

FRANT PARISH COUNCIL

THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF FRANT PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT ERIDGE VILLAGE HALL, ERIDGE ON WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE 2017 AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr Rutherford (Chair)
Cllrs Mrs Howell, Rowland, MacDonald-Brown

R.Karim Clerk
County Councillor Francis Whetstone
1 member of the public

1. To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Kinley, Mrs Best, Stevens, Wright and County Cllr Standley. Apologies were accepted.

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

None.

3. To approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 17th May 2017 as a true record

The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

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

- 4.1** The Clerk said she had received confirmation from ESCC that the grit bin they supplied for Bells Yew Green was brand new.
- 4.2** The Clerk confirmed that she had received the Broadband Report from Cllr Standley and had circulated it to councillors.
- 4.3** The Clerk confirmed that she had received information from Cllr Standley about air quality monitoring in the district and had forwarded this to Cllr Stevens.
- 4.4** The Clerk said she had submitted the application to ESCC for match-funding for two fingerposts in the parish.
- 4.5** The Clerk said she was still trying to ascertain which company had installed the see-saw in Frant green. It was suggested that she contact a local resident, Ms Myers, who may know. **Action: Clerk**
- 4.6** Cllr Howell said she had not yet received a response from Enforcement about Wish Wood. Carried forward.
- 4.7** Cllr Rowland said he had spoken with the owner of the Flowerpot Nursery about the pallets mounting up on the right-hand side of the site. He said the owner had agreed to tidy it up and he noted that this had been done. It was questioned whether this patch of land was in fact owned by a local farmer. Completed.
- 4.8** The Clerk said the 'Let's Do Business' information was now on the website. Completed.
- 4.9** Cllr Rutherford said he would email councillors to suggest particular responsibilities for them within the Council. Carried forward. **Action: WR**
- 4.10** The Clerk said that Mr McGregor-Gould would repair the circular bench in the next few weeks. Completed.
- 4.11** The Clerk said she was waiting to hear from Orchard Landscapes for a quote for maintaining the area around the Eridge sign. Carried forward.
- 4.12** The Clerk said she had written to the streetlighting team about how to move the streetlight at the Warren's Farm junction and awaited a response. Carried forward.
- 4.13** The Clerk confirmed that she had emailed Mr Bee about the upcoming events at Eridge Park and awaited a response. Carried forward.
- 4.14** The Clerk said she had received various updates from Highways about work they had carried out. These updates had been forwarded to councillors. Completed.

- 4.15 The Clerk said she had asked the developer of the Benhall Mill Road scheme to provide the Council with some examples of suitable lighting for the new development, from which to choose from. Carried forward.

5. Public forum

A representative of residents in Nobles Wood in Bells Yew Green attended the meeting to discuss further the issues around road safety in this location. She referred to a recent email from Highways and asked for the Council's further support for seeking measures to ameliorate the fast road conditions here. Cllr Rutherford acknowledged the residents' concerns and noted that the issue of road safety was a concern across the parish. Referring to a recent email from Highways to the Council, Cllr Rutherford confirmed that Highways had proposed installing a 'pedestrians in road' sign and the councillors agreed to this. Cllr Rutherford also said these issues could be considered in drafting the Neighbourhood Plan.

Action: Clerk

6. To receive reports of County and District Councillors

County

- County Cllr Francis Whetstone introduced himself as the councillor for Eridge. He requested that he be notified of the dates of Council meetings and receive agendas and minutes. **Action: Clerk**
It was agreed that unless there was a particular and relevant issue, Cllr Whetstone need not necessarily attend the meetings. In the ordinary run of a meeting, it was agreed that the Council could ask Cllr Standley to speak with Cllr Whetstone directly if any issues arose.
- Cllr Rutherford read out a report from Cllr Standley:
 - The priorities of the County Council remain the same: driving economic growth, protecting the vulnerable, helping people to help themselves and making the best use of resources.
 - Cllr Standley said he had raised his concerns with highways about the slow progress with the footpath work on Frant Road. He was told this was due to problems with the temporary traffic lights.
 - On a personal note, Cllr Standley said he had been appointed to the Cabinet with Portfolio for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability.

District

- Cllr Howell said that 17 new council homes in Hailsham were being developed. She said Wealden DC now owned and managed 3,100 council homes, as well as providing a range of other housing services.
- Cllr Howell reported the following events and schemes:
 - The award-winning *Safety in Action* event, now in its 26th year and organised by East Sussex Fire & Rescue, will take place between 26-30 June and involve children from 15 schools in Wealden.
 - The *Better Together* scheme has been launched which provides grants to smaller groups and organisations toward projects that seek to transform health and social care outcomes for local people and to build resilient communities.
 - The *Building Stronger Communities Fund* makes awards of up to £1,500 to communities and groups with an income of up to £50,000 to undertake projects that are important to them.
 - *The Wealden Disability Group* is seeking people to join. This can be done through Wealden DC's Equalities Officer, Debbie Peters.
 - Grants of up to £2,000 are available to households in Alfriston, Forest Row, Hellingly and Uckfield to help install flood protection measures. The funding support is thanks to a grant of £100,000 secured by Wealden DC from the Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.
- Cllr Howell asked Cllr Whetstone if he would agree to take forward the issue of cutting back the grass at the junction of Bunny Lane to improve visibility. Cllr Whetstone said he had already done so and would continue to do so. Cllr Howell thanked him for his support on this matter.

7. Finance (WR)

7.1 To review the internal auditor's report

Cllr Rutherford remarked on the report, noting the various positive elements within it. The Clerk said the documents were now with the external auditor and available for public inspection.

7.2 To approve the accounts payable

| Payee | Item | Cheque No. | Amount |
|-----------------|--|------------|----------|
| Frant Stores | Catering for Annual Parish Meeting 25.5.17 | 2934 | £83.58 |
| Mr S. Brentnall | Internal audit on 15.5.17 | 2935 | £325.00 |
| Treework | Work carried out to 4 no. trees in Frant and BYG | 2936 | £980.40 |
| R.Karim | Salary, mileage and expenses: June 2017 | 2937 | £1121.04 |
| HMRC | Tax and NI: June 2017 | 2938 | £46.03 |

The accounts were approved.

7.3 To approve the bank reconciliation

The Clerk advised that, as of the date of the meeting, she had not received the bank statement for the current account. It was agreed that the bank reconciliation would be considered at the next meeting.

(Cllr Whetstone left the meeting at this point)

7.4 To approve the Council holding the Open Gardens funds on trust

The Clerk tabled an email from the internal auditor that suggested the Council could take and keep the funds on trust in a 'suspense' account, provided the amount was 'small'. In the end, the Open Gardens was such a success that it raised in excess of £2000. It was considered that this was not a 'small' amount relative to the total budget. It was agreed that before accepting the funds, the Clerk should clarify with Ms Steadman about how the funds would be used and accessed.

Action: Clerk

7.5 To agree the removal of two outstanding items on the accounts that have not been presented

The Clerk explained that two Council cheques – one from 2015 and one from 2016 – had not been presented to the bank by Laser Repro Ltd and the Open Spaces Society respectively. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the bank to ask that these cheques should now not be honoured should they be presented. Once this has been done, the Clerk can remove the items from the accounts.

Action: Clerk

8. To discuss Councillor vacancies

Cllr Rutherford informed the Council that Cllr Breese had resigned from his position as councillor on the Council for the Bells Yew Green ward. The Clerk said she had informed Wealden DC and had received a Notice of Vacancy, to be posted in noticeboards on 15th June. With respect to the other vacancy in the Frant ward, the Clerk said that Wealden DC had confirmed that a similar Notice of Vacancy was not required in this instance. It was agreed, however, that a notice advertising the vacancy would be posted in noticeboards and on the website.

Action: Clerk

9. To consider a village sign

Cllr Howell said she had been approached by some local residents about the possibility of a village sign for Frant village. Cllr Rutherford gave some background, noting there had been a competition in the 1920s, run by the Daily Express, for producing the best village sign. At the time, the parish of Frant had instead invested in the development of the Memorial Hall, thus the absence of a village sign today. Councillors agreed that a village sign would be a positive step and it was suggested that a competition might be held for its design.

10. Safety in the Parish (MR)

Cllr Rowland said that Operation Dragonfly, which is concerned with drinking and driving, was now underway for the summer period.

11. Highways and Lighting (SH)

11.1 To consider the replacement/repair of the bollards on the corner of Dundale Road in Bells Yew Green

The Clerk explained that correspondence had been received from the residents of Sunninglye Oast concerning the need for several bollards to be replaced as a safety measure on this difficult bend in the road. It was noted that this land was not within the Council's ownership and it was agreed that it would be raised with Highways and at the next SLR.

11.2 To consider a request by WDC for information regarding their On-Street Car Parking Enforcement Report

Cllr Rutherford explained that Wealden DC had asked the Council about any 'hot spots' in the parish whereby people were persistently parking in no-parking areas. Councillors agreed that parking around the green in Bells Yew Green was an ongoing issue and Cllr Howell said that people were parking on the hatched area adjacent to the Brecknock Arms PH, causing a serious danger to traffic along the road into Bells Yew Green from Frant. She also noted that people, usually commuters, were taking up parking spaces in Rushlye Close, meaning that the local residents could not park near the houses – a particular problem for those with small children and the elderly. It was agreed that this would be relayed to Wealden DC in response to their request. **Action: Clerk**

At this point, Cllr Rutherford agreed to bring forward **Item 12.1** on the agenda - to discuss the ongoing issue of cars parking on the green in BYG. Cllr MacDonald-Brown agreed to measure the green in Bells Yew Green in order to seek a quote for parking posts. **Action: AMDB**

It was noted also that the owner of a property near the green in Frant was regularly parking on the green. Cllr Rutherford said he would give the details to the Clerk who would, in turn, write to the owner. **Action: WR/Clerk**

11.3 To review the proposal for stopping-up of Benhall Mill Road to implement the planning permission

It was noted that the consultation asked only for objections, not comments. The councillors raised no objections, but did note that the new pavement must be wide enough for wheelchairs and double buggies.

11.4 To revisit the possibility of providing a dog bin on Church Lane

There was some discussion around the issue and it was concluded that providing a dog bin on Church Lane would not, in all likelihood, be used by those that were allowing their dogs to foul here in the first place. It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with the school to see if they had any suggestions. **Action: Clerk**

12. Green Spaces (DW)

12.2 To consider using the green in Frant for the next Council fête

It was generally agreed that the green was a significant resource for the parish and it should be made more use of. While it was noted that there were advantages to holding the fête at the school, including access to toilets, the security of it being an enclosed site and parking, the green would also be a good place to hold a fête. It was agreed to consult Cllr Kinley for her opinion at the next meeting.

12.3 To discuss the possibility that the verge by Ely Grange on the BYG Road is within the Council's ownership

Cllr Howell understood that this verge had once formed a pavement along this road. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Ely Grange for clarification. **Action: Clerk**

13. Communications (CK)

13.1 To confirm the arrangements for the Council stall at the Eridge Fair on 25 June

After some discussion, it was agreed that there was insufficient time to organise a stall. Cllrs said they would be going to the fair and that there would therefore be a Council presence.

14. Planning (GB)

14.1 To approve the Minutes of the Planning Meeting on 5 June 2017

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

15. Chairman’s announcements & correspondence for noting

Cllr Rutherford tabled some correspondence between the church and a local resident in which the resident complained that the newly-repaired stile from the churchyard into the field was hazardous for those with limited mobility. The resident suggested that a ‘kissing gate’ be installed instead. The church had referred the resident to the Council and although the resident has yet to contact the Council directly, the councillors discussed the issue. It was noted that the land was not within the Council’s ownership and it was therefore the landowner’s responsibility. It was suggested that the East Sussex Footpath Society might be able to assist.

Cllr Rutherford read an email from the school requesting the Council’s permission to access the field behind the school to start preparations for this year’s bonfire night. This was agreed to. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Rutherford noted that an appeal was underway against the decision by Wealden DC to refuse planning permission for the addition of a second-storey at 1 Broomfield, Bells Yew Green (ref: APP/C1435/D/17/3176130).

16. Correspondence

Nil.

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

Nil.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:10pm.

Action Points

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| Clerk to contact L.Myers about the see-saw in Frant green. | Clerk |
| To email councillors with suggestions for possible roles for them during the forthcoming year. | WR |
| Clerk to respond to Highways agreeing to their proposal of a safety sign near Nobles Wood, BYG | Clerk |
| Clerk to add Cllr Whetstone to the circulation list for agendas and minutes. | Clerk |
| Clerk to liaise with Ms Steadman about the Open Gardens funds. | Clerk |
| Clerk to write to NatWest about the two outdated cheques still being recorded in the accounts. | Clerk |
| Clerk to post details of the two councillor vacancies in noticeboards and on the website. | Clerk |
| Clerk to respond to Wealden DC about their On-Road Parking Enforcement Report | Clerk |
| To measure the perimeter of the green in BYG in order to seek a quote for parking posts. | AMDB |
| To give Clerk details of property near Frant green (WR); Clerk to write to owner about parking on the green. | WR/Clerk |
| Clerk to liaise with Frant Primary School about suggestions for preventing dog fouling on Church Lane. | Clerk |
| Clerk to write to Ely Grange about ownership of verge along the road between Frant and BYG. | Clerk |
| Clerk to respond to the school about their bonfire preparations. | Clerk |