

FRANT PARISH COUNCIL

THE MINUTES OF A PLANNING MEETING HELD ONLINE VIA 'ZOOM' ON MONDAY 4th JANUARY 2021 AT 7:30PM

Present: Cllr William Rutherford - Chair
Cllrs Crookshank, Steadman, Luther, Macdonald-Brown, Best, Wallis

Mrs Rosie Karim – Clerk/RFO

1. Enquire whether anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting.
None.

2. To receive apologies.
Apologies were received from Cllrs Park and Howell.

3. Declarations of Interests on items on the agenda.
None.

4. Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the Council were asked to resolve that, because of the sensitive nature of the business to be transacted under agenda item 7, the public and members of the press would be asked to leave the meeting during the consideration of this item.
This was **agreed** unanimously.

5. Public forum (15 mins).
None.

6. To consider licence and planning applications received and make recommendations:

- WD/2020/2364/F – Knowle Grange, Wadhurst Road, Frant, TN3 9EJ
Demolition of single-storey garage/store and erection of a single-storey guest extension. Alterations including a new dormer window and French doors to the north elevation.

The Council considered that the alterations would be in keeping with the buildings on site at Knowle Grange and raised no objections.

- WD/2020/2110/FR – 3 Tangier Lane, Frant, TN3 9HD
Part retrospective application for garage extension including internal alterations to suit; façade updates, 1 no. replacement windows, 2 no. new windows on existing façade, slate repair and replacement, cosmetic decoration, roof extension to overhangs, raised roof height, addition of photovoltaic panels, chimney replacement with woodburning flue, landscaping alterations including gate reinstatement.

The Council noted that some of the works had already been carried out without permission but considered that the alterations would not be detrimental and thus no objections were raised.

7. To approve change in salary grade for member of staff.

Cllr Rutherford said he had reviewed the salary grade for the Clerk/RFO and compared it to similar roles in other parish councils. He noted he had also consulted SSALC. Cllr Rutherford recommended an uplift of three points in the salary scale, effective from 1st January 2021, and this was unanimously **agreed**. Clerk to update contract of employment. **Action: Clerk**

8. Further matters at the discretion of the Chairman, for discussion purposes only.

Cllr Rutherford said he had received an email from the Eridge Estate about a revised planning application for new houses at Warren Farm in Eridge. The Estate said they had taken into account comments from both the Parish Council and Wealden District Council about the previous scheme and now intended to reduce the number of proposed houses from 11 no. to 6 no. Cllr Rutherford to circulate email. **Action: WR**

Cllr Rutherford said he had received an email from a local resident (an architect) who had expressed an interest in developing a design for a village sign for Frant. He said he would follow up with a telephone call. Cllr Steadman said he was aware of quite a bit of local support for a village sign and Cllr Rutherford noted that, as with many matters, there was also some opposition. **Action: WR**

Referring to the Glebe field, Cllr Rutherford said he had received communication from the Diocese's surveyor stating that clear access to the Parish field behind the school will remain. Cllr Rutherford said the details were still limited but that he expected the access for at least agricultural vehicles would remain.

The Council discussed an email from a local resident in Bells Yew Green, requesting temporary access across a small portion of the green in Bells Yew Green, to enable a septic tank to be installed in his property. It was agreed that more clarity was needed about what this access would entail – for example, removing part of the hedge to drive equipment through, installing equipment underground, etc. Clerk to email the local resident requesting more information. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Luther said that damage had been done by one or more vehicles to the green in Frant, by the cricket pitch and referred to photographs of the damage circulated prior to the meeting. She said she was attempting to repair it. Cllr Rutherford thanked Cllr Luther and said the Cricket Club would likely also be aware and be taking steps to also rectify any damage.

Cllr Rutherford noted that many more cars than usual had been parked at Broadwater Forest. Cllr Best agreed and suggested it was likely to be a temporary result of the recent lockdown and Christmas period.

Cllr Wallis informed the Council that, owing to renewed childcare responsibilities, she may not be able to attend meetings as regularly as she would normally do so. This was noted.

Cllr Luther asked Cllr Rutherford whether the Clerk's salary was subject to an annual review. Cllr Rutherford said that an annual appraisal was undertaken and that the salary grades increased with inflation.

Returning to the village sign, Cllr Luther said that it would be important to ensure that quality of the design and manufacture of any new sign was acceptable. This was noted.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 7.50pm.