Council noted that no decision had been made on the following applications.

- 3PL/2022/0270/Var -Top Farm, Main Road – variation of of condition 2 on pp 3PL/2021/1371/D - Design changes to plots 1,2,5,6,7 and 8.
- 3PL/2022/0630/HOU & 3PL/2022/0631/LB - Mill Farm, Beeston Lane -two storey extension to provide kitchen family room and storage space over.

**8. To receive a report in respect of the Vattenfall Wind Farms Community Fund and the Offshore Transmission Network.**

Council noted the correspondence recently received from the Parish Council Group supporting an Offshore Transmission Network.

**9. To receive a report from the Village Hall Committee regarding building works.**

Council noted that the Jubilee trees have been sprayed round to keep undergrowth back and kept watered, as have the new Church trees. The grass has been topped twice at the Village Hall and the car park sprayed and trimmed.

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

Council agreed to remove this item from the agenda as the information now available was not specific to Fransham.

- 11. To consider any issues arising from the regular inspections of council assets including an update regarding the dedication plate on the Village Sign.**

Cllr Watts reported that no new issues had been raised during his most recent inspection. Cllr Watts will obtain a quote for a new dedication plate for the next meeting.

- 12. To receive an update from the working party regarding improvements to internet connectivity in the village.**

The County Cllr reported that there were no plans under the 'Better Broadband' scheme to improve connectivity in Fransham. However, additional funding was available for villages without fibre broadband and the C/Cllr will investigate on behalf of Council.

- 13. To receive an update regarding volunteer delivery system for the Village Magazine.**

One person had kindly come forward as a result of the recent call for volunteers to help deliver the magazine and they will be put in touch with the distributors.

- 14. To consider the results of the recent Village Survey.**

Council noted the encouraging response to the survey and agreed there was too much to consider in a normal Council meeting. That being the case, an extra-ordinary meeting will be arranged to discuss the responses received and decide a way forward.

- 15. To receive an update on the Local Quality Council Award Scheme.**

Council were advised of the increased costs of the application which could be mitigated if Council joined Norfolk ALC. Cllr Taylor proposed approval of membership and additional costs at £150.49, this was seconded by Cllr James and unanimously agreed by Council.

Initial feedback had been received to the application and there was some work still to be done.

- 16. To receive an update regarding the newly appointed grass contractor.**

Cllr Lake reported that the new grass contractor had done an excellent job and it was hoped this standard would be maintained.

- 17. Finance & Governance Matters.**

- a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2023.**

The financial report (attached) was noted.

- b) To consider an increase in monthly hours for the Clerk.**

This confidential matter was discussed once members of the public had left the meeting. Due to increased workloads, the Clerk had requested an additional two hours per month, with effect from July 2022. Cllr James proposed approval of the request, this was seconded by Cllr Watts and unanimously agreed by Council.

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

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

• Clerk Salary & Allowance – June/July	£191.74
• HMRC – PAYE	£43.00
• Clerk – Survey Expenses	£25.44
• NALC – Award Scheme Registration	£60.00 (paid)
• NALC Membership	£70.49
• NALC – Accreditation Fee	£80.00
• Internal Audit	£35.00 (paid)

**18. Correspondence for circulation.**

- Invitation to Bid for Parish Partnership 2023/24 – Council noted the closing date of the 9<sup>th</sup> December and it was agreed to bring any ideas to Council for consideration.
- OCO Technology Consultation – Council noted this facility was located at Wretham and unlikely to affect Fransham.

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

There were no new items raised for the next meeting.

**20. To confirm the next meeting of Fransham Parish Council will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022 in the Village Hall.**

Council noted the date of the next meeting and the Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.14pm.

Signed:

Date:

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**FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL - YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2023**  
**FINANCIAL REPORT - JULY 2022**

<b>BUDGET UPDATE</b>	<b>Budget 2022/23</b>	<b>To Date</b>	<b>% Spend</b>		
				<b>Bank Balance at 01.04.2022</b>	<b>7,914.03</b>
				Plus Receipts at 31.05.2022	2,424.07
				Less Expenditure at 31.05.2022	<u>1,088.21</u>
<b>PAYMENTS*</b>					<b><u>9,249.89</u></b>
Admin	1,243	760.83	61%		
Salary	1,441	429.48	30%	<b>Balance at 30.06.2022</b>	
Maintenance	100	-		Community Current Account	4,256.58
Grass Cutting	1,140	297.26	26%	Business Savings Account	<u>5,028.31</u>
Donations	50	-	0%		9,284.89
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,974</b>	<b>1,487.57</b>		Less any outstanding payments	<u>35.00</u>
					<b><u>9,249.89</u></b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			<b>Received</b>	including:	
Precept	4,250	2,125.00	50%	Highway Reserves	2,656.61
Bank Interest	-	0.37		<b>GENERAL RESERVE</b>	<b>6,593.28</b>
Recycling	20	30.58	153%		
HMRC	-	17.20			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,270</b>	<b>2,173.15</b>			
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>296.00</b>	<b>685.58</b>			

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