

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY  
31ST MAY 2016 AT 6.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

**Present:** Mr J Sheringham, Mr R James (Chairman of the Parish Council), Mr A Lake, Mr C Horsley, Mrs Jane Harding (representative from Women's Institute, County Councillor M Kiddle-Morris and Mrs G Hubbard, Clerk

**1. Welcome and to accept apologies for absence**

Mr James welcomed those present to the meeting and apologized for the confusion over the date of the meeting and not attending at the original date set, thus causing the meeting to be rescheduled. Apologies for absence at this evening's meeting were received from Mr T Mallon, Mrs L Rush, Mrs L Sheringham and Mr T Lewis.

**2. To confirm and accept minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

Mr Lake proposed the minutes be signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Mr Sheringham, carried, and so Mr James signed the minutes.

**3. To report on any matters arising from the minutes**

There were no matters arising.

**4. To receive report from the County Councillor**

Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported that the budget setting took place in February and it had gone up by 3.99%, the extra 2% was earmarked for social care because of the growing older population. He thinks that for the next 4 years council tax will rise. The Government has given £7m to be spent over the next 2 years and NCC will decide what services it will spend it on. Regarding Devolution, Norfolk and Suffolk were looking at a deal the Government was trying to implement but Cambridge does not want the deal and on June 27<sup>th</sup> there will be a decision made regarding a consultation. A possible solution is one devolved area for Norfolk & Suffolk, and another for Cambridge with Peterborough. The Leader of the Council is now a member of the Conservative Party. Little Fransham should get Superfast Broadband by the end of this year. The first budget regarding Broadband was under time and within budget.

**5. To receive report from the Chairman**

The Chairman read out his very informative report, highlighting the work of the Parish Council throughout the year and his report will be attached to the minutes.

**6. To receive any other reports available, i.e The Church, Village Hall**

Both churches are in good repair and as always ongoing maintenance is scheduled. Thanks to David Spalding the path has been re-graveled at Little Fransham. Both churches are now open. After another interregnum it is pleasing that The Rev'd Canon Heather Butcher was licensed on 10<sup>th</sup> April as the parish priest. She is residing at Litcham Rectory. The Churches would like to thank the P.C. for their support in paying for the cutting of the churchyards. Services at the churches are now once a month and are published every month in the parish magazine, which is always available from both churches.

The Fransham Relief in Need Charity distributed 10 cash grants to beneficiaries within the parishes of Great and Little Fransham.

The main points of the Fransham Village Hall report were:-

There are 7 people on the Committee and a small group of volunteers are responsible for the upkeep and fundraising for the Hall. Finances are strong with the surplus account healthy. There are plans to update the divider curtain and furniture.

2015/16 has had the usual community events taking priority for the committee, Harvest Supper in October was well attended and the Christmas coffee morning was the busiest it has been in years. 2016 has the annual summer fete on June 12<sup>th</sup> from 2pm – 4.30 pm with a BBQ, Pimms and Beer Tent, dog agility and Fun Dog Show. Hatters Tea Rooms will be there with a ‘pop up’ café, classic cars will be there, a coconut shy, produce, book stall and jam stalls etc. There will be an ‘old fashioned sports day’ area and Fun Tug of War. Proceeds to the Village Hall and thanks to the P.C., Fransham Womens Institute and Mr Clancy’s Dog Agility for being loyal supporters of the hall.

Mrs Harding read out a report for the Fransham Women’s Institute and the main points in the report were:-

We now have 22 members and the group meets monthly in the village hall on the second Thursday evening.

Regarding speakers, the subjects have included Ayurveda therapies; thru, Year as Mayoress to Life and times of a Registrar. A competition is held almost every month relating to the speaker and for which the trophy eagerly competed.

**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS** Some time ago, our multi-talented members organized themselves into groups that meet on a weekly or monthly basis to share a particular interest. We now have four groups enjoying Quilting, Decoupage, Local History and Art. The Quilting group has been so successful that a second Sewing group has started, with five members already.

**SOCIAL EVENTS:** There is one in the summer and one at Christmas time where partners and friends are all welcome.

**OUTINGS:** Several have been organized during the year, among them a trip to Theatre Royal in Norwich, various gardens, all usually including lunch or tea.

**MEMBERS** come from Fransham and the surrounding villages and new members are always welcome.

The WI is pleased with the ongoing improvements to the village hall but in the winter particularly the lighting is insufficient and limits some of the events we might like to have in the hall due to the gloom.

**7. To discuss any future village plans**

The Play Area is one of the main subjects that the Parish Council is trying to bring to fruition at the moment, along with the installation of bus shelters and the crossing over the A47. The website is also going to be updated.

**8. To discuss draft Parish Council Accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016**

The Clerk went through the draft end of year accounts and no questions were asked.

**9. To discuss any other business**

There was no other business to discuss.

**10. To confirm date and time of next Annual Parish meeting**

The date of the next meeting was set for May 17<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 6.30 p.m.

As there was no further business to discuss, the Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr James, declared the meeting closed at 7.05 p.m. and thanked everyone for attending.

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Chairman

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Date