

FRANT PARISH COUNCIL

THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FRANT PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT FRANT MEMORIAL HALL ON WEDNESDAY 19th DECEMBER 2018 AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr Rutherford – Chairman
Cllrs Howell, Park, Wallis, Rowland, Macdonald-Brown, Crookshank

Mrs R. Karim – Clerk

1. To receive apologies

Apologies were received from County Cllrs Standley and Whetstone and Cllr 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 Minutes of the meeting on 21st November 2018 as a true and accurate record

The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

(Cllr Rowland joined the meeting at 7.35pm)

4. To determine matters arising from the previous meeting

- Cllr Howell said she would establish which houses in Rushlye Close are Council-owned and which are in private ownership. This would be with a view to resolving the issue of poor lighting for local residents.
- The Clerk confirmed that the damaged posts on the green had been repaired.
- The Clerk confirmed that she had responded to Allen Scott about their quote for the green.
- The Clerk noted that the deadline for submitting the nomination for the Chairman's Community Volunteer Awards had been extended into January 2019.
- Cllr Rutherford confirmed that the FSA's protection for deposited monies related only to personal accounts.
- Cllr Park said that she and the Clerk had been liaising about the new email system and that this would be an item on the next agenda.
- Councillors noted the Christmas tree on Frant green and extended their thanks to the Brickell family for donating it.
- Cllr Howell said she had spoken with the Enforcement team about the mobile home at Chase Farm. The team confirmed that the mobile home was being used temporarily while works were being carried out to the owners' property.
- The Clerk asked for clarification about which solicitors to approach about rights of way across the green. Cllr Rutherford said that Cripps Harries Hall had been responsible for the transfer in ownership of the green to the Parish Council and it would be best to liaise with them. **Action: Clerk**

5. Public forum

No public present.

6. To receive reports of County and District Councillors

County

No matters from County.

District

WR noted that the Joint Waste Committee had identified a contractor to replace Kier, the current service provider, and this would likely happen in mid-2019.

7 Green Spaces

7.1 To consider works to a veteran oak in Frant and associated quote

The Clerk tabled the quote from Treework for works to the veteran oak on Frant green. It was **resolved** to approve the quote.

7.2 To approve quote for consultancy work concerning erosion around the green in Frant

The Clerk tabled the revised quote from Allen Scott for their consultancy work. It was **resolved** to approve the quote.

7.3 To agree the submission of a grant to the Sussex Lund fund by Friends of Frant Green Spaces (FOFGS) for environmental improvements to the green in Frant

Cllr Howell read out an email from Mrs Steadman (FOFGS) asking for clarification from the Parish Council about whether it could consider what items relating to Frant green could be included in a grant application. This was discussed and it was agreed that the outcome of the consultancy work by Allen Scott would help to determine the type and scope of works recommended for the green and thus inform the grant application.

7.4 To consider quotes for renewing the path across the green in Frant

The Clerk tabled a quote from Coppards for this work and councillors raised some queries associated with the materials specified. The Clerk noted that despite repeated requests made to two other contractors for a quote, they had not been forthcoming. It was agreed to again wait for the outcome of the work to be carried out by Allen Scott, to help inform how the renewal of the path should be managed.

8 Finance (WR)

8.1 To approve the accounts payable

The following accounts were approved for payment:

Payee	Item	Cheque No.	Amount
R.Karim	Salary, expenses and mileage January 2019	3174	*****
HMRC	Tax and NI - to 5 Dec 18	3175	£47.86
N. McGregor-Gould	Bus shelters – Nov/Dec 18	3176	£93.00
LR Online	Inserts into Parish News for Remembrance Sunday	3177	£133.00
Strutt and Parker	Interim invoice no 729183 for preparing leasehold for Eridge green	3178	£1, 639.08
		TOTAL	£2 894.29

8.2 To approve the bank reconciliation

Cllr Rutherford, while noting that the accounts reconciled as of 18th December, queried two items on the bank reconciliation – the Clerk explained that one item related to a credit into the account that required clarification and the other related to direct debits payments to Haven Power.

8.3 To consider financial position year to date

The Clerk tabled the year to date figures in the nominal ledger and these were noted.

8.4 To consider proposed budget for 2018/19, including CIL and reserves

Councillors discussed the proposed budget at length, noting the various items to be paid for in the next three years. It was acknowledged that, as Trustees of the green in Frant, the Parish Council has a duty to maintain it. It was thus agreed that funds would be required to that end. However, it was agreed that CIL money could potentially be used for some works to the green and that clarity should be sought from Wealden DC about whether this was feasible.

Cllr Rutherford tabled a draft CIL policy. This was discussed and councillors **resolved** to adopt it.

The Clerk noted that the amount Parish Councils could seek in precept funds remains uncapped. In giving her view of the budget, the Clerk considered that some proposals for the green would not fall within the terms of how CIL money can be used (e.g. for infrastructure) and that these works should therefore be properly budgeted for. In addition, she noted that, while the Parish Council could sustain some take from the reserves, it should be aware that making use of reserves for routine items, year on year, would see the reserves inevitably diminish and the need for the precept to be increased, perhaps more significantly.

The level of the precept to be requested for 2019/2020 was discussed in parallel with the 3-year budget/forecast. It was agreed to seek a sensible amount that would see only a gentle increase on the demand on Band D properties but which, in addition to using the reserves and CIL funds, would enable the Parish Council to effectively discharge its duties.

By unanimous vote, the Parish Council **resolved** to increase the precept for 2019/2020 by five per cent (5%).

8.5 To discuss use of Henry Smith funds

Cllr Macdonald-Brown said he had reviewed the Henry Smith Charity's website and noted that a key objective in how the funds could be used was to support and improve community cohesion; he noted that there was also an intent for funds to be used in relation to the church, although not exclusively. It was agreed that Cllr Macdonald-Brown would speak with the Friendship Group to gauge their views on how the money could be spent. Meanwhile, the Clerk would liaise with the Youth Worker at St Albans Church for ideas about supporting young people's groups in the Parish. The Clerk suggested the funds could support a new youth club, although this would be reliant on volunteers taking this forward.

Action: AMB/Clerk

9. Safety in the Parish (MR)

Cllr Rowland reported that there had been 26 arrests made within the first 48 hours of the anti-drink driving initiative run by the Sussex Police. He noted that another Sussex Police initiative was seeking to prevent elderly and vulnerable people from falling foul of fraudsters and that there was current advice about so-called 'handbag dipping'.

Cllr Wallis raised the issue of safety on the road and referred to an incident on Dundale Road whereby she had been stuck for 15 minutes while two large vehicles attempted to pass one another on this narrow C-class road. Cllr Crookshank agreed that this was a serious problem which occurred many times a day. It was agreed to raise this issue with Highways at the next SLR meeting.

Two accidents in the Parish were reported.

10. Communications (DP)

10.1 Gatwick Draft Masterplan - consultation

Cllr Howell, in referring to recent correspondence from Cllr Stevens, said she agreed with the objections to the Draft Masterplan. As a long-term resident in Frant, she said the level of noise pollution from air traffic was increasing. She noted this was particularly noticeable in the summer when the volume of air traffic increased and aircraft were flying at a lower height. Cllr Park said the swathe had been narrowed and although it had since been enlarged, it had not been brought back to its original width. It was further noted that there was no moratorium on flights in and out of Gatwick Airport, as there is at Heathrow Airport, meaning that the noise is round the clock. It was agreed that the Draft Masterplan to expand the airport was flawed and that the Parish Council would object. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Park said she had received an unsatisfactory response from the Broadband Team about Broadband delivery in the Parish, with little information forthcoming about which postcodes would be included in the next contract. She referred to Open Reach's Universal Service Obligation and said she was organising a petition. She said she had not received a response from Nus Ghani MP to any of her correspondence. Cllr Rutherford suggested including houses in the petition within the Kent boundary (ie. beyond the Curling Rink) and then writing to Greg Clark MP. **Action: DP**

11. Highways and Lighting (AMB)

Cllr Macdonald-Brown noted that there was still repeated flooding under the bridge in Bells Yew Green, despite the gully having been recently cleared by Highways. He said the problem appeared to be that the gully was not wide enough. He also said the downpipe under the bridge was still missing and it was noted that the Clerk was liaising with Network Rail about this.

11.1 Lighting in Rushlye Close, Bells Yew Green

Cllr Wallis said she had received confirmation from BT that they would not allow a light to be attached to a BT pole. She said the situation was particularly perilous and needed to be resolved. It was agreed that Cllr Howell would identify Wealden DC-owned land in the Close with a view to potentially placing a pole and light on it. **Action: JH**

12. Planning (GB)

12.1 To approve the Draft Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 3rd December 2018

The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

12.2 To consider licence and planning applications received and make recommendations

WD/2018/2509/F – Bohemia Lodge, Eridge Park, Eridge Road, TN3 9HA

Removal of a conservatory. Two-storey addition to include an entrance hall, dining room, utility, WC, study area, two bedrooms, bathroom and en-suite shower room. Alterations to kitchen/dining area and bedrooms.

While it was acknowledged that the design of the proposed was sympathetic to the Eridge Estate, there was strong objection to this proposal on the grounds of over-development and the impact on the surrounding AONB.

WD/2018/2437/F and 2438/LB – Rushlye Farmhouse, Bells Yew Green, TN3 9AP

Raise roof of a single-storey rear extension by 900mm in order to accommodate a bedroom and en-suite shower room.

Councillors raised no objection to this proposal.

13. Horizon scanning

None.

14. Chairman’s announcements & correspondence for noting

The Clerk noted that the deadline was looming for responses to East Sussex County Council’s consultation about their ‘Core Offer’. Cllr Rutherford agreed to respond if time permitted. **Action: WR**

Cllr Rutherford, in looking ahead to the elections next year, said he intended to step-down as Chairman and urged councillors to consider this role.

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

It was noted that the VAS sign on the A267 near Church Lane was not working. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Rutherford thanked the councillors and Clerk for their contribution during the past year and wished everyone well for the festive season.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9.15pm.

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 and potentially installing a pole and light.	JH / Clerk
To respond to Allen Scott about their quote for the erosion study on the green.	Clerk
To liaise with the Friendship Group and Church Youth Worker re: the use of Henry Smith funds.	AMB/Clerk
To organise a petition re: Broadband delivery in the Parish and to write to local MPs.	DP
To respond to the consultation on the Draft Masterplan for Gatwick Airport.	Clerk
To respond to ESCC's Core Offer survey.	WR
To report the broken VAS sign to Highways.	Clerk
To approach Cripps Harries Hall regarding rights of way across the green in Frant.	Clerk