

FRANT PARISH COUNCIL

THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FRANT PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT ERIDGE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2018 AT 7.30PM

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

Mrs R. Karim – Clerk
County Cllr Standley
Mr D. Huskisson

1. To receive apologies

Apologies were received from County Cllr Whetstone, Cllrs Rutherford, Mrs Park and Mrs Wallis. 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 September 2018 as a true and accurate record

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

4. To determine matters arising from the previous meeting

Cllr Crookshank decided to consider matters arising as they emerged throughout the agenda.

5. Public forum

Mr Huskisson raised the following matters:

- Treework have completed the works to the tree group on the green, near the junction with the A267, to a good standard. An invoice has now been raised;
- Friends of the Green lodged their representations on the Draft Local Plan. The Clerk confirmed that she had also done so on behalf of the Parish Council;
- Liaison about the quote for addressing the erosion around the green is ongoing. It was agreed that Mr Huskisson should have a further meeting with the consultants and report back at the meeting in November.

(Cllr Stevens arrived at the meeting at 7.38pm)

- It was agreed that the Clerk would check whether there was any overlap in the scope of work between Orchard Landscapes and ESCC concerning urban grass cuts; and **Action: Clerk**
- Orchard Landscapes' invoice has been reviewed and can now be paid.

Mr Huskisson went on to note that his planning application at Tollgate was due to be considered later in the agenda. He offered to answer any queries that councillors may have about the proposal. Cllr Crookshank agreed to bring forward this part of item 15.2. Councillors agreed they had no objection to the proposal.

Cllr Crookshank thanked Mr Huskisson for his time and input.

(Mr Huskisson left the meeting at 7.45pm)

6. To receive reports of County and District Councillors

County

Cllr Standley noted that 56 out of 58 targets had been met or were on track to be met this year. He went on to say that the financial situation was still very challenging with the County Council being expected to find cuts of another £17 million next year, with another £46 million in the following three years. He confirmed that the County Council had started work on its budget but would not know about Government funding until November or December. He noted that he had met with Greg Clark MP and asked him about funding for adult social care. Mr Clark responded that the Green Paper was due soon; Cllr Standley noted, however, that the components of the Green Paper would not come into operation until 2022 and thus transitional funding was required. Cllr Standley noted that there had been a £2.6 million overspend on Children's Services, largely because this service is demand-led.

Cllr Standley said that two Government ministers and a Treasury minister were due to visit ESCC on the back of Northampton Council's recent 'falling over' in financial terms. He considered this was positive and showed that Government was taking more notice of those Councils struggling with the stream of cuts being imposed on them.

District

Cllr Howell raised the issue of the recent exhibition by Rydon Homes in Bells Yew Green concerning the site behind the green, in the village. Cllr Howell said she had been told by the Planning Department at Wealden DC that Rydon Homes had approached them about this site and its prospect for being developed but had been told categorically that this site was not identified in the Draft Local Plan for development. She said she did not understand why Rydon Homes were therefore pursuing the site. She went on to note that Wealden DC would defend its Draft Local Plan in this regard to ensure that sites such as these are not pushed for release for housing development, such that the system then becomes developer-led.

Cllr Howell clarified that the call for sites process was a means by which sites that were put forward were assessed as to their suitability for future development. The assessment did not imply that the sites were definitely to be allocated for development in the Local Plan. She also confirmed that the housing allocation in the Draft Local Plan was not anywhere like 500 in Bells Yew Green, but more like 20.

Cllr Standley agreed that the SHELAA document (call for sites) had been somewhat misleading. Cllr Crookshank said the owners of the land in Bells Yew Green, the location for Rydon Homes' proposal, were in a difficult position as Rydon Homes now had a 3-year option on their land for development that would ultimately be unsupported by Wealden DC. He said Rydon Homes had implied to the owners that they had contacts at Wealden DC; Cllr Howell said that, in all her time as a District Councillor, all planning officers had expressed their views about proposals in a professional and impartial manner. Cllr Stevens suggested the owners of the land should now seek legal advice about their position.

Cllr Howell went on to detail a number of items of interest, including:

- Get Online Week is running, aiming to facilitate people to operate in a digital environment;
- an urgent reminder to enrol on the Electoral Register;
- East Sussex Fire and Rescue are offering free CPR training; and
- Cllr Standley is inviting views about electric vehicles. There was some discussion about the future for electric vehicles, with both Cllr Stevens and Cllr Macdonald-Brown raising ways in which the provision for electric cars could be improved (ie. with charging points in all new developments and attached to lamp posts).

7. Green Spaces

7.1 To discuss the quote for addressing erosion around the green

Cllr Crookshank noted that this item had been discussed during the public forum.

7.2 To consider cost of ESCC urban grass cuts for 2018/19

As above.

7.3 To approve further planting at the green in Bells Yew Green

Cllr Crookshank said there was a proposal to re-plant the bund around the green for the winter months at a cost of £150. This was approved to be funded by the Parish Council.

8. To approve the Information Security Incident Policy

It was **resolved** to adopt the Information Security Incident Policy.

Cllr Howell asked whether the Parish Council's retained GDPR consultant could consider why and where the names and details of councillors were stored in relation to Wealden DC's Democratic Services. **Action: Clerk**

9. To discuss centenary events for the Parish

The Clerk noted that Cllr Rutherford had received funding for eight silhouettes of soldiers to be placed in the church pews in Frant and Eridge and that he was also running an historical exhibit. She also said that the school choir were mobilised to sing on the green, if a beacon were installed. However, she noted it was possible that, given Remembrance Sunday was not far away, there may not be any more beacons available for hire. It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate this and Cllr Crookshank would speak with the Church to find out what events they were planning. **Action: Clerk/SC**

10. To agree the installation of a defibrillator in Bells Yew Green

The Clerk said that she had written to the Parish Council's insurers for advice on this and would report back at the next meeting.

11. Finance (WR)

11.1 To approve the cost of legal fees in relation to the new green in Eridge

The cost of legal fees, plus VAT and expenses, was approved.

11.2 To approve the accounts payable

The accounts were approved.

12 Safety in the Parish (MR)

Cllr Rowland said that there was a new Neighbourhood Watch scheme to alert residents of major planned roadworks and emergencies on motorways. A further initiative run by Sussex Police was now ongoing, seeking to strengthen and protect the countryside. Lastly, Cllr Rowland gave details of how to report anti-social behaviour, as follows: telephone number 0777 070 0642 on Fridays and Saturdays between 6pm and midnight.

13. Communications (DP)

None.

14. Highways and Lighting (AMB)

Cllr Macdonald-Brown summarised the recent SLR meeting, as follows:

- Two residents in Rushlye Close have complained about poor lighting at the end of the cul de sac. There is an existing BT telegraph pole that could be used to attach a light to, but this would need BT's permission. Cllr Crookshank suggested a solar panel and light; **Action: AMD/SW**

- The A267 between Mark Cross and Frant is due for resurfacing;
- There are now police cameras positioned at the junction of Bunny Lane and the A26 to assist in intercepting criminals using this rural lane as an escape route;
- The idea of introducing 'No HGV' signs on Benhall Mill Lane has been declined by ESCC Highways on the basis that such signs would have to be put on all similar roads, of which there are many in the Parish;
- A 'Beware – Queuing Traffic' sign is to be installed on the B2169, at the junction with Ivy Lane in Bells Yew Green;
- The overgrown vegetation obscuring the VAS sign on the A267 was reported; and
- A 'Slow' marking is to be placed on the road surface of the A267 between Frant and Bunny Lane.

Cllr Crookshank said there had been a number of 'near misses' reported where Cricketers Close meets Hawkenbury Road in Bells Yew Green. He asked that Highways be approached to ask whether a 'Concealed Entrance' sign could be installed here.

Action: Clerk

15. Planning (GB)

15.1 To approve the draft Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 1st October 2018

The Minutes were approved.

15.2 To consider licence and planning applications received and make recommendations

- **WD/2018/1920/LB – Tollgate, The Green, Frant, TN3 9DS**

Replace gas fire coal effect fireplace and surround with a multi-fuel cast iron stove and reclaimed cast iron surround and mantle shelf.

Considered during the public forum – no objection.

- **WD/2018/1999/F – Murree, Church Lane, Frant, TN3 9DX**

Proposed garden annexe to provide accommodation ancillary to the main house.

There was much concern about this proposal, particularly its scale, positioning, design and massing and in the context of the surrounding Conservation Area. It was agreed to object to the proposal on these grounds.

- **WD/2018/2029/F – Yew Tree Cottage, Middle Road, Bells Yew Green, TN3 9BA**

External alterations to existing garage to facilitate the conversion of the building to annexe accommodation.

Cllr Howell raised concerns that, in the future, the annexation of the converted garage to form a separate dwelling would be pursued, either by the existing owners or future owners. The Clerk suggested tying the garage to main house by way of a condition imposed on any permission granted. On balance, councillors agreed to respond with no objection but to raise this issue in its comments.

16. Horizon scanning

None.

17. Chairman's announcements & correspondence for noting

None.

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

None.

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