

FRANT PARISH COUNCIL

THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FRANT PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT FRANT MEMORIAL HALL ON WEDNESDAY 18TH APRIL 2018 AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr Rutherford - Chair
Cllrs Mrs Park, Mrs Best, MacDonald-Brown, Rowland, Crookshank

Mrs R. Karim - Clerk
Mrs J. Steadman – Frant Open Spaces Group
2 members of the public

1. To receive apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Howell, Mrs Wallis and Stevens and County Cllr Standley. Apologies were accepted.

2. To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda.

Cllr MacDonald-Brown declared an interest in the planning application at Bayham Manor because he is a neighbour.

3. To approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 21st March 2018.

The Minutes of the meeting were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. To determine matters arising from the previous Minutes for updating and noting.

4.1 It was agreed that Cllr Rutherford would meet with Mr. McGregor-Gould to identify a location for the circular bench. Carried forward. **Action: WR**

4.2 Cllr Rutherford said he had corresponded with the agent for the Abergavenny Estate about the possibility of forming a green in Eridge. He confirmed they were happy for it to be publicised that the Council is in discussions with them and to canvas local opinion. He said the Estate had suggested giving the Council a long-term lease at a peppercorn rent for the parcel of land behind Holy Trinity Church. He noted that there are potential issues around the right of way across the land but that the Estate will be speaking with neighbours about this. It was agreed that Cllr Best would advertise the proposal in the Eridge newsletter. **Action: GB**

4.3 The Clerk said she had negotiated a reduction in the two remaining quotes for the see-saw. However, she thought further reductions may be forthcoming so it was agreed to roll this item over to the next meeting.

4.4 The Clerk confirmed that risk assessments had been completed in Eridge and Bells Yew Green and for the allotments in Frant. WR to complete remaining assessments in Frant and forward to the Clerk. **Action: WR**

4.5 Cllr Rutherford confirmed that the planning application to vary a condition about affordable housing delivery at land at Benhall Mill Road had gone to Planning Committee North but he did not yet know the outcome.

4.6 Cllr MacDonald-Brown said he had been carrying out some research about how to make use of the Henry Smith funds and that this would be an item for discussion at the next meeting.

4.7 The Clerk said the Mayfield fitness company, which will be carrying out classes on the green in Frant, had agreed to give a voluntary contribution toward its upkeep. Cllr Rutherford said that the company had asked whether it could advertise the classes by way of signs erected on the green. It was agreed that this was contrary to the Council's Advertising Policy and should not be permitted.

4.8 Cllr Best noted that the consultation documents concerning the proposed alterations to the Parish boundary in Eridge had been posted on Wealden DC's website. Unfortunately, however, the hard copy plans that had been posted were not produced in colour making it difficult to ascertain where the proposed changes would lie. Cllr Best also confirmed that Wealden DC had altered the proposed new boundary making it slightly larger. She asked if councillors could please attend one or both of the two consultation meetings at Eridge Village Hall on Wednesday 9th

May at 2pm and Sunday 13th May at 7pm. Cllr Rutherford said he would write to the Clerk at Rotherfield Parish Council about the proposals.

Action: WR

5. Public Forum.

Frant Open Spaces Group

Mrs Steadman asked that FOSG be given sight of future invoices from Orchard Landscapes. This was agreed.

It was also agreed that both a representative from FOSG and their ecologist would speak at the Annual Parish Meeting on 24th May.

Mrs Steadman raised the issue of vehicle erosion around the green in Frant and said that volunteers had carried out a simple photographic audit showing the deterioration of the green over time. While noting that this issue would be on the agenda in May, she asked that councillors give some prior thought to carrying out a similar exercise in both Eridge and Bells Yew Green, as the problem of vehicle erosion was more widespread.

In raising another Parish-wide issue, Mrs Steadman said that there had been a recent change in the law such that any public rights of way (including back alleyways) that are not registered by 2026 would lapse and they would no longer be designated as such. She said that a working group in Frant had begun to compare old tithe maps, explaining that if a right of way is apparent on two maps then it can be submitted for registration. Thus, Mrs Steadman, while noting that there is plenty of time for this work to be carried out, asked that councillors consider mobilising volunteers in Eridge and Bells Yew Green to undertake a similar exercise, thereby ensuring that the whole of the Parish is covered.

(One member of the public joined the meeting at 7:40pm)

Lastly, Mrs Steadman reported to the Council that a length of the green near the play area in Frant had been filled in with tarmac, presumably by Highways. She noted that, in so doing, they had effectively turned this area over into highway from what previously had been part of the green. Cllr MacDonald-Brown said that this could be reversed and the tarmac removed. It was agreed that this was not acceptable, particularly given that it occurred on registered common land, and that the Parish Council would raise this with Highways and Cllr Standley.

Action: Clerk

(One member of the public joined the meeting at 7:43pm)

Other issues

One member of the public addressed the Council to ask for permission to run a narrow pipe under approximately 12 metres of the green in Frant to provide gas to his property. Cllr Rutherford asked whether their neighbours would then wish to follow suit. This was thought unlikely due to cost implications. Cllr Rutherford said the Council would be sympathetic to an easement but that a formal application would need to be made. He also noted that it would present a good opportunity to make good the erosion of the green in this location. It was agreed that the owners would write to the Council with further details.

(One member of the public left the meeting at 7:45pm)

A second member of the public spoke to the Council on behalf of the PTFA from Frant Primary School. He explained that they wished to hold an overnight camping event on 16th June in the field behind the school and requested the Council's permission to do so. He reassured councillors that there would be no alcohol or camp fires, no dogs allowed and no music after 10pm. The councillors agreed to allow this event to go ahead subject to the all-clear from the Council's insurers.

Action: Clerk

(One member of the public left the meeting at 7.50pm)

6. Reports from County and District Councillors.

County

No report was given in Cllr Standley's absence.

District

Cllr Rutherford confirmed there was nothing to report from District level.

7. Green Spaces.

7.1 To consider a request to fund maintenance of the churchyard in Eridge.

It was **resolved** to provide a one-off donation of £750, representing 50% of the cost of maintaining the churchyard for one year.

7.2 To consider quotes for works to the green in BYG.

Cllr Crookshank said he had put in a request and received funds from the Bells Yew Green Society (as the Society is winding down) to purchase wildflower seeds to make a feature of the proposed bund around the green in Bells Yew Green. With respect to the proposed 'no parking' signs, the quote was agreed and Cllr Rutherford asked that a fourth sign be ordered at the same time, to be installed at Frant green.

Action: SC

The Clerk noted that she had been expecting the third quote for creating a bund around the green but had not yet received it. Thus, the two remaining quotes were discussed and it was **resolved** to approve the quote submitted by Mr McGregor-Gould. It was noted that parts of the quote would need modifying, such as removing the planting of daffodils in favour of wildflowers. Cllr Crookshank offered to liaise with Mr McGregor-Gould throughout the process.

7.3 To consider revised quotes for a new see-saw for Frant.

This item was rolled over for consideration at the next Full Council meeting.

7.4 To review quote for removing 2 no. oak trees at BYG Village Hall.

The Clerk acknowledged the error in the item description, noting that the works to the oak trees did *not* involve their removal.

The quote to carry out the works to both trees was agreed. Clerk to write to Treework.

Action: Clerk

8. Governance.

8.1 To approve the Financial Regulations.

It was **resolved** to approve the existing Financial Regulations.

8.2 To approve the Standing Orders.

It was **resolved** to approve the existing Standing Orders.

8.3 To approve draft data protection policies.

It was **resolved** to approve the data protection policies, as follows: Privacy Notice 2018, Retention of Documents and Records Policy 2018 and Data Protection Policy 2018.

9. Finance (WR).

9.1 To approve the accounts payable.

Approved.

9.2 To approve the month-end bank reconciliation for March 2018.

Approved.

9.3 To approve the month-end bank reconciliation for April 2018.

Approved.

9.4 To approve the year-end figures.

Approved.

9.5 To approve the pension start date.

It was agreed that the pension start date for the Clerk could be back-dated to 1st May 2017.

9.6 To approve the fee for the appointment of a Data Protection Officer (DPO).

The quote for appointing a DPO from the Local Council Public Advisory Service was approved.

Action: Clerk

10. Annual Parish Meeting.

The theme of 'green spaces' was discussed and various speakers were agreed. Cllr Park noted that neighbouring Withyam Parish Council ran a theme for their annual meeting and it worked well. It was agreed to ask Frant Stores to cater for the event again.

Action: Clerk

11. Safety in the Parish.

Cllr Rowland said a new scam was operating whereby people were being told they had not made payments and were now under threat from bailiffs. He said any such fraud could be reported to Action Fraud.

Cllr MacDonald-Brown noted that the ticket office and ticket machine at Frant Station had recently been broken in to.

Cllr Rutherford asked for a volunteer from amongst the councillors to revive the Speed Watch campaign.

12. Communications.

Cllr Rutherford said that Mrs Kinley had requested volunteers from amongst the councillors to help at the Council fair on Saturday 30th June. Councillors to confirm their availability to the Clerk.

Action: All

13. Highways and Lighting.

13.1 To select 2 no. fingerposts for a fresh grant application.

It was agreed to put forward the fingerpost on the A267 opposite the entrance to Church Lane for match funding and also the fingerpost at the junction of Bayham Road and Bartley Mill Road. Clerk to apply for the grant from Wealden DC.

Action: Clerk

14. Planning (GB).

14.1 To consider applications submitted to Wealden District Council.

- **WD/2017/1656/F – Foxdale, Selbourne Park, Frant, TN3 9DG**

Renewal of WD/2013/2020/F. Two storey rear extension and internal alterations with 2 new obscure glazed windows on the side elevation (south).

No objections.

- **WD/2018/0711/F – Bayham Manor, Bayham Abbey, Lamberhurst, TN3 8BG**
Proposed single storey rear extension and relocation of oil tank.

No objections.

14.2 To note applications granted or refused by Wealden District Council and those withdrawn by the applicant(s).

- **WD/2017/2932/F and WD/2017/2933/LB – Chase Farm, Frant Road, Frant, TN3 9HG**
Demolition of conservatory and erection of a one and half storey rear extension and internal alterations.
Approved: 21st March 2018

The decision was noted.

15. Horizon Scanning.

Nothing to discuss.

16. Chairman’s announcements and correspondence for noting.

Nothing to discuss.

17. Urgent issues at the discretion of the Chairman for noting or inclusion on a future agenda.

Cllr Best enquired about when the repair of the Eridge village sign would be completed. Clerk to contact JakkUK about this.

Action: Clerk

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 8.45pm.