

FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Fransham Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th July 2024, at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Richard Watts (Chair)
Cllr Russell James (Vice Chair)
Cllr James Sheringham
Cllr Emma Spratt
Cllr Katharine Robinson
Cllr Gerry Taylor

County & District Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received from Cllr Lake were approved.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none declared.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 2nd May 2024.

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

4. To receive County/District Councillor reports.

In respect of County matters, C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported that the vote to amend the constitution to allow for a directly elected leader may be delayed as the future of the devolution deal is unclear at the moment, due to the new Government.

In respect of District matters, Breckland will be introducing car parking charges, with a consultation due later in the year. It will be at least 15 months before charges are implemented and there is likely to be a lot of opposition. However, Council will have a deficit of £1.5M in the future and the charges will pay for the car park maintenance etc, with any profit going to the town where the money is raised.

In respect of the nutrient neutrality issue, credits are being put in place by the installation of sewage treatment plants to replace old septic tanks. However, the £2.2M invested will only result in credits for 570 new dwellings.

A question was raised re the resurfacing of Station Drive and C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris will investigate on the forthcoming site visit with the Highway Engineer.

5. Open Forum for Public Participation.

On behalf of a member of the public, Cllr Robinson asked that village defibrillators be added to the next agenda for consideration.

6. Highway Matters.

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

Council noted the following updates:

- Four dropped manhole covers on A47 – reported to National Highways but no action taken.
- A47 Streetlight – fitted incorrectly or insecure – reported to National Highways again.
- New Gate on Footpath 6 (Station Road) – Norfolk County Council sending an ‘unauthorised structure’ letter to landowner and the gate should be removed – Council noted that an application for a permanent gate has been submitted to NCC for consideration.
- Dirty Pavements on A47 – reported to National Highways and now resolved.
- Stile on FP4 – broken step reported to Highways.
- Flooding on Station Road – between no’s 3 and 7 – blocked drains reported to Highways and will be resolved.
- Damage to Trod Verge on Station Road at s-bend – Highways has programmed repair works. Some plastic reflector posts have been installed as well as additional soil cover. Council agreed that ideally some kerbing is required and the C/Cllr will ask the Highway Engineer to cost up a scheme.
- Crown Lane/Goggles Lane/Bradenham Road – potholes/degradation – repairs programmed.
- Grass cutting on Station Road/Lime Tree Crescent & laybys etc – Council noted that only two cuts per year now take place and the area is looking very untidy – it was agreed to investigate taking on the grass cutting contract locally.
- Overgrown hedge at A47 Bus Stop – a letter will be sent to the household.
- Overgrown FP6 & BR1 – will be reported to Highways. Council will also look into taking on the PROW cutting contract locally.

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

This matter was discussed at item a. above.

c) To receive an update on requests to National Highways for a pedestrian crossing and an extension of the pavement from Spicer’s Corner.

Council noted that the two schemes will now be considered in the next financial year.

d) To consider the purchase of a litter bin in the A47 layby.

Council noted that permission has been obtained from National Highways to install a bin in the layby and a quote to put down a concrete pad will be obtained, prior to the purchase and installation of a bin.

e) To note the Parish Partnership Scheme and to consider any projects for 50/50 grant funding.

Council noted the scheme and will bring forward any ideas before the closing date in December.

7. Planning Matters.

a) New Applications.

There were no new applications to consider.

b) Decisions Due.

Council noted the following appeal has been dismissed.

- Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - Appeal under Section 78 - Proposed Barn at Station Road - Erection of 1no. rural workers dwelling - Application reference: 3PL/2023/0320/F.

Council noted that no decision has been made on the following application:

- 3PL/2022/0957/F – land at Grovewood House, Station Road - conversion of existing barn to holiday let - Amendment: Red line amended to incorporate new access point.
- 3PL/2023/0819/F – Home Farm, Beeston Road – change of use of farm buildings to storage use (Use Class B8)

Council noted the following applications have been approved.

- 3PL/2024/0372/HOU – Homestead, Main Road - proposed change of use to existing detached double garage to an annex ancillary to the main dwelling for family member.
- 3PL/2023/0848/F - Land south of Necton Substation PE37 8EG - Construction and operation of a Greener Grid Park comprising synchronous compensators, transformers, ancillary plant, underground electricity ducting and cabling to connect to the existing substation, formation of temporary construction access and associated hard and soft landscaping.

Council noted that no prior approval was required for the following application.

- 3AG/2024/0014/AG – Hyde Hall Farm, Main Road - erection of steel framed building

c) To receive an update re the Breckland Local Plan and consider any action.

Council noted the submission to the consultation, outlining the lack of infrastructure in Dereham, and the dark skies policy.

8. To receive an update in respect of the Vattenfall Community Fund, the Offshore Transmission Network and other matters relating to the infrastructure at Necton.

Council noted the RWE fund (previously Vattenfall) will be going ahead with a launch date yet to be announced.

9. To consider an amendment to the grass cutting contract in relation to the new trod surface.

Council considered a request for a £10 increase in respect of the trod cutting, due to the additional work required, and Cllr Sheringham proposed approval, this was seconded by Cllr Robinson and unanimously agreed by Council.

Cllr Sheringham said the new contractor was doing an excellent job, despite the difficult circumstances.

10. To receive an update regarding the Village Sign and to consider other issues arising from the regular inspections of council assets.

The Chairman informed Council that the new signage is now in place, leaving just the plinth to deal with. There were no other matters raised.

11. Finance & Governance Matters.

a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2025.

The financial report (attached) was noted.

b) To consider approval of the following payments and note any receipts.

Cllr James proposed approval of the following payments, this was seconded by Cllr Robinson and unanimously agreed by Council. The receipts were noted.

PAYMENTS

P9 Plaque for Village Sign	£258.00
P10 Annual Report – Printing Costs	£127.94
P11 Clerk Salary & All (June)	£141.73 (SO)
P11 HMRC – PAYE	£33.00
P12 Clerk Salary & All (July)	£143.33 (SO)
P12 HMRC – PAYE	£31.40

RECEIPTS

R2 VAT Return 2023/24	£58.59
Bank Interest	£30.91

12. Correspondence for circulation.

There was no correspondence to consider.

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

With the exception of Village Defibrillators, there were no new items for the next agenda.

14. To note the next meeting of Fransham Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 17th September 2024, at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

The date of the next meeting was noted and the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.44pm.

Signed:

Date:

FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL - YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2025					
FINANCIAL REPORT - JULY 2024					
	Budget	To	%		
	2024/25	Date	Spend		
BUDGET UPDATE				Bank Balance at 01.04.2024	9,629.37
				Plus Receipts at 28.06.2024	2,964.50
				Less Expenditure at 28.06.2024	<u>2,112.02</u>
PAYMENTS*					10,481.85
Admin	1,475	785.51	53%		
Salary	2,095	658.92	31%	Balance at 28.06.2024	
Maintenance	500	315.00		Community Current Account	866.20
Grass Cutting	2,100			Business Savings Account	<u>9,648.65</u>
Donations	50	-			10,514.85
TOTAL	6,220	1,759.43		Plus any outstanding receipts	-
				Less any outstanding payments	<u>33.00</u>
RECEIPTS			Received		10,481.85
Admin	-	-		including:	
Precept	5,750	2,875.00	50%	Highway Reserves	2,656.61
Bank Interest	25	30.91		GENERAL RESERVE	7,969.06
Recycling	20	-	0%		
HMRC	-	-			
TOTAL	5,795	2,905.91			
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	- 425.00	1,146.48			

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