

FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Fransham Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th September 2019 at 7.00pm, in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Richard Watts (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Emma Spratt
Cllr Gerry Taylor
Cllr Brian Drewitt

District & County Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris
One member of the public
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, Cllr Watts, took the chair.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllrs James and Sheringham.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

Cllr Watts declared an interest in item 9a - 3PL/2019/0878/HOU and will remove himself from the meeting when it is discussed.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16th July 2019.

Cllr Watts 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.

D & C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported the following:

The Chancellor's Annual Spending Review committed an additional £1B for adult and children social care which will help support the local authority in meeting the rising demand for social care. Norfolk has the fastest growing over 65 age population in the country, with around 70% of the revenue budget spent on social care. In addition, the precept relating to Adult Social Care will be increased by 2% in the coming year.

The Leaders Annual Review for 2018-19 is available on the County Council website.

A government grant is now available to households and businesses with low broadband speeds and details are on the Gov.UK website.

The Breckland Local Plan continues to await approval from the inspector and is expected at the end of September when it will then be approved by Breckland Council. Once approved it is hoped the Council will have a five year land supply.

Cllr Drewitt queried the responsibility of County and District Councils in respect of low energy requirements for new housing developments and was informed by Cllr Kiddle-Morris that this was not the remit of the Council.

A query was raised in respect of the trod as to whether more cuts could be made, in addition to the two scheduled for next year and also as to whether the trod could be widened at the same time as it is going to be resurfaced, this would assist in keeping it clear. The C/Cllr responded that no additional cuts can be made due to budget constraints but he will take the widening request to Highways for a response.

The Chairman thanked the Cllr for his input.

5. Open Forum for Public Participation.

The following matters were raised by a member of the public and will be reported to the relevant authorities:

- Potholes on Station Road, near to Ash House.
- The telegraph pole at Lime Tree Crescent is in poor condition with rusted wires etc.

The trod was also raised in that anyone with a pram cannot use it but it was hoped that the scheduled works will improve the situation. It was agreed to include a request for a quotation for regular cuts in the grass cutting contract for 2020 although confirmation must be received from Highways that this is permitted.

6. To consider the one vacant Council seat.

Council agreed to contact a previous member of the Council to ascertain if they wished to rejoin, prior to approaching any other potential candidates.

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

Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported that a decision was due from the Secretary of State by 4th December 2019. He also confirmed that the proposed ring main was not applicable to these two on-going applications.

8. Highway Matters.

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

Council noted the following updates:

- Bridleway Gate at Great Fransham – NCC enforcement action has been taken to reach an agreement to remove fencing beside the current gate which will then be replaced with a regulation gate, thereby allowing access to horse riders.
- The S bend sign on Station Road – no action has yet been taken and this will be chased up.
- Trees hanging over Station Road – reported to NCC but no action is to be taken at present time and will be monitored.
- A car parked long term on Station Road – this has been removed.
- Overgrown Hedge at No. 10 Station Road – this has been cut back.
- Pot Hole on Station Road, near to Sunningdale – reported (NCC) and this has been repaired.
- Overgrown hedge alongside Westbound bus shelter – reported to Highways England but no response to date.

- Trees at No.3 Station Road – reported to NCC but no action is to be taken at present time but will be monitored.

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

This had been discussed at items 4 and 5 above.

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

Council agreed to consider the resurfacing of Footpath 6 which was in a very poor condition but well used.

d) To consider any new highway issues.

No new highway issues were reported.

9. Planning Issues.

a) New Applications:

Council considered the following applications:

- 3PL/2019/0848/HOU – The Homestead, Main Road, Little Fransham – proposed garage – Council agreed a ‘no comment’ response.
- 3PL/2019/0740/D – Land off Station Road, Fransham - Reserved Matters with details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for the erection of 4 dwellings with associated garages following grant of outline planning permission 3PL/2017/0902/O (was supported by the Parish Council) – Council agreed a ‘no further comment’ response.
- 3PL/2019/0923/HOU – Liberator Barn, Beeston Road – Demolition of existing external store, construction of new home office – Council agreed a ‘no comment’ response.
- 3PL/2019/0906/F – Land off Station Road – change of use of land to be used for mitigation for protected species – Council agreed a ‘no comment’ response.

Cllr Watts left the meeting whilst a discussion took place regarding the following application, Cllr Emma Spratt took the chair.

- 3PL/2019/0878/HOU – The Cottage, Beeston Lane, Great Fransham - Proposed single storey rear extension, various internal alterations and additional windows/doors/rooflights – Council agreed a ‘no comment’ response.

Cllr Watts returned to the meeting and retook the chair.

b) Decisions Due:

Council noted the following decisions.

- 3PL/2018/1482/O -Land Adjacent Turnpike Farm, Main Road, Little Fransham - Residential Development (5 dwellings) – REFUSED.
- 3PL/2019/0612/O - Land at Kirkhams Meadow Little Fransham - Residential development - three dwellings – undecided
- 3AG/2019/0009/AG – Home Farm, Beeston Road, Wending – General purpose agricultural building – APPROVED.

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

Approval had been received for the installation of litter bins to be included in the grant award and it was agreed to go ahead with the installation at a cost of £428.00.

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

Highways England required information regarding risk assessments and maintenance and it was agreed to respond that the contractor will be asked to carry out a risk assessment prior to installation and Council will maintain the seat once installed.

12. To consider any maintenance of the Village Sign.

Cllr Taylor had wire-brushed off much of the silver paint but some remained, however, it was not visible unless you were looking for it. Council agreed to consider whether any further action was required. Cllr Taylor was thanked for his efforts.

13. To consider removal of moles from Little Fransham Churchyard.

It was agreed to request a quotation from a local contractor.

14. To consider the grass cutting contract for 2020 onwards.

It was agreed to open the 2020 contract for tender.

15. To receive a report from the village hall committee on progress with repairs.

Cllr Spratt, on behalf of the Village Hall Committee, reported that the new floor was now installed and the Hall was once again open for business with the Harvest Supper taking place on 11th October when it was hoped that many local residents will attend and support the Village Hall. Further funding is required for damp proofing works, new furniture etc.

16. To receive a Crime & Policing report.

The Chairman reported that there had been two reports in July, one of criminal damage and one of violence/sexual offence; no data was available for August or September.

17. To receive a report re the parish website.

It was agreed to continue to monitor the situation.

18. Finance & Governance Matters.

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

Council noted the financial report and no queries were raised.

b) To note the achievement of CiLCA by the Clerk and employment contract clause.

Council congratulated the Clerk, who thanked the Council for their support. Council noted the contract clause in respect of this award.

c) To consider the adoption of the General Power of Competence.

It was agreed to remit this item to the next meeting.

d) To consider any projects for the year commencing 1st April 2020.

There were no new projects brought forward for consideration.

e) To consider dual-authorisation bank transfer payments.

Cllr Watts proposed that the Council approve dual-authorisation bank transfer payments, this was seconded by Cllr Taylor and agreed by Council. Financial Regulations will be amended accordingly.

f) To approve cheques for payment.

Cllr Taylor proposed approval of the following payments, which will be made by bank transfer. This was seconded by Cllr Spratt and agreed by Council.

• Clerk Salary & Allowance – Aug/Sept & CILCA & Expenses	£290.16
• HMRC	£3.00
• Norfolk PTS (Chair’s Training Course)	£32.00
• CPRE – Housing Conference (1 x delegate)	£25.00
• Breckland (Election costs)	£75.00

19. Correspondence for circulation.

Council noted the following correspondence:

- Vattenfall Newsletter
- Review of Breckland Polling Districts
- RAF Benevolent Fund in Norfolk
- Farming & the Highways
- Police Parish Newsletter
- Independent Living Skills Programme
- NALC initiative – Community, Well-being, Environment and Parish & Town Councils
- Disability Network Norfolk Group

Council also noted correspondence regarding the Minerals and Waste Local Plan Review Consultation and agreed no response was necessary as there no sites in the plan nearby.

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

It was agreed to add ‘First Responder’ to the agenda.

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

The date of the next meeting was noted.

The meeting closed at 8.37pm.

Signed:

Date: