

FRANT PARISH COUNCIL

THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FRANT PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT FRANT MEMORIAL HALL, FRANT ON WEDNESDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2017 AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr Rutherford (Chair)
Cllrs Mrs Best, Mrs Howell, Mrs Wallis, MacDonald-Brown

Mrs R. Karim Clerk
County Councillor Bob Standley
Mrs J. Steadman
Mr D. Huskisson
Mr B. Garrett
1 member of the public

1. To receive apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Wright, Mrs Hutchings, Rowland, Stevens and County Cllr F. Whetstone.

2. To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda.

None.

3. To approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 25 October 2017.

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

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

4.1 Cllr Rutherford said that once the Council had its full complement of councillors, the various roles for each councillor could then be considered. To be reviewed at a future meeting.

4.2 Clerk to liaise with Frant Cricket Club about providing additional netting. Cllr Stevens to draft an agreement between the Club and the Parish Council. Carried forward. **Action: Clerk/MS**

4.3 It was agreed that Cllr Rutherford would meet with Niall MacGregor Gould to identify a location for the circular bench. **Action: WR**

4.4 Cllr Rutherford said he had drafted a letter to the landowner in Eridge about the possibility of establishing a 'green' in the village and, once reviewed by Cllr Best, he would send it off. **Action: WR**

4.5 New see saw for Frant – on the agenda to discuss.

4.6 The Clerk said she had sought three quotes for renewing the path across the green in Frant but had not yet had any response. Carried forward. **Action: Clerk**

4.7 The Clerk said she had received an email from JAKK UK to say that the works to the two grant-funded fingerposts were almost complete. The Clerk said she is waiting for telephone call to discuss the Eridge sign.

4.8 Parking posts at BYG green – on the agenda to discuss.

4.9 The Clerk confirmed that Cllr Hutchings had met with Mr Johnson from ES Highways outside Knowle Grange to consider ways in which to improve road safety in this location. She reported that the meeting had been positive and that there were various measures that Highways will undertake in the coming months in this location.

4.10 Frant Christmas Fair - on the agenda to discuss.

It was noted that there had been two road traffic accidents today – one at the junction of the A26 and Bunny Lane and the other near the Crow and Gate, Crowborough,

5. Public Forum.

Mr Garrett addressed the Council and expressed his concerns about the Bells Yew Green Road. Specifically, he noted that the speed of the traffic was often excessive and pointed out that there had been a notable increase in pedestrians walking to and from the railway station to The Brewery and Reflex House. He also noted that, in winter, cars often leave the road and end up on the golf course. He suggested that the 30mph sign be relocated to the other side of the railway bridge.

Cllr Rutherford thanked Mr Garrett for his comments. He explained that the Parish Council had raised this with ESCC on several occasions and had also commissioned a speed survey in order to gather sufficient evidence to support road safety measures. He also noted that local residents voiced their objections to new development partly on the grounds of additional traffic (eg. Reflex House, Manor Farm, The Brewery conversion, etc.). Rather than look at the cumulative effect of the increase in volume of traffic arising from successive developments, he noted that Wealden District Council had a tendency to look at each proposal on a case by case basis only.

Cllr Wallis noted the ongoing issue whereby water drains away from nearby woodland and fields and flows across the road near the railway station, often freezing over and creating perilous conditions. Cllr Wallis also raised the recent comments made by a local resident, Ms S. Jenkins, regarding the issue of road safety in Bells Yew Green.

Cllr Standley said that road traffic accidents were often as a result of driver behaviour and that altering or extending the speed limit would not necessarily influence the way people drive. However, Cllr Standley said he would investigate the issue and report back to the Parish Council.

Action: Cllr Standley

6. Reports from County and District Councillors.

County

Cllr Standley raised the following:

- the cross-party campaign called Stand Up for East Sussex, which is seeking to lobby Government for additional funds so that key services do not have to be cut back – Cllr Standley said that the budget for Highways was likely to be reduced resulting in inevitable knock-on cuts across key services;
- that the consultation about library closures was ongoing;
- he is liaising with Enforcement at ESCC about the new driveway at Browngate Cottage; and
- he referred to the 'Get a Grip' campaign for improving school attendance in the County. He acknowledged that the campaign had proved very controversial with over 11, 000 signatures on a petition against it. He also noted that, for this reason, the campaign had been reported in all the major newspapers and on national radio and television.

District

Cllr Howell raised the following:

- a decision had been taken that day at Full Council to begin consultation about the level of charging for the collection of garden waste. The principle for charging has already been established;
- the consultation on the impact of development and traffic on the Ashdown Forest is ongoing. The impact has been deemed to be at a critical level;
- the Dementia Action Alliance has been shortlisted for an award;
- there is a Best Christmas Window Display competition running in Wealden District.

Cllr Rutherford raised the following:

- work on the new crematorium in Horam has started; and
- there is a scam operating whereby people are posing as Kier representatives and asking for payment because their waste bins are too full.

Cllr Best enquired about the status of the Local Plan. Cllr Standley said it was due to go before Full Council in March 2018, after which it would go before the Inspector.

7. Green Spaces (DW)

7.1 To review the quotes for maintaining the green spaces within the Parish and to select the preferred option.

The Clerk said that while quotes from four companies had been sought, only two had been received. The two received were from Chaffins and Orchard Landscapes. Mr Huskisson noted that the Orchard Landscapes quote had been sensibly broken down and presented well. Mrs Steadman expressed concern that a minimum of three quotes would be required for the grant application but that she would double-check this.

The councillor discussed the quotes and it was **resolved** unanimously to accept the quote from Orchard Landscapes, on the proviso that receiving only two quotes was acceptable – Clerk to investigate this. **Action: Clerk**

In summary, Cllr Rutherford thanked Mrs Steadman and Mr Huskisson, on behalf of the Parish Council, for all their work in creating this community initiative for the green. He noted that the new contract for the maintenance of the Parish's green spaces was an excellent use of the precept.

(Mrs Steadman, Mr Huskisson and one member of the public left the meeting at 8.25pm).

7.2 To consider quotes for installing wooden posts around the green in Bells Yew Green

Cllr MacDonald-Brown said he had met with Mr Hanna on site. He noted that the size of the posts Mr Hanna was proposing to install combined with the use of hard wood was appropriate. Cllr Howell reflected whether in stopping people parking around the green, that this may inadvertently set up another problem with parking elsewhere. Cllr Wallis said she had spoken with some of the residents in Rushlye Close and they were keen for the posts to be installed. Cllr Rutherford said it might be necessary to put a 'no parking' sign up in the village hall car park. The Clerk enquired whether the land identified for parking posts was all within the ownership of the Parish Council. The consensus was that it was; however, Cllr Wallis offered to contact the owner of Yew Tree Cottage to establish the ownership of the strip of land between Yew Tree Cottage and Cricketers Close. **Action: SW**

It was agreed that the Clerk would enquire whether Mr Hanna had the necessary insurance to work at the road side. If not, it was agreed that he could work from the green. Subject to this, it was resolved to accept Mr Hanna's quote. **Action: Clerk**

7.3 To consider installing a dog bin in Bells Yew Green

Cllr Wallis said she had been approached by local residents concerning the lack of a dog waste bin in the village. It was agreed that she would consult further with local residents about where best to locate a bin and the Council would review this at a future meeting. **Action: SW**

Cllr Rutherford noted that there are two wardens at Wealden DC who can enforce against dog fouling offences. While they do not go on patrol, any concerns can be reported. It was agreed that Cllr Rutherford would refer the growing problem of dog fouling in Frant village to Wealden DC. **Action: WR**

7.4 To review quotes for replacing the see-saw in Frant and consider next steps.

After some discussion about each quote, it was agreed that the Clerk would make some enquiries about the proposed 'mulch' surfacing. **Action: Clerk**

8. Finance (WR)

8.1 To approve an amendment to the currently adopted Financial Regulations.

The Clerk tabled an amendment to item 2.1 of the adopted Financial Regulations as follows:

The Council shall review its three-year forecast of revenue and capital receipts and payments. Having regard to the forecast, it shall thereafter formulate and review budget proposals for the following financial year not later than the end of December each year, including any proposals for revising the forecast. The precept for the next financial year shall also be approved not later than the first meeting in January each year.

It was resolved to approve the amendment with immediate effect.

8.2 To consider the projected budget / precept.

The projected budget was discussed and it was agreed that each councillor consider the budget and return comments to the Clerk.

Action: All Cllrs

8.3 To approve the accounts payable.

The accounts to be paid were approved.

8.4 To approve the bank reconciliation for November 2017.

The Clerk said that the bank statements had not been received in time for the meeting.

9. Safety in the Parish (MR)

Apart from noting the recent road traffic accidents, there was nothing to report.

10. Highways and Lighting (SH)

Cllr Rutherford reminded all councillors to watch out for faulty streetlamps, particularly at this time of year, and to report any they find, with the reference number and location of the post, to the Clerk.

Cllr Wallis noted that there are no streetlights outside Nobles Wood, but that there are at Camden Cottages.

The Clerk relayed an informal enquiry from the school about whether the Parish Council would be willing to have the zebra crossing across Church Lane repainted. Cllr Rutherford noted that this zebra crossing had not been put down by ESCC and was therefore 'unofficial'. It would therefore not be appropriate for the Parish Council to carry out any works to it.

11. Communications (CK)

11.1 To approve a donation toward the Frant Christmas Fair.

Cllr Rutherford explained that The George PH had requested a donation of £200 from the Parish Council to pay for Christmas lights for the upcoming fair in the High Street. The lights would remain the property of the Council after the event. It was **resolved** to give The George PH this sum as a one-off donation.

11.2 To gauge councillors' views about how best to mark the Centenary of the end of WW1.

Cllr Rutherford said that a recent article in Parish News had prompted four telephone calls to him from relatives of some of those from the Parish who fell in WW1. Cllr Rutherford asked councillors to consider how best to mark the anniversary next year; specifically whether it should be Parish-wide or take the form of three separate events in each of the three villages.

Action: All Cllrs

11.3 To consider a small donation toward a charity promoting physical and mental health across the county.

The Clerk explained that while the charity was county-wide, there may be merit in engaging with the charity to support the elderly population in the Parish with the various activities it provides. There was some discussion about this but it was concluded that donations would be better spent on more directly local initiatives.

12. Planning (GB)

12.1 To approve the Minutes of the Planning Meeting on 6th November 2017.

The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

12.2 To consider and comment on the following planning application:

- **WD/2017/2114/F –36 Warren Ridge, Frant, TN3 9EE**
Single-storey front extension and a two-storey rear extension with dormer in pitched roof.

After some discussion, it was agreed there were no objections to the scheme.

13. Chairman’s announcements & correspondence for noting.

Cllr Rutherford noted correspondence from a resident at Broomfield in Bells Yew Green requesting that the Parish Council commission work to trim back an oak tree at the village hall opposite. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact TreeWork for an up to date quote.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Rutherford also noted correspondence from Bright & Sons Solicitors enclosing the annual donation to the Parish on behalf of the Henry Smith charity. This was welcomed by councillors and it was agreed that the Clerk would make enquiries as to the ways in which this money can be spent.

Action: Clerk

Lastly, Cllr Rutherford notified the Parish Council that David Wright had tendered his resignation from his position as Councillor, effective immediately. The councillors expressed their thanks for all his hard work over the years.

14. Correspondence

None.

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

None.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9.35pm.

Action Points

Clerk to liaise with Frant Cricket Club about the cost of providing cricket nets. Cllr Stevens to begin drafting an agreement between the Cricket Club and Parish Council about split of liability.	Clerk/ MS
WR to meet with Mr McGregor-Gould to discuss where the circular bench could be located.	WR
SW to investigate the ownership of the strip of land between Yew Tree Cottage and Cricketers Close in BYG.	SW
Cllr Rutherford to finalise letter to the landowner (via the agent) about the possibility of forming a green in Eridge and send.	WR
Clerk to chase contractors for the quotes for renewing the path across Frant green.	Clerk
Cllr Standley to look into the issues of road safety/speed limits on the BYG Road.	BS
Clerk to enquire whether the receipt of only two quotes as a result of the tender for the contract for the green was sufficient.	Clerk
Clerk to liaise with Mr Hanna about installing the parking posts in BYG and discuss insurance.	Clerk
Cllr Wallis to consult with BYG residents about the best location for a dog bin, should the Council agree to provide one. Cllr Rutherford to inform WDC about the growing problem of dog fouling in Frant village.	SW/WR
Clerk to get further information about proposed surfacing for the area around the see saw.	Clerk
All councillors to review the projected budget and give any comments to the Clerk.	All Cllrs
All councillors to give consideration as to how the Parish Council can best mark the Centenary of WW1.	All Cllrs
Clerk to liaise with TreeWork about works to the oak trees at the Village Hall in BYG.	Clerk
Clerk to enquire as to how Henry Smith funds can be used.	Clerk