

FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 20th March 2018 in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Russell James (Chair)
Cllr James Sheringham
Cllr Andrew Lake
Cllr Tony Mallon
Cllr Emma Spratt
Cllr Gerry Taylor

County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris
Sheryl Irving – Clerk

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from District Councillor Elizabeth Gould.

2. To declare any declarations of interest.

There were no interests declared.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2018.

Cllr Lake proposed that the minutes be signed as correct, Cllr Taylor seconded and the Council were all in favour. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

4. To discuss any matters from the January minutes (not on the agenda).

There were no matters discussed.

5. County/District Councillor reports.

County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris gave the following update:

- The precept will be increased by the maximum allowed, 2.99% plus a 3% increase in respect of Adult Social Care. Government grants are being reduced each year and there is likely to be a further increase in the precept next year.
- The Police & Crime Commissioner continues with his bid to take over the management of the Fire Service, which is strongly opposed by the County Council, for reasons previously detailed. The matter will go to public consultation in July 2018.
- The allowances for county councillors have recently been increased, which was not a popular decision, however, the rates have remained static for some time and an increase was long overdue. The rates are based on the average of local figures.
- C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris is calling for improvements to the Highways Reporting system, a system which is not currently very user-friendly.

- Due to the recent heavy snow, Highways Department have fallen behind with road repairs and it will take some time to catch up.
- A meeting had been held with Vattenfall and George Freeman MP to discuss benefits to be offered to the local community, no decisions were made and a further meeting will be held. Increased traffic is an issue and the site will need good traffic management.

The Chairman thanked C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris, both for his input and his recent success in encouraging Highways to resolve the Crown Road flooding.

District Councillor Elizabeth Gould was not able to be present but had sent the following update.

- Local Plan - the Inspector has exercised his right to push it back by about two weeks.
- Housing - Breckland held a successful Landlords event, this laid the ground for future provision of homes from the private sector.
- Breckland Lottery – <https://www.ourbrecklandlottery.co.uk/> is a weekly online lottery created to support local causes in Breckland.
- At the Breckland Council Cabinet meeting, held on 20th March, members agreed to invest over £1m in providing new temporary accommodation to help meet the needs of those who experience homelessness in the district and to keep families together.
- The planning application for Roger Warnes in Great Dunham results in the provision of more than 1,000 sqm of new floor space and is deemed to be a “Major Application” under the Council’s Scheme of Delegation - it will now be presented to the Planning Committee for determination – date to be announced.
- The first meeting in the Cabinet’s ‘roadshow’ is on Tuesday, 20 March, at Swaffham Town Hall, from 9.30am to 10am, members of the public will be invited to ask the Council’s Leader and Cabinet questions, which do not have to be submitted in advance. Formal Cabinet will then begin at 10am and residents are invited to remain for the duration. Date are as follows:

20 March	Swaffham Town Hall
12 June	Attleborough (venue TBC)
4 September	Thetford (venue TBC)
27 November	Watton (venue TBC)
5 February 2019	Dereham (venue TBC)

6. Open Forum for Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present.

7. To report any progress regarding the seventh parish councillor vacancy.

No progress had been made and it was agreed to continue to advertise the vacancy in the village magazine.

8. To receive a Crime & Policing report.

The Chairman reported that there had been four instances of crime during the December and January period.

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

D/Cllr Gould had updated the Council earlier in the meeting (item 5).

10. Planning Issues.

10.1 Current Applications:

- **3PL/2018/0046/F - Proposed Extension to Grain Store Great Dunham Hall, Great Dunham –** Council comments submitted re route restrictions (also see item 5 above)

10.2 Decisions Due:

- **3PL/2017/1518/F – Church Barn, Station Road – conversion of barn to create residential –** Permission has been granted.

10.3 To reconsider the Council Planning Policy.

In respect of planning applications which cannot be discussed at normal council meetings, due to time constraints, the Council were all in agreement that authority be delegated to the Clerk in instances where there were no objections, in all other instances a meeting will have to be called. Standing Orders to be amended.

11. Highway Matters.

11.1 To receive a report on the proposed trod on Station Road.

The Chairman was pleased to report that the application for grant funding from Norfolk County Council had been approved and, subject to the council approving the £400 cost to the council, the matter will now be progressed. The Council were in full agreement that the £400 cost be approved. In addition, the council approved the site map which had been provided.

11.2 To receive updates in respect of issues previously reported:

- Hedge at Lyndhurst Cottage – being progressed
- Station Road Hedge (owner unknown) – being progressed.
- A47 – from East into village – uneven road surface – will be resolved early 2018.
- Crown Road flooding – no action – will be monitored.
- Flooding near to The Old Crown, Crown Road – no action being taken.
- Flooding between 3 & 5 Station Road – no action being taken.
- Logs in ditch near Chapel on Station Road – being progressed.
- Bridleway at Great Fransham – being progressed.

11.3 To receive reports of any new highway issues.

There were no new matters reported.

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

Cllr Lake was pleased to report that the application for grant funding had been approved by Norfolk County Council and full funds were now in place to complete the project. Cllr Lake will progress this issue.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Lake for his persistence and patience with this project.

At this point, C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris left the meeting.

13. To receive a report in respect of Data Protection Regulations.

The Clerk informed the council that work was ongoing in respect of this matter and the regulations were due to receive government approval in May this year.

14. To receive a report in respect of the Proposed Vattenfall Offshore Wind Farm.

- **Email suggestion from a member of the public re funding.**

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris had updated the council earlier in the meeting (item 5). Decisions have yet to be made in respect of any community funding.

15. To reconsider a report in respect of the Parish Website.

This issue was deferred to the May 2018 meeting. In the meantime Cllrs will consider the current, updated website and the alternative options for the future.

16. Financial Matters.

16.1 To receive a financial update including a budget report.

The council noted the overspend which was largely due to the high bill received from the external auditors, Mazars. There were no other issues raised.

16.2 To consider any further action in respect of the Mazars invoice.

A breakdown of the invoice had been received from Mazars and there was no further action the Council could take to mitigate the high cost. Cllr Taylor proposed that the Council approve payment of the account, this was seconded by Cllr Spratt, with all in agreement.

16.3 To approve cheques for payment.

Cllr Mallon proposed that the following payments be approved, this was seconded by Cllr Lake, with all in agreement.

- Clerk – Salary/Allowance – Feb & Mar 18 £198.75
- HMRC £33.20
- Brisley PC – Training (G Taylor) £25.00
- Mazars – External Audit £660.00
- Contractor – grass cutting £412.50
- Norfolk County Council (Trood payment) £400.00

16.4 To consider the following requests for donations:

- NARS
- Citizens Advice Bureau

The Council were all in agreement, given the recent, unexpected large invoice from Mazars which had left the bank balance lower than anticipated, that no donations be made this financial year.

17. Correspondence for circulation.

The following correspondence was circulated to the Council:

- Letter of thanks from Necton Sports & Social Club (defibrillator).
- The Pensions Regulator – Confirmation of completion of declaration of compliance.
- Little Fransham War Memorial – Notification of designated decision (Grade II).

18. To receive any items for the next meeting.

There were no additional items raised for the next meeting.

19. To confirm the date of the next meeting of Fransham Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 15th May 2018 in the Village Hall following the Annual Parish Meeting being held at 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.09pm.

Signed:

Date:
