

FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Fransham Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th March 2020 at 7.00pm, in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Richard Watts (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Gerry Taylor
Cllr Emma Spratt
Cllr James Sheringham

District & County Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris
No members of the public
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

In the absence of Cllr James, Cllr Watts took the Chair.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were received from Cllr's James, Lake and Drewitt.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none received.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21st January 2020.

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

4. To receive County/District Councillor reports.

Cllr Kiddle-Morris gave an update on county and district matters:

The Government are reviewing current legislation relating to council matters in view of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. This will relate to Freedom of Information requests, annual audits, annual parish meetings and virtual council meetings.

The County Council budget has been set and includes a 2% rise in the Adult Social Care precept and a 1.99% increase in the general council tax.

Highways England has commenced consultation on the proposed dualling of the A47 between Tuddenham and Easton and the proposed route plans are available to view until the 8th April at Dereham Library.

In respect of pothole repairs, County Council has now agreed that all potholes on a stretch of road should be repaired rather than just the more serious ones. In addition, roadside degradation will be addressed during the summer months.

The Breckland budget has been increased by 2% with a Band D property now at £93 per annum, this remains the lowest district precept in the country.

A decision is due in respect of Vattenfall on the 1st June 2020.

A query was raised regarding the Climate Emergency and C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported that work is ongoing and will influence council policy in the future.

A query was raised regarding litter on the A47 and C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported that, following a health and safety risk assessment, operatives were no longer able to work within 1.5m of the carriageway. All works must now be carried out at night with traffic lights installed.

A query was raised regarding the HGV use of Station Road and C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris reiterated the advice he gave at the January meeting. However, he had recently attended a meeting with the local HGV depot manager and random checks on the tracking system had revealed no evidence of any speeds over 30mph and there did not appear to be as many vehicles on the road as was perceived. Cllr's James and Drewitt are currently monitoring numbers of vehicles and will take the opportunity to visit the depot to compare results and take this matter forward.

A query was raised regarding an extension to the 30mph speed limit on Station Road, due to two recent accidents caused by speeding. Council were informed that an extension would only be considered if the road design had contributed to the accidents, which was not the case in the two most recent accidents.

In respect of the Coronavirus Pandemic, C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported that council staff are now out in local communities supporting vulnerable people where necessary.

5. Open Forum for Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present.

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

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris had updated this matter at item 4.

7. Highway Matters.

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

Council noted the following updates:

- The S bend sign on Station Road – this has now been repaired.
- Pot Holes, Station Road, near to Ash House – reported to NCC but not yet repaired.
- Station Road/Drive junction – overhanging tree – dealt with by Cllr Taylor and Open Reach.
- Station Road Flooding – no action to be taken by Highways.
- Damaged Street Light adjacent to westbound bus shelter – reported to Highways England but a repair will take 3-4 months due to a backlog of work.

A further pothole was reported on Station Road, near to the Old Rectory, and this will be reported to Highways.

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

Council noted that resurfacing and widening work to the trod will take place when the weather has improved.

c) To consider any action regarding the substantial HGV use of Station Road.

This matter had been dealt with at item 4.

d) To consider any new highway issues.

There were no new issues raised.

8. Planning Issues.

a) New Applications:

There were no new applications to consider.

b) Decisions Due:

There were no decisions to note.

c) To receive an update regarding producing a Neighbourhood Plan.

Council agreed not to produce a Neighbourhood Plan at this stage but to monitor the effect of the recently adopted Breckland Local Plan.

9. To receive an update on the Bus Shelter Project & Repair

Council were advised that Highways are now dealing with this matter and a £1,000 fee for admin work needs approval. However, it is hoped that this can be reclaimed via our insurance or, if that is not possible, then the Dudgeon Fund or Breckland Council are two possible alternative sources of funding. Cllr Taylor approved the £1,000 fee to Highways, this was seconded by Cllr Sheringham and agreed by Council.

10. To receive a report from the village hall committee regarding repairs.

Cllr Spratt reported that fund raising was ongoing and that the Hall was now being used on a regular basis.

11. To receive a Crime & Policing report.

The Chairman reported that no crimes had been reported in the previous two months.

12. Finance & Governance Matters.

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

Council noted the report.

b) To receive a report regarding the Parish Website.

Council noted that the new website was now live and agreed that all 'news items' should be forwarded to the Clerk for inclusion. The new site will be advertised in the Church & Village magazine, as well as on the notice boards. Council thanked the Clerk for the efforts in achieving the new website.

c) To consider charitable donations.

Cllr Taylor proposed that the £100 donation budget be split as follows, Age Concern UK £33, Citizens Advice £34 and the Priscilla Bacon Hospice Appeal £33. This was seconded by Cllr Watts and agreed by Council.

d) To consider approval of the following payments:

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

• Clerk Salary & Allowance/Expenses – Feb/Mar	£258.86
• Clerk (PAYE Refund)	£3.00
• Website Set-up (Trainer)	£135.00
• Website – Annual Fee (Refund to Clerk)	£86.40

13. Correspondence for circulation.

Council noted the following correspondence and no actions were required.

- Proposed speed restriction changes on the Dereham Road in Wendling and Scarning.
- Western Link Update.
- Boundary Commission Review.

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

There were no new items received for the next agenda.

15. To confirm the date of the annual meeting of Fransham Parish Council which will be held at on Tuesday 26th May 2020 in the Village Hall, following the Annual Parish Meeting which commences at 6.30pm.

Council noted the date of the meeting although, given the current coronavirus pandemic, were advised that this was liable to change.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.

Signed:

Date:
