

FRANT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FRANT PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT BELLS YEW GREEN VILLAGE HALL, BELLS YEW GREEN ON WEDNESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2017 AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr Rutherford Chair
Cllrs Mrs Best, Mrs Kinley, Mrs Hutchings, MacDonald-Brown, Rowland
Rosie Karim Clerk
County Cllr Standley

One representative of the Frant Garden Society

1. To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Howell, Stevens, Breese and Wright. 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 Full Council Meeting on 18th January 2017 as a true record

The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

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

- 4.1** Cllr Rutherford said there was no update as yet about the fenced-in area of land at Mr Burgess' property. It was agreed at an earlier meeting that the previous Chair would be contacted for his recollection about events concerning this land. It was suggested that long-term residents also be contacted for any recollection they may have. Carried forward.
Action: WR/JH
- 4.2** Cllr Rutherford said he had met with the owner of Frant Post Office to discuss advertising. The owner said he would consider next steps. Completed.
- 4.3** Cllr Standley advised that he had spoken with 1 Park View about drainage, following the A267 roadworks. He said the owners were going to report a problem with the recently laid tarmac. Completed.
- 4.4** Wealdlink – on agenda to discuss.
- 4.5** The Clerk said she would send Cllr Rutherford an email about the costs and options for website training.
Action: Clerk
- 4.6** Neighbourhood Plan – on agenda to discuss.
- 4.7** It was suggested that the Clerk ask Reverend James for suggestions of any local residents who would benefit from being on UKPN's list of vulnerable people. It was also suggested that the residents of Home Farm Court should be added to the list.
Action: Clerk
- 4.8** The Clerk noted she had written to Cllrs Stevens about changes to the Parish boundary. Completed.
- 4.9** The issue of potential enforcement concerning a property on the A26 was carried forward.
Action: JH
- 4.10** The issue of finding evidence for a fingerpost that apparently used to be sited on the green was carried forward.
Action: JH

- 4.11 The Clerk noted she had received some helpful information from the Clerk at Withyham PC about repair of fingerposts. On agenda to discuss.
- 4.12 Risk assessment – on agenda to discuss.
- 4.13 The Clerk advised she had written to Highways about installing gutters around the bridge in Bells Yew Green. Awaiting response. **Action: Clerk**
- 4.14 The Clerk advised that she was liaising with the Pensions Regulator to confirm the Council has carried out its statutory duties with respect to pension provision. **Action: Clerk**
- 4.15 Cllr Rutherford noted the deadline for the consultation about night flights was 28th February. Cllr MacDonald-Brown offered to forward the website address for Gatwick which shows all of the various flight paths. **Action: AMB**
- 4.16 The Clerk advised that the roads within Broomfield in Bells Yew Green are unadopted. Clerk to write to the BYG Society with this information. **Action: Clerk**
- 4.17 The Clerk noted that both Reverend James and the owner of the Frant Post Office had reviewed the list for the distribution of Henry Smith funds. On agenda to discuss.
- 4.18 The Clerk confirmed that she had submitted the request for the precept for 2017/18 to WDC and had received an acknowledgement. Completed.
- 4.19 The Clerk advised that she had written to Frant Primary School about the donation to the school crossing and had received a response. Completed.
- 4.20 The Clerk confirmed she had advised ESCC about light no. 501 in Frant being out of order.
- 4.21 Assessment of the fingerposts near Broadwater Lane. Carried forward. **Action: GB**
- 4.22 The Clerk said she had updated a local resident who had written to the Council about erosion in Frant. Completed.
- 4.23 To determine whether edging stones outside a property on the BYG Road have had planning permission. Cllr Standley offered to forward photographs to the Clerk. Carried forward. **Action: BS/Clerk**
- 4.24 Quotes for repair of a bench on the green in BYG and the removal of two benches on the BYG Road. On agenda to discuss.
- 4.25 The Clerk advised that she had written to Frant with Eridge PCC about dog mess in the churchyard. Completed.

5. Public forum

A representative of the Frant Garden Society attended the meeting and spoke about the proposed Open Gardens Event in Frant. To assist with upfront costs, she requested a sum of £50 from the Council. She said she was intending to seek additional money through crowdfunding – the deadline for this being 10th March. She also noted that she received some sound advice and suggestions for how to manage and improve the green spaces within Frant and tabled two documents for Councillors to consider.

Cllr Rutherford thanked her for coming to the meeting and for her enthusiasm. He enquired whether she might wish to speak at the Council's Annual Parish Meeting. He noted that the Council was keen to support new initiatives in the Parish and suggested that, over time, such proposals for improving green spaces could be rolled out to Bells Yew Green. Cllr Rutherford also said that governance was key and noted that the Council were now the trustees of the green in Frant.

Cllr Rutherford brought forward **item 13.3** on the agenda and, under this item, it was **resolved** to give the Frant Garden Society the amount of £50 to assist with the preparations for the Open Gardens Event. **Action: Clerk**

6. To receive reports of County and District Councillors

County

Cllr Standley advised that the County Council had approved the budget increase of 5%, comprising 2% for general funding and 3% for social care. He noted the challenges the County faced in terms of finding savings in social care, in part because such care is demand-led and the County must therefore respond. He also noted there was increased funding for gulley and gutter clearing, match-funding and the maintenance of pavements in urban areas.

Cllr Standley also referred to SDPs and noted that, whilst they were not a function of the County, it did have an overview of health delivery in terms of judging if the proposed plans will work in practice.

Lastly, Cllr Standley noted he had met recently with the Chief Constable and raised his concerns about the lack of policing in the north of the district. Drawing on this, Cllr Best relayed an unfortunate incident involving a recent attack on her dog (by another dog) in Broadwater Warren. Thankfully, her dog is recovering but she noted that the police had showed little interest in the incident. Cllr Standley suggested she contact the Divisional Commander at Sussex Police for further help.

On this subject of security, Cllr Hutchings noted an incident of a cyber attack on a business on the Wadhurst Road and Cllr Rowland referred to the problem of dogs worrying cattle elsewhere in the country that could well become an issue locally. Cllr Rutherford pointed out that the Council should consider how it deals with such information, particularly in terms of disseminating it to local residents in order to alert them. It was agreed that a regular piece about these issues would be placed in Parish News.

Action: CK

District

Cllr Rutherford advised that Wealden DC had approved the budget today, including a £5 increase in Council Tax for Band D properties. He noted also that there would be a consultation in the next few weeks about the Local Plan, which had been previously delayed. He said this was particularly important as the Parish's Neighbourhood Plan would need to be in conformity with it.

At this point in the meeting, Cllr Standley requested that item 12 on the agenda be considered. Cllr Rutherford agreed.

12. Highways and Lighting (SH)

12.1 Update on the SLR meeting held on 23 January 2017

Cllr Hutchings gave a brief update of the key issues discussed at the meeting and asked the Clerk to write to the Highways Steward for an update about the various actions arising from these discussions.

Action: Clerk

It was agreed that the results of the speed surveys in Bells Yew Green would be added to the agenda for the next Full Council meeting.

Action: Clerk

12.2 To consider options for slowing down traffic on Wadhurst Road, near Knowle Grange

Cllr Hutchings said there had been another accident involving a young driver crashing into her neighbour's fence. Cllr Standley noted that much of this was down to driver behaviour and driver error and there was little that could be done in terms of intervention to change this.

It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Highways about their traffic accident record. **Action: Clerk**
(Cllr Standley left the meeting at this point)

12.3 To discuss grit bin for Bells Yew Green

After some discussion, it was **resolved** to purchase a new grit bin and its first fill from ESCC and request they remove the existing bin. **Action: Clerk**

12.4 To review progress on assessing fingerposts

Cllr MacDonald-Brown suggested that two of the fingerposts in Bells Yew Green needed repairing and refurbishment. Cllr Rutherford said the fingerpost on the green near the Memorial Hall also needed attention and would probably need to be replaced. Cllr Best agreed to review the fingerposts in Eridge after which the Clerk would seek quotes for this work from specialist companies. **Action: Clerk**

7. Finance

7.1 To consider future Wealdlink payments

Cllr Kinley said she had spoken with Wealdlink to establish how many people in the Parish were using the services. Wealdlink confirmed that only the Frant Friendship Group used it but paid separately for this. Thus, it was **resolved** to cease further payments to Wealdlink, given that none of the residents within the Parish were using the service. **Action: Clerk**

7.2 To agree suggested adjustments to proposed list of Henry Smith recipients

The Clerk had circulated some proposed additions to the list of suggested recipients prior to the meeting. This revised list was agreed. It was suggested that the Clerk liaise with Frant Post Office and Lambs Larder to see whether the amount given to each recipient could be staggered such that the money could be spent on three different occasions, rather than all at once. It was agreed that the definition of how the funds could be spent should be sought from the solicitors involved. **Action: Clerk**

7.3 To approve accounts payable

| Payee Name | Detail | Chq Ref | Amount |
|------------------------------|---|---------|-----------------|
| SE Water | Supply to football | 2904 | £87.63 |
| Bells Yew Green Village Hall | Hall rental | 2905 | £20.00 |
| SSALC Limited | End of year finance training | 2906 | £48.00 |
| R.Karim | February: salary and expenses | 2907 | £735.57 |
| HMRC | Income tax and NI – February | 2908 | £42.36 |
| Wealdlink | Supply of community transport 1.1 – 31.3.17 | TBA | £66.75 |
| TOTAL | | | £1000.31 |

With the exception of the payment to Wealdlink, the other accounts payable and the revised total of £933.56 were approved.

8. Neighbourhood Plan

Councillors gave a brief update about suggestions for people to join a working group – these included a volunteer from Bells Yew Green, the representative from the Frant Garden Society and the Bells Yew Green Society. It was agreed that Councillors would continue to give this some thought. **Action: All Cllrs**

9. Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk confirmed that the provisional date for this meeting was Thursday 25th May at 7.30pm. Cllr Rutherford said there were a number of issues that should be raised at this meeting, including the Neighbourhood Plan, Open Gardens event(s), the village fête, WWI commemorative events in 2018, Christmas trees on the village greens and so on. In addition, a number of invitees and speakers were suggested, including representatives from the police, the Friendship Society, the Eridge Fair committee, etc. It was agreed that leaflets advertising the meeting would be distributed with the early May edition of Parish News. It was agreed that Cllr Kinley would draft a leaflet and the meeting would be placed on the next Full Council agenda. **Action: CK/Clerk**

It was also agreed that it would be a good idea for the Parish Council to have a stall at this year's Eridge Fair; however, it was suggested that the stall incorporate a game of some sort.

10. Update on risk assessment and the Asset Register

It was agreed that this item be carried forward to the next Full Council Meeting. **Action: WR/Clerk**

11. Safety in the Parish

This was largely discussed under item 6 above. However, Cllr Rowland raised the suggestion from local police to 'clear' (your car of valuables), 'click' (to lock your car) and 'check' (that you have done so). It was agreed that this was sensible advice.

13. Green Spaces (DW)

13.1 To review quote for removing two benches on Bells Yew Green Road

It was **resolved** to approve the quote provided by Swatlands to undertake this work. It was agreed that the Clerk would ensure they had sufficient insurance to work at the roadside. **Action: Clerk**

13.2 To review the quote to repair the bench on the green in Bells Yew Green

It was **resolved** to approve the quote provided by Mr McGregor-Gould. **Action: Clerk**

13.4 To consider erecting wooden posts around the green in Bells Yew Green

It was noted by the Councillors that people were continuing to park on the green and that the way forward may be to erect wooden posts to prevent this from happening. Cllr Rutherford offered to measure the green to determine how many posts might be needed, thus giving an indication of the potential cost. **Action: WR**

14. Communications (CK)

Nil.

15. Planning Matters (VB)

15.1 To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 6 February 2017 as a true record.

The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

15.2 To make recommendations about Planning Applications received:

- **WD/2017/0259/F – Henley Cottage, Riverhall Hill, Wadhurst, TN5 6LD**
Single-storey, wrap-around, orangery-style extension with internal alterations to open up the ground floor.

The Councillors raised no objections to this proposal.

- **WD/2017/0227/F – Henley House, Wadhurst Road, Frant, TN3 9EJ**
Single-storey side extension.
The Councillors raised no objections to this proposal.

15.3 To note decisions from Wealden District Council and appeal decisions

- **WD/2016/1336/FR – Browngate Cottages, Mayfield Road, Frant, TN3 9HS**
Vehicular access
Appeal dismissed
The decision was noted by the Councillors.

16. Chairman’s announcements and correspondence for noting

Cllr Rutherford tabled two letters from The Samaritans and Kent and Sussex Air Ambulance, both seeking donations from the Council. Councillors agreed that the Council would be happy to support fund-raising efforts and publicity but considered that local taxpayers’ money should be used to the direct benefit of the Parish.

Action: Clerk

17. Correspondence

Nil.

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

Nil.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:40pm.

Matters arising from meeting held on 22 February 2017

| Matters arising | Action |
|---|---------------|
| To speak with long-term residents for their recollection re: Mr Burgess' property. | WR/JH |
| Email Cllr Rutherford with options for website training. | Clerk |
| Speak with Reverend James about suggestions for residents who might benefit from being on the UKPN's list of vulnerable people. | Clerk |
| To speak with long-term residents for their recollection of a fingerpost opposite the Memorial Hall. | JH |
| Cllr MacDonald-Brown to circulate website for Gatwick flight paths. | AMB |
| To investigate edging/kerb stone past Burslems. | Clerk |
| To write to BYG Society confirming status of Broomfield internal road network. | Clerk |
| Insert regular piece in FPN about examples of local crime and security issues. | CK |
| To write to Highways for update on progress of Highways Steward's actions. | Clerk |
| To purchase new grit bin for BYG from ESCC. | Clerk |
| To write to Wealdlink explaining decision to cease funding. | Clerk |
| To speak with the Post Office and Lambs Larder to consider how Henry Smith recipients could stagger the use of their funds across two or three shops. | Clerk |
| Cllr Rutherford to visit the green in BYG to consider the best way to protect it from people parking their cars alongside. | WR |
| To respond to The Samaritans and Air Ambulance. | Clerk |
| To ask Swatlands to remove the benches along BYG Road. | Clerk |
| To ask N.McGregor-Gould to repair bench on green in BYG. | Clerk |