

FRANT PARISH COUNCIL

THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FRANT PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE STABLES, CHURCH LANE, FRANT ON WEDNESDAY 16TH JANUARY 2019 AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr Rutherford – Chairman
Cllrs Wallis, Stevens, Macdonald-Brown, Crookshank and Rowland

1. To receive apologies

Apologies were received from County Cllr Standley, Cllrs Park and Howell and the Clerk. Apologies were accepted.

2. To receive declarations of interests on items on the Agenda and changes to the Register of Interests

None.

3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting on 19th December 2018

The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. To determine matters arising from the previous meeting

- In Cllr Howell's absence, there was no update on the status of the houses within Rushlye Close, with regards to the ongoing issue of poor lighting. **Action: JH**
- It was noted that Allen Scott had been commissioned to carry out the erosion study of the green in Frant. Completed.
- Re: the use of Henry Smith funds, it was noted this was on the agenda for discussion.
- In Cllr Park's absence, there was no update about Broadband delivery in the Parish.

(Post meeting note: Cllr Park provided an update (below) prior to the meeting, but it was not relayed:

Cllr Park has written to Openreach about how the parish is currently 'digitally disenfranchised' in terms of its "rights to the Universal Service Obligation of at least 10 Mbps". Cllr Park has also ascertained that UK Power Networks are in discussion with Openreach to put in fibre to Team Dynamics at Frant Lakes, for their training centre. She is thus following this up to make sure there is not a wasted opportunity here. Cllr Park also confirmed she is in the queue for Nus Ghani MP's surgery on 25th January).

- It was confirmed that the Parish Council's representations about the Draft Masterplan for Gatwick Airport had been submitted. Completed.
- Representations concerning the ESCC's Core Offer survey had also been submitted. Completed.
- It was noted that the VAS sign on the A267 was now working properly. Completed.
- Cllr Stevens recommended that the Clerk approach Thomson Snell & Partners regarding rights of way across the green in Frant. **Action: Clerk**

5. Public forum

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

6. To receive reports of County and District Councillors

County

In County Cllr Standley's absence, there was no report from County.

District

Cllr Rutherford reported that the last stone had been laid at the new Crematorium in Horam and it was expected to be up and running in March.

Cllr Rutherford also reported that the new waste contractor is Biffa, who are expected to take over the contract in July. They have their own fleet of vehicles and are promising a number of enhancements to the service, including 360-degree cameras mounted on their vehicles to survey road conditions. Wealden DC will be working hard to ensure a smooth handover.

Finally, Cllr Rutherford noted that Wealden DC will be raising its Council Tax by 2.7%, in line with inflation.

7. Green Spaces

Allen Scott have advised that they expect to complete their survey work by March this year. After a brief discussion the Parish Council concluded that the question of natural parking prevention should be included in their work, rather than a separate requirement for David Huskisson.

It was noted that a plan for the new Eridge Memorial Green had been submitted to the Clerk in order to complete the planning application.

8. Finance (WR)

8.1 To approve the accounts payable

The accounts as follows were **approved**.

Payee	Item	Cheque No.	Amount
Orchard Landscapes	Inv 1335 – grounds maintenance	3181	£3788.64
R.Karim	Salary (Feb 2019)/expenses/tax & NI	3179/80/82	£1203.26
Dial2Drive	Inv 6039 – Nov 2018	3183	£130.55
Wealden DC	Inv 70049711: Condolence book paper	3185	£50.00

8.2 To approve the bank reconciliation

There was no bank reconciliation to approve as the bank statements had been received in time for the meeting.

8.3 To consider using Rialtas for the year-end accounts

It was **agreed** that the Clerk could instruct Rialtas to carry out the close-down of accounts at year end.

8.4 To discuss use of Henry Smith funds

There was a discussion regarding Cllr Macdonald-Brown's note on the use of the Henry Smith Funds circulated prior to the meeting and his proposal contained therein was **approved**. The Chairman thanked Cllr Macdonald-Brown for his hard work on this, which had been an outstanding issue for the Parish Council for several years.

8.5 To note increase in precept for Wealdlink services

The increase in the precept for Wealdlink was noted and **approved**. It was agreed that there should be another attempt to publicise the service via the Parish Magazine. Cllr Macdonald-Brown said he would write a short article on the topic.

Action: AMB

9. Safety in the Parish (MR)

Cllr Rowland reported that there were a number of scams active within the area, including Internet scams. Cllr Rutherford reported that there had been a road traffic accident at Pockocks Gate resulting in the A267 being closed for three hours on the 28th December last year.

10. Communications (DP)

There was no update on Communications.

11. Highways and Lighting

11.1 Lighting in Rushlye Close, Bells Yew Green

A report from Cllr Howell on the council houses in Rushlye Close was still required to move forward with the lighting issue. No other lighting or road issues were raised.

12. Planning

12.1 To approve the Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 7th January 2019

The Minutes were **approved** as a true and accurate record.

12.2 To consider licence and planning applications received and make recommendations:

- **WD/2018/2726/LDP – Murree, Church Lane, Frant, TN3 9DX**

Caravan to be placed within residential curtilage to provide additional living space associated with the dwelling.

While the Parish Council recognised that there was no requirement to comment on an LDP, concerns were expressed about the proposed “Shepherd’s Hut” in the application at Murree, Church Lane. Having had an application for an annex refused, the Parish Council was concerned that the caravan would become a more permanent living space than one purely associated with the development. Wealden DC were urged to monitor the usage of this facility.

- **WD/2018/2725/F – Stone Farm, Bayham Road, Frant, TN2 5HU**

Proposed two-storey rear extension

The Parish Council objected to this proposal. It was felt that the size of the proposed extension was an over-development of the site. Furthermore, they felt that the style and the materials being used were not sympathetic to the character of the AONB and did not represent anything close to a Sussex vernacular style.

12.3 To note applications approved, refused or withdrawn:

- **WD/2018/2454/LDE – Browngate Cottages, Mayfield Road, Frant, TN3 9HS**

Re: access

Not issued

Noted.

- **WD/2018/2336/F – The Hollies, Eridge Road, Eridge Green, TN3 9JU**

Part-retrospective application for erection of a replacement garage with log store and mower store.

Approved on 8th January 2019

Noted.

13. Horizon scanning

Cllr Stevens said he had recently attended a presentation at Gatwick Airport, where the increased usage of the emergency runway was discussed. He felt that while there were always reasons to object to additional traffic overhead, the Parish Council should acknowledge the fact that pressure for increased air travel would likely mean further expansion and should engage positively with Gatwick Airport. Cllr Rutherford agreed with the idea that additional air traffic was likely; however, he cautioned that Gatwick had a record of not being open with its consultations and that the use of the emergency runway would likely allow Gatwick to expand faster than Heathrow adding further impetus to future expansion plans.

There was a general discussion about a Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council agreed that this was something that should be prioritised. Cllr Rutherford explained that it was essential that there was engagement with the community beyond the Parish Council and ideally led from outside the Parish Council to ensure success. Several councillors felt that there were residents who might be willing to get involved. It was agreed that they would be approached and that an article on the topic would be published in the Parish News.

14. Chairman’s announcements & correspondence for noting

None.

15. Urgent issues at the discretion of the Chairman, for discussion only

None.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

ACTIONS

Action	By whom
To establish which houses in Rushlye Close are Council-owned and which are in private ownership with a view to ensuring the hedges are cut.	JH
To approach solicitors regarding rights of way across the green in Frant.	Clerk
To write an article for Parish News about the services that Wealdlink provide.	AMB