

FRANT PARISH COUNCIL

THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FRANT PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT FRANT MEMORIAL HALL ON WEDNESDAY 17th APRIL 2019 AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr Crookshank – Acting Chairman
Cllrs Macdonald-Brown, Howell and Rowland

County Cllr Bob Standley
Mrs Rosie Karim – Clerk

1. To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Rutherford, Wallis, Park and Stevens. 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 Draft Minutes of the meeting on 20th March 2019

The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record and duly signed. '[

4. To determine matters arising from the previous meeting

On the agenda to discuss.

5. Public forum

There were no members of the public present.

6. To receive reports from County and District Councillors

County

County Cllr Standley said that ESCC was continuing to lobby central government for increased funding, especially given that approximately fifty per cent of the annual county budget was spent on adult social care alone. He referred to the Comprehensive Spending Review, the Fairer Funding Formula and the Adult Social Care Green Paper, noting that it was looking likely all three would not be completed on time.

With reference to the ongoing issue of poor Broadband service in the Parish, County Cllr Standley confirmed he had arranged a meeting on 26th April with Nus Ghani MP and BT to discuss this further. Cllr Crookshank noted that ESCC had suggested that every box in East Sussex had been upgraded to fibre; he pointed out that the service in Bells Yew Green locked in to the box in Tunbridge Wells and thus not within East Sussex.

County Cllr Standley confirmed that he had visited Rushlye Close to assess the problem of absent lighting and had sent photographs to ESCC. He said he was liaising with the Head of Highways in order to find a solution. On another matter, he also confirmed that he had raised the issue of the loose bricks in the High Street in Frant.

District

Cllr Howell referred to the following items of news from Wealden District Council:

- The *We do the Best Attractions 2019* tourist guide is now in circulation, featuring details of over 80 attractions;
- Real Nappy Week is taking place between 22nd-27th April and the Council has a number of free nappy trial kits to hand out;

- The Street Learning initiative continues to offer a range of courses, with various GCSE preparation courses on offer this spring.

Cllr Crookshank asked Cllr Howell about any progress with the lighting problem in Rushlye Close. She confirmed that she had met with officers from Wealden District Council on site and it was confirmed that the land in question is owned by ES Highways, that some of the path is to be renewed and that the hedges are cut in the autumn, in order not to disrupt nesting birds. It was agreed with officers that once a solution had been identified, the District Council would undertake any local public consultation. Cllr Howell also confirmed that she was liaising with County Cllr Standley on this issue.

(County Cllr Standley left the meeting)

7. Green Spaces

7.1 To review the revised report from Allen Scott concerning the green in Frant

The Clerk said Mr Huskisson had given his apologies for the meeting. As his input is important, it was agreed to defer this item and item 7.2 until the next meeting.

7.2 To consider the report via Tree Work about the veteran oak in Frant

As above.

7.3 To consider the quote for replacing parts of the play equipment in Frant

The Clerk noted that the engineer from Playdale had assessed every piece of play equipment on Frant green and the quotation thus detailed all the repairs required across the play area. It was agreed that all of the work was therefore necessary and the quotation was **approved**.

7.4 To consider the quote for the repair of benches

The quote provided for bench repairs was **approved**.

8. Finance (WR)

8.1 To approve the accounts payable

The Clerk tabled the accounts to be paid, as follows:

Payee	Item	Cheque No.	Amount
Post Office Ltd	ESCC for streetlight maintenance contract 1 Apr 18 – 31 Mar 2019. Invoice no. 8005058990	3214	£1100.40
Post Office Ltd	ESCC for additional urban grass cuts in 2018-19 Invoice no. 8005058238	3215	£324.00
Dial2Drive	Invoice 6628 – March 2019 via Henry Smith funds	3215	£118.80
Cripps LLP	Professional charges up to 21 Mar 19 in connection with lease for new Eridge green	3217	£1857.60
Staff	Salary/tax/expenses/mileage	3218/19/20/22	£1221.17
		TOTAL	£4621.97

The accounts were **approved**.

8.2 To approve the bank reconciliation and cash book

The bank reconciliation and cash book were **approved**.

9. To review customised Standing Orders and adopt

Councillors agreed to defer items 9 and 10 in order to give them more time to consider the amendments. The Clerk noted that these were minor and, in the meantime, the model policies had been adopted in principle at the last Full Council Meeting.

10. To review customised Financial Regulations and adopt

As above.

11. Safety in the Parish (MR)

11.1 To consider the installation of a defibrillator in the Parish

In considering this item, Cllr Macdonald-Brown noted that in his 32 years working in general practice as a GP, the surgery had never once had an occasion to use a defibrillator. He said such devices do have a role to play, for example, at large venues and events; however, he suggested that a much better use of the Council's funds would be to pay for First Aid courses provided by the Red Cross. He went on to suggest that individual organisations in the Parish were free to purchase and install their own device. It was agreed that the Clerk would research local Red Cross courses and report back at the next Full Council Meeting.

Action: Clerk

12. Communications (DP)

No issues to report.

13. Highways and Lighting (AMB)

13.1 Lighting in Rushlye Close, Bells Yew Green

As discussed above.

13.2 To select two fingerposts for potential match-funding in 2019/20

Various fingerposts were considered and it was suggested that the fingerpost at the top of Bartley Mill Lane and Bayham Road be put forward for match funding from ESCC. It was agreed to allow more time to identify a second fingerpost and the Clerk noted that the earlier the application for funding was submitted, the more likelihood of being awarded a grant.

14. Planning (GB)

14.1 To approve the Draft Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 1st April 2019

The Minutes were approved as true and accurate record and were duly signed.

14.2 To consider planning and licence applications:

- **WD/2019/0673/F – Combehurst Cottage, Wadhurst Road, Frant, TN3 9EJ**
Proposed 2-storey rear extension.

No objections were raised.

- **WD/2019/0700/F – Frant Place, Wadhurst Road, Frant, TN3 9EJ**
Proposed sauna.

No objections were raised.

14.3 To note applications approved, refused or withdrawn:

- **WD/2019/0276/F- Little Orchard, Ely Grange Estate, Frant, TN3 9DY**
Remodelling of existing property.
Approved on 8th April 2019.

Councillors noted the decision.

15. Horizon scanning

No issues were raised.

16. Chairman's announcements & correspondence for noting

The forthcoming Annual Parish Assembly, taking place on 23rd May, was discussed. Cllr Crookshank agreed to step in as Chair for Cllr Rutherford, who had given his apologies for the event. It was agreed to invite Mrs Steadman from the Friends of Frant Green Spaces to give a brief update about Frant green; in addition, it was agreed to ask a representative from the police to come and talk about new policing measures being taken, principally the recruitment of new PCSOs, and Ms Briggenshaw from Wealden District Council.

Action: Clerk

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

Cllr Rowland confirmed that he would not be standing as councillor on the Parish Council after the May election. Cllr Crookshank, on behalf of the Council, thanked Cllr Rowland for his long years of service noting that he had always been a valued, reliable and committed member, contributing much to the life of the Parish over the years, bringing his extensive local knowledge to the fore.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

ACTIONS

Action	By whom
To research the availability and cost of First Aid courses.	Clerk
To invite speakers to the Annual Parish Assembly.	Clerk
To identify fingerpost for match funding.	All
To review minor amendments to model policies for approval at the next meeting.	All