

FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Fransham Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th September 2024, at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Richard Watts (Chairman)
Cllr James Sheringham
Cllr Katharine Robinson
Cllr Emma Spratt
Cllr Andrew Lake
Cllr Gerry Taylor

District Cllr Nigel Wilkin
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received from Cllr James were approved and apologies were also received from County & District Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

Cllr Taylor declared an interest in item 7.b – 0957.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16th July 2024.

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

4. To receive County/District Councillor reports.

District Cllr Nigel Wilkin introduced himself to the Council and said that, under ward changes made by the Boundary Commission, he was likely to be the new District Cllr for Fransham, replacing Mark Kiddle-Morris, and wanted to meet the Council. He gave a brief overview of his long experience as a councillor and invited any questions.

The proposed 4700 acre solar farm was raised, particularly in that it will make a corridor of solar panels to the sides of the A47, which is a danger for motorists as the sun reflects off panels at certain times of the day, and that it is unsightly in a county renowned for tourism. D/Cllr Wilkin said the decision will be made by the Secretary of State and it is out of Breckland's hands.

The Chairman thanked the D/Cllr for attending and D/Cllr Wilkin then left the meeting.

A written District report had been received from D/Cllr Kiddle-Morris and no issues were highlighted by Council.

5. Open Forum for Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present.

6. Highway Matters.

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

Council noted the following updates:

- Four dropped manhole covers on A47 – regularly reported to National Highways but no action taken.
- A47 south Streetlight – fitted incorrectly - reported to National Highways.
- New Gate on Footpath 6 (Station Road) – Norfolk County Council sending an ‘unauthorised structure’ letter to landowner and the gate should be removed.
- Stile on FP4 – broken step reported to Highways and will now be chased up.
- Flooding on Station Road – between no’s 3 and 7 – blocked drains reported to Highways and will be resolved.
- Crown Lane/Goggles Lane/Bradenham Road – potholes/degradation – repairs programmed- the C/Clr will be asked to chase this up.
- Overgrown pavements on south side of A47 – reported to National Highways.
- Overgrown hedge at north A47 bus stop – residents requested to cut back.

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

Council agreed that the trod was in a much better condition, however, concerns were raised again about the dip in the road where pedestrians had to rejoin the road. The County Cllr will be asked to see if anything can be done.

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 this is due to be considered in the next financial year.

d) To receive an update regarding the installation and purchase of a litter bin in the A47 layby.

Council noted that two quotes to lay the base for a bin had been requested, with just the one being received which was for £275. Cllr Robinson proposed approval of the quote for £275, and for the purchase of a 70L bin at a cost of £209.94 (£174.95 net), this was seconded by Cllr Spratt and unanimously agreed by Council.

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

Council noted the closing date in December if anyone had any ideas.

f) To receive an update regarding the Council Verge and PROW cutting contracts and consider taking on the responsibility locally.

Council noted that no information had yet been received from Norfolk County Council.

g) To consider the A47 Little Fransham to Dereham - proposed speed limit reduction.

Council noted the proposed speed limit reduction which was being introduced because of safety concerns and had no comment.

7. Planning Matters.

a) New Applications.

- 3OB/2024/0029/DOB – Flower Meadow, Top Farm - discharge the planning obligation relating to clause 1.1,1.2,1.3,1.4 of the S106 agreement regarding 3PL/2018/0642/O to allow changes made to the layout of site due to construction and services providers constraints – Council had no comment in respect of this application.

b) Decisions Due.

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.

Council noted the following application has been approved.

- 3PL/2023/0819/F – Home Farm, Beeston Road – change of use of farm buildings to storage use (Use Class B8).

c) To consider a response to EN0110010 - High Grove Solar - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation.

Council members had general support for solar power but concerns were raised in relation to the use of prime agricultural land, when there are better alternatives available, such as on roofs of industrial buildings and houses, car parks, central reservations etc. They also felt the sites were disjointed and only chosen because of their availability, rather than suitability. A response will be submitted to the consultation.

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

Council noted that the Plan is likely to need further review because of the increased number of houses required to be build by the new Government.

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

There was no update regarding the fund and the proposed solar farm had been discussed at items 4 and 7c above.

9. To receive a report and to consider any issues arising from the regular inspections of council assets.

There was no update in respect of council assets.

10. To consider installing defibrillators in the Village.

Cllr Robinson raised this on behalf of a member of the public. Council had concerns regarding the feasibility of defibrillator units as it was such a long distance for most residents from any unit, and to be effective, more than one unit would be required, possibly one at the Village Hall, one on the Main Road and one at Crown Road.

Cllr Taylor will see if the unit at the Canary and Linnet is available and still able to work and Cllr Robinson will investigate the feasibility of the purchase and placement of units in the village.

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 appoint an internal auditor for the year ending 31st March 2025.

Cllr Robinson proposed approval of the appointment of Mrs Dann as Internal Auditor, for a fee of £40, this was seconded by Cllr Spratt and unanimously agreed by Council.

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

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

P13 Bus Shelter Cleaning	£100.00
P14 Clerk Salary & Office All (August)	£142.13 (SO)
P14 HMRC – PAYE	£32.60
P16 Clerk Salary & Office All (Sept)	£142.33 (SO)
P16 HMRC – PAYE	£32.40
P15 Clerk Expenses	£9.00
P17 SLCC Membership	£20.68

12. Correspondence for circulation.

The Introduction of Car Parking Charges within Breckland was noted.

A suggested response to the NPPF consultation from the CPRE was received and, to allow members time to read it, a decision as to whether to respond as suggested was delayed, with members advised to send their suggestions to the Clerk, who has delegated authority to respond on behalf of Council.

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

Cllr Taylor requested an item regarding improvements to the look of the village.

14. To note the next meeting of Fransham Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 19th November 2024, at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

The date of the next meeting was noted and the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.58pm.

Signed:

Date:

FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL - YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2024

BUDGET UPDATE	Budget 2024/25	To Date	% Spend		
PAYMENTS*					
Admin	1,475	814.51	55%		
Salary	2,095	988.38	47%		
Maintenance	500	415.00			
Grass Cutting	2,100				
Donations	50	-			
TOTAL	6,220	2,217.89			
RECEIPTS			Received		
Admin	-	-			
Precept	5,750	2,875.00	50%		
Bank Interest	25	30.91			
Recycling	20	-	0%		
HMRC	-	-			
TOTAL	5,795	2,905.91			
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	- 425.00	688.02			
				Bank Balance at 01.04.2024	9,629.37
				Plus Receipts at 30.08.2024	2,964.50
				Less Expenditure at 30.08.2024	<u>2,561.48</u>
					10,032.39
				Balance at 30.08.2024	
				Community Current Account	1,416.34
				Business Savings Account	<u>8,648.65</u>
					10,064.99
				Plus any outstanding receipts	-
				Less any outstanding payments	<u>32.60</u>
					10,032.39
				including:	
				Highway Reserves	2,656.61
				GENERAL RESERVE	7,375.78

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