

## FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Fransham Parish Council held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7.00pm, in the Village Hall.

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

One member of the public  
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

### **1. Welcome and apologies for absence.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Cllr Watts for taking the Chair at the September meeting, in his absence. Apologies were received from District/County Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris.

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

Cllr Watts declared an interest in item 9b) 3PL/2019/0878/HOU, however, as this was just an item to note there was no need for Cllr Watts to remove himself from the meeting at that point.

### **3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019.**

Cllr Drewitt requested that the following be added to the minutes: *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.* Council had no objections to this addition.

Cllr Spratt then proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Taylor and agreed by Council. The minutes will be amended and signed at the next Council meeting.

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

In the absence of the County/District Cllr, a written report was read to the meeting. This report is attached to these minutes.

Cllr Drewitt informed the meeting that match funding was also available from at least one bank, with a maximum of £1,000 available.

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

The member of the public noted that individual householders are now advised to contact their provider in respect of any issues in relation to the telegraph pole at Lime Tree Crescent.

The member of the public also raised flooding at the S-Bend on Station Road, however, as the water quickly drained away it was noted that Highways would not take any action.

**6. To receive an update regarding the one vacant Council seat.**

It was agreed to co-opt a new member at the next meeting being held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

**7. To receive a report in respect of the Proposed Vattenfall Boreas & Vanguard Offshore Wind Farms. (including ORM Update – Email to the Secretary of State re Hornsea Project Three & Digging up Norfolk - Dudgeon & Sheringham Shoal).**

Council noted that Boreas and Vanguard awaited a decision from the Planning Inspectorate, other applications were currently delayed.

**8. Highway Matters**

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

The following updates were noted:

- The S bend sign on Station Road – this has not yet been repaired and a reminder will be sent.
- Pot Holes, Station Road, near to Ash House – this has not yet been repaired and a reminder will be sent.
- Telegraph Pole – Lime Tree Crescent – reported to Open Reach who have inspected and advised no works necessary and advised that any problems experienced with phone lines should be reported by individual households to their provider.
- Overgrown hedge at The Pottery, Main Road – this has been cut back but to note the pavement is narrow at that point.
- Crown Lane/Bradenham Lane – flooding – no action to be taken by NCC at the current time.
- Station Road/Drive junction – overhanging tree – this is being investigated by NCC.

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

Council noted confirmation that the trod was to be resurfaced and widened. Cllr Taylor advised that a hole at the end of the trod also needed filling when the works were carried out.

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

Council were advised that Norfolk County Council would not support an application to resurface footpath No 6, however, the Highways Officer would contact the landowner to try and take this matter forward.

**d) To consider a modification request in respect of Footpath 6.**

Council noted that the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, Section 53, sets out a cut-off date of 1st January 2026 where many historical routes for horse riders will be extinguished if they are not formally recorded as a bridleway or restricted byway beforehand. Footpath No 6 is one such route and Council approved a request for a modification pack to record the route as a bridleway, subject to Cllr Sheringham reviewing the possible impact.

**e) To consider any new highway issues.**

There were no new highways issues raised.

## **9. Planning Issues.**

### **a) New Applications:**

There were no new applications to consider.

### **b) Decisions Due:**

Council noted the following decisions:

- 3PL/2019/0612/O - Land at Kirkhams Meadow Little Fransham - Residential development - three dwellings – APPROVED.
- 3PL/2019/0848/HOU – The Homestead, Main Road, Little Fransham – proposed garage – APPROVED.
- 3PL/2019/0740/D – Lane 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) – APPROVED.
- 3PL/2019/0878/HOU – The Cottage, Beeston Lane, Great Fransham - Proposed single storey rear extension, various internal alterations and additional windows/doors/rooflights – APPROVED.
- 3PL/2019/0923/HOU – Liberator Barn, Beeston Road – Demolition of existing external store, construction of new home office – APPROVED.
- 3PL/2019/0906/F – Land off Station Road – change of use of land to be used for mitigation for protected species – APPROVED.
- 3PL/2019/1128/VAR – Storage Sheds, Station Road, Great Fransham - Variation of Conditions 2,4,6, on 3PL/2018/1019/F - Changes to approved plans – APPROVED.

### **c) To consider producing a Neighbourhood Plan.**

Cllr Watts updated Council in respect of producing a Parish Neighbourhood Plan, which would give additional protections in respect of planning matters. He will investigate further and report back to Council at a later date.

## **10. To receive an update on the Bus Shelter Project.**

The waste bins are now installed and the one outstanding issue is any final payment possibly due to Highways England which, despite reminders, continued to be awaited.

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

Council noted that the seat had been installed in its new position in the layby on the A47.

## **12. To consider any maintenance of the Village Sign.**

Council agreed that no further maintenance was required for the Village Sign.

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

An inspection had revealed that no moles were present and Council agreed no further action was necessary.

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

Two tenders had been received and it was agreed to obtain costs for additional cuts in respect of the second tender. Subject to this, Cllr Taylor proposed that the second tender be accepted, this was seconded by Cllr Drewitt and agreed by Council.

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

Cllr Spratt updated Council in that the new floor was now completed and the Harvest Supper had raised over £700 which had enabled the Committee to purchase new tables. A further fund-raising event will be held in January as additional funds are required for damp-proof works.

**16. To receive a report regarding a Community First Responder.**

Cllr Watts reported that he had attended a meeting at Little Dunham where a First Responder had outlined the benefits to a community of a first responder, being the first on the scene of a medical emergency and able to offer first aid prior to an ambulance crew attending. Training was available but a community would have to purchase its own equipment. However, no volunteers were available and the scheme will not be going ahead.

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

Council noted no crimes had been reported during August and September 2019.

**18. To receive a report re the parish website.**

Council agreed to consider this at the January meeting, following the Clerk's attendance at a Seminar where websites was one of the topic headings.

**19. Finance & Governance Matters.**

**a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.**

Council noted the financial report, there were no queries raised.

**b) To consider the adoption of the General Power of Competence.**

Cllr Watts proposed the following resolution:

Fransham Parish Council hereby confirms we meet the eligibility criteria for adoption of a General Power of Competence as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012. We further resolved to adopt a General Power of Competence.

This was seconded by Cllr Drewitt and agreed by Council. Accordingly, the Council now has the General Power of Competence.

**c) To appoint an internal auditor for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.**

Cllr Taylor proposed that Mr Bergin be appointed for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 at a cost of £25, this was seconded by Cllr Watts and agreed by Council.

**d) To consider a draft budget and set the precept for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.**

Council considered the draft budget and, subject to additional grass cutting and maintenance costs, agreed the document. Cllr Taylor proposed that the precept for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 be increased to £4,250, this was seconded by Cllr Drewitt and agreed by Council.

**e) To consider approval of Clerk's attendance at an Essential Update Seminar (£5.46).**

Cllr Taylor proposed approval of the Clerk's attendance at the Seminar, this was seconded by Cllr Drewitt and agreed by Council.

**f) To consider approval of the following payments:**

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

• Clerk Salary & Allowance – Oct/Nov	£210.26
• Grass Contractor	£501.50
• Village Hall	£200.00
• Bus Shelter Bins	£513.60 (grant funded)
• Brisley PC (SLCC Membership Renewal)	£15.44
• Brisley PC (Seminar – see 19e above)	£5.46
• Seat Base Installation	£978.22 (grant funded)

**20. Correspondence for circulation.**

Council noted the following correspondence.

- Norfolk County Council Budget Consultation 2020/12
- Norfolk County Council Boundaries Consultation
- Parish Paths Seminar – 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019
- Breckland Local Plan Update
- NCC Fire & Rescue – Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan
- Business Savings Account Rates
- Breckland Parish Forum – 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020

In respect of the Bus Timetable Amendments correspondence, Cllr Taylor was disappointed that the requirements for accessible buses had led to the loss of local bus services.

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

The following items were received for the next meeting:

- Speedwatch.
- The high number of HGV vehicles using Station Road.

**22. To confirm the date of the next meeting of Fransham Parish Council which will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020 in the Village Hall.**

The date of the next meeting was noted.

The meeting closed at 8.09pm.

Signed:

Date:

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**Norfolk County Councillors Report  
November 2019.**

Boundary Review. The Boundary Commission (BC) is carrying out an independent review of the County Council Divisions in Norfolk. The purpose of the exercise is to ensure that each councillor represents, as nearly as possible, the same number of voters. The Boundary Commission is minded to recommend that NCC retains its current number of 84 Councillors. County divisions are tied to district borough and city lines, Breckland District currently has 12 County Councillors and the BC have suggested this should be increased to 13 based on the current increase in population of the District and the projected population growth over the next 5 years. Thus, it is inevitable there will be some change within Breckland to divisional boundaries. The consultation is available to view on the BC website and closes on the 2nd December. There will be a further consultation on the draft recommendations between 3rd March 2020 and the 11th May 2020, the BCs final recommendations will be published on the 4th August 2020.

**Breckland District Councillor for Launditch  
Report for November 2019**

Community match Funding. £100k per annum has been set aside from Council reserves to fund a Community Match Funding grant scheme. Grants of up to £5k will be available to help fund locally identified projects. Norfolk Community Foundation will administer the scheme for BDC which will open for bids in December.

VE/VJ Day 75th Anniversary Celebrations 2020. Breckland have set up a fund of £30k to support community celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the end of the second world war. Grants of up to £500 will be available to communities to celebrate the events which will be held nationally on Friday 8th May (VE) and Saturday 15th August. Grant funding will also be available to help celebrate the 80th anniversaries of the Dunkirk evacuation (26th May – 4th June) and the Battle of Britain in September. The scheme will be administered by Norfolk Community Foundation. This grant scheme opened on Monday 4th November.

To request an email alert when the match funding grant scheme goes live please send your name and the organisation you represent to [community@breckland.gov.uk](mailto:community@breckland.gov.uk) .