

FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Fransham Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th November 2024, at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Richard Watts (Chair)
Cllr Russell James (Vice Chair)
Cllr Andrew Lake
Cllr Emma Spratt
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 Cllrs Robinson and Sheringham were approved.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none declared.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 17th September 2024.

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

4. To receive County/District Councillor reports.

County & District Cllr Kiddle-Morris had previously circulated written reports and highlighted the following:

The County Council has raised an objection regarding the proposed pylons from Norwich to Essex.

The number of solar farms in Norfolk is becoming an issue, with over 4,000 acres already proposed, and many more in the pipeline. It is poor use of agricultural land and short-sighted in terms of food security. The High Grove site is being challenged due to the separation of the sites.

Breckland has paused the Local Plan awaiting the updated National Planning Policy Framework. Housing targets have been increased from 661 to 917 per year and a further call for sites is likely.

There is likely to be a local government reorganisation, with Norfolk and Suffolk working together as one Mayoral Combined Authority and unitary authorities are also being considered, which may impact the County elections in 2025.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Kiddle-Morris for his input.

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 – these have now been repaired.
- A47 South Streetlight – fitted incorrectly - reported to National Highways but no action to date.
- 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 – it was confirmed that access is available and this will now be removed from the agenda.
- 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 – some repairs have been carried out and the C/Clr was asked to chase up the remainder.
- Overgrown pavements on south side of A47 – reported to National Highways and now cleared.
- Overgrown hedge at north A47 bus stop – residents have cut this back.
- Pothole on Dereham Lane, nr bridge – will be reported to Highways.
- Flooding on Station Road, just past church – will be reported to Highways.
- Footpath behind layby on A47 – slippery with fallen leaves – will be reported to National Highways.

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

Council agreed that the trod itself is now in good order but the issue of pedestrians stepping off into a large puddle remained and C/Clr Kiddle-Morris will set up a meeting with the Highways Engineer to try and resolve the matter.

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 there would be no update until the next financial year.

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

There were no projects put forward for an application.

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

Council noted that an update should be available at the January meeting.

7. Planning Matters.

a) New Applications.

There were no new applications to consider.

b) Decisions Due.

Council noted that no decisions have been made on the following applications:

- 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.
- 3OB/2024/0029/DOB – Flower Meadow, Top Farm - discharge the planning obligation re clause 1.1,1.2,1.3,1.4 of the S106 agreement re 3PL/2018/0642/O to allow changes made to the layout of site due to construction and services providers constraints.

c) To receive an update re the Breckland Local Plan.

This matter had been dealt with at item 4.

d) To consider the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Publication of proposed Main Modifications and Additional Modifications – closing date 13th December 2024.

Council noted that none of the proposals impacted Fransham.

8. To receive an update in respect of the Offshore Transmission Network and other matters relating to the infrastructure at Necton, including the proposed solar farms and the CPRE Alliance re mega solar farms.

This matter had been dealt with at item 4.

9. To consider an application to the RWE Community Fund.

Cllr Watts proposed that two applications be submitted, a bench on the grass opposite the Canary & Linnet and cycle stands and a bench at the Village Hall, this was seconded by Cllr James and unanimously agreed by Council. Both of these ideas came from suggestions put forward by residents in the 2022 survey.

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

Council noted that there were no maintenance issues and that the new bin was now installed in the A47 layby. The Chairman thanked Cllr Taylor for fitting it. The maintenance schedule and Asset Register will be updated.

11. To receive an update regarding installing defibrillators in the Village.

In the absence of Cllr Robinson, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

12. To consider any action to improve the appearance of the village.

Council raised various ideas, such as planters, improved grass cutting and cleaning the village signs. It was agreed to get a quote to clean the village signs from the contractor who cleans the bus shelters. It was also agreed to circulate a flyer with the Annual Report asking for ideas and offers of help from residents.

13. To consider an extension of the grass cutting contract for 2025 and 2026.

Council agreed that the current contractor was providing an excellent service and no issues had been raised this year. Cllr Lake proposed approval of the two-year extension of the contract, at a cost of £1,764, this was seconded by Cllr James and unanimously agreed by Council.

14. 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 the draft budget and set the precept for the year ending 31st March 2026.

Council considered the budget and agreed that a small increase was required in the precept to keep pace with increasing costs. Cllr James proposed that the precept increase by £250 to £6,000 in the year ending 31st March 2026, this was seconded by Cllr Taylor and unanimously agreed by Council.

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

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

PAYMENTS

P18	Outdoor Heritage Litter Bin (incl Ground Bolts)	£221.94
P18A	Contractor – Bin Base	£275.00
P19	Clerk Salary & Office All (October)	£142.33 (SO)
P19	HMRC – PAYE	£32.40
P20	Clerk Salary & Office All (November)	£142.13 (SO)
P20	HMRC – PAYE	£32.60
P19A	Grass Contractor (2024)	£1,734.00

RECEIPTS

Bank Interest	£35.51
Breckland - Precept	£2,875.00

15. Correspondence for circulation.

Council noted the following and no action was required:

- Rural England Prosperity Fund – Briefing Note.

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

There were no new items received for the next agenda.

17. To note the next meeting of Fransham Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 21st January 2025, at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

The date of the next meeting was noted and the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.57pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL - YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2025					
FINANCIAL REPORT - NOVEMBER 2024					
BUDGET UPDATE	Budget 2024/25	To Date	% Spend		
				Bank Balance at 01.04.2024	9,629.37
				Plus Receipts at 31.10.2024	5,875.01
				Less Expenditure at 31.10.2024	<u>3,437.56</u>
PAYMENTS*					12,066.82
Admin	1,475	855.19	58%		
Salary	2,095	1,317.84	63%	Balance at 31.10.2024	
Maintenance	500	415.00	83%	Community Current Account	3,415.06
Grass Cutting	2,100	1,734.00	83%	Business Savings Account	<u>8,684.16</u>
Donations	50	-			12,099.22
TOTAL	6,220	4,322.03		Plus any outstanding receipts	-
				Less any outstanding payments	<u>32.40</u>
RECEIPTS			Received		12,066.82
Admin	-	-		including:	
Precept	5,750	5,750.00	100%	Highway Reserves	2,196.66
Bank Interest	25	66.42		GENERAL RESERVE	9,870.16
Recycling	20	-	0%		
HMRC	-	-			
TOTAL	5,795	5,816.42			
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	- 425.00	1,494.39			

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