

FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Fransham Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 15th January 2019 in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Andrew Lake (Vice-Chair)
Cllr James Sheringham
Cllr Gerry Taylor
Cllr Emma Spratt
Cllr Brian Drewitt

County Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris
Three members of the public (including two prospective new councillors)
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Russell James and, in his absence, the Vice-Chair, Cllr Lake took the chair. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

Cllr Sheringham declared an interest in item 11 – Curds Hall. Council granted him permission to speak prior to leaving the discussion.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 20th November 2018.

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

4. County/District Councillor reports.

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris gave the following update:

The Government has provided Norfolk with £12.7M for road improvements which must be spent before March 2019. The B1145 at Rougham is being resurfaced.

The Government has provided Norfolk with an additional £11M to improve broadband for those properties which are on very poor signals and are difficult for normal fibre to reach. Further details will be available in due course.

The Government has provided Norfolk with £29M to create an additional 2800 care units, such as sheltered accommodation. An additional £4.2M is also available to create bed-blocking solutions.

The County Council is returning to the cabinet system and the elected leader of the Council will also be the Chief Executive. The current post holder has recently resigned.

Highways are in contact with No.3 Station Road and the hedge issue will be resolved within five weeks.

The Breckland Local Plan is unlikely to be approved until the summer as modifications are now required.

George Freeman MP has written to the Planning Inspectorate objecting to Boreas and Vanguard, the two new projects which will feed into the station at Necton. There are also other pressure groups against the project.

The District and Parish Elections will be taking place on 2nd May 2019.

The Chairman thanked C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris and he left the meeting.

5. Open Forum for Public Participation.

There were no matters raised.

6. To discuss any matters from the November minutes (not on the agenda).

No maintenance would be carried out on the trod as a matter of course by Highways, other than any previously scheduled grass cutting. Council will monitor the situation.

7. To receive an update in respect of the one Councillor vacancy.

The Chairman welcomed the two prospective candidates and thanked them for their interest. He informed them of the system to elect a new councillor but one candidate was willing to drop out, accordingly, the co-option will be considered at the next meeting.

8. To receive an update in respect of the Breckland Local Plan.

In the absence of the District Councillor, this item had been dealt with by the County Councillor at item 4.

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

In the absence of the District Councillor, this item had been dealt with by the County Councillor at item 4. Council did not see any advantage in the Vattenfall representative attending to give an input at this time.

10. Highway Matters.

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

The following matters have been reported to highways and are being progressed.

- Station Road Hedge - overgrown
- Bridleway Gate at Great Fransham

- Dog/Waste bins in Crown Lane – councillors had investigated this request but, due to the absence of a suitable site, the cost, the difficulties in persuading Breckland to empty any new bins, and the scarcity of dog walkers, it was agreed not to go ahead with this request at the present time.

b) To consider any new highway issues.

It was agreed Council should request an extension of the 40mph limit in Crown Lane, particularly as the new development was likely to be approved.

11. Planning Issues.

a) New Applications:

- 3PL/2018/1486/HOU - The Willows, Station Road, Great Fransham – Proposed rear two-storey extension – Council had no objections to this application.
- 3PL/2018/1488/HOU – Homestead, Main Road, Little Fransham - Proposed two storey extension and conversion of conservatory – Council had no objections to this application.
- 3PL/2018/1482/O -Land Adjacent Turnpike Farm, Main Road, Little Fransham - Residential Development (5 dwellings) – Council considered that five dwellings would be over-development of the site and were also supportive of the comments made by the Tree and Countryside Consultant in respect to the trees outside of the development – Council recommend protection for these trees.
- 3PL/2018/1297/F - Curds Hall Barn, Moor Lane, Fransham - To convert the Large Barn into a Wedding venue and the Surrounding cart shed barns into accommodation associated with the barn. To hold weddings once a weekend on either a Friday or Saturday - Amended plan with changed red line boundary together with amended application form.

Cllr Sheringham had been granted a dispensation to speak in respect of this item and he informed Council that the amendment related to minor changes in response to comments submitted by Highways relating to the internal lines of the car park. Cllr Sheringham then left the meeting for this item.

Council had no further comments in respect of this application.

- 3PL/2018/0996/O - Land off Crown Lane (Adjacent No. 6 Council Houses) Fransham - Residential development including the erection of 5 detached dwellings, garages and new access onto Crown Lane with formation of agricultural access onto Crown Lane – amended footpath plans – Council had no further comments in respect of this application.

b) Decisions Due:

There were no decisions to note.

c) To discuss any other planning issues.

An appeal to the Secretary of State had been submitted in respect of the development at Kirkhams Meadow which had previously been refused. Council agreed to write and re-iterate their previous comments regarding the highway concerns which had been raised by the Highways consultee.

12. To receive a report on the Bus Shelter Project.

Cllr Lake informed the Council that he was due to have a meeting with the relevant parties next week and the project was likely to be completed within a month. It was agreed the Clerk should sign the agreement on behalf of the Council.

It was noted that the upkeep and insurance would be the responsibility of the parish council.

The Council thanked Cllr Lake for his persistence in bringing this matter to a satisfactory conclusion, despite the many obstacles in his way.

13. To receive an update in respect of the Grass Cutting Contract.

The contractor had requested that he be permitted to decide his own cutting schedule and Council granted this request with the proviso that the churchyards were kept tidy at all times. It was further agreed that the three additional cuts remaining from 2018 would be carried over to 2019 in the event they are required as they have been included in the budget for the current year and can be carried over.

14. To receive a Crime & Policing report.

Council are receiving regular newsletters from the Community Engagement Officer and it was agreed to invite her to attend a meeting to give an input and respond to questions from Council.

15. To receive an update in respect of the Village Hall.

Cllr Spratt updated Council in respect of the current situation in that no other funding is available and the Committee are now fund raising, much is being raised from kind donations from local residents. £12,000 is required to commence the project, the Committee currently have £7,000. A total of £20,000 will be needed to complete the project.

16. To review the following policy documents:

a) Standing Orders

Council approved standing orders and the next review will be in three years.

b) Financial Regulations

Council approved financial regulations and the next review will be in one year.

c) Risk Assessment & Management Policy

Council approved the risk assessment and management policy and the next review will be in one year.

17. To note the meeting dates for 2019 – all 7.00pm in the Village Hall:

The following dates were noted.

Tuesday 15th January

Tuesday 19th March

Tuesday 21st May (following the Annual Parish Meeting which commences at 6.30pm)

Tuesday 16th July

Tuesday 17th September

Tuesday 19th November

18. Financial Matters.

a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2019.

Cllr Taylor proposed acceptance of the report, this was seconded by Cllr Sheringham and agreed by Council.

b) To approve cheques for payment.

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

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| • Clerk – Salary/Allowance – Dec/Jan | £183.64 |
| • HMRC | £17.80 |
| • Sheryl Irving (Data Protection Renewal – ICO) | £40.00 |

19. Correspondence for circulation.

- Ward Gethin – Local Council Budget Special – Council agreed not to take up this offer for legal advice.
- Norwich Western Link Options Consultation – noted.
- NCC Children’s Services Briefing – noted.
- Upper Wensum Bulletins – noted.

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

The following items were received for the next meeting:

- To consider the location of the seat.
- To consider any donations.

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

The date of the next meeting was noted.

The meeting closed at 8.27pm.

Signed:

Date:
