

FRANT PARISH COUNCIL

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THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT ERIDGE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr Howell - Chairman
Cllrs Crookshank, Luther, Macdonald-Brown, Park, Rutherford, Steadman
County and District Cllr Standley
Representatives from Parish cricket clubs
Representative from Orchard Landscapes
PCSO A. Ratcliffe
One member of the public

1. Enquire whether anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting.

None.

2. Receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Best, District Councillor Obbard and County Councillor Taylor.

3. Receive declarations of interests on items on the agenda and changes to the Register of Interests

None.

4. Approve the Minutes of the meeting on 15th September 2021 as a true and accurate record
The Minutes were **approved**.

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

None.

6. Public Forum – time limit 15 minutes

Mr Ratcliffe explained that he was the PCSO covering the parish, amongst other areas. He noted that the new police station in Crowborough was now open, with the front office open between 10am and 2pm. He also explained that there were three main teams: the neighbourhood team, the response team and the investigations team. In response to a question from Cllr Howell, he said he would be happy to hold 'surgeries' on a quarterly basis and it was agreed these could be advertised in Parish News and on the website. Cllr Rutherford enquired about Speed Watch and Mr Ratcliffe said it would be very worthwhile reviving the scheme in the parish. He agreed to share the contact's details with the Clerk. He also noted that anti-social driving could be reported via the Operation Crackdown scheme.

(Mr Ratcliffe left the meeting)

The representatives from the cricket clubs explained that they had seen significant growth in junior membership and the pitch in Frant was being used more regularly. They requested that the Council consider more frequent mowing of the outfield to the cricket pitch, in addition to some immediate scarifying work during the winter. It was **agreed** that Orchard Landscapes would provide a quote to

Signed:

Date:

the Clerk and it would be put on the next agenda.

The Bells Yew Green club also confirmed that their public liability insurance covered them to play on other grounds.

(The members of the cricket clubs and Orchard Landscapes left the meeting)

7. Receive reports from County and District Councillors

Cllrs Standley and Obbard submitted their reports and these were circulated prior to the meeting (see appendices). Cllr Howell suggested that, in future, just one district report be produced in order to avoid duplication.

Cllr Standley noted there had been suggestions to bring forward the target of being carbon zero from 2050 to 2030, but that this was not considered achievable or realistic.

Cllr Howell made reference to the recent judgement against the provision of one hundred per cent affordable housing, noting that this sort of housing should not be confused with social housing. She noted further that another Judicial Review about the course the District Council was taking in respect of its Local Plan would soon be made public.

Cllr Howell said that recent surveys about the District Council's performance and service delivery were very favourable with Cllr Standley noting that more compliments were received than complaints.

Referring to the recent issue of very loud and persistent music from Chase Farm overnight and well into the following morning, Cllr Howell said that a Public Notice had now been issued and all those who had complained had received a telephone call from enforcement officers. An oversight on the temporary notice issued by the District Council meant that the time permitted to play music up to had been 5am; this has now been rectified, with the end time amended to midnight.

8. Highways

8.1 Discuss production of a design specification for proposed pedestrian crossing in Frant

The estimated costs of the proposed pedestrian crossing versus the amount of funds potentially available were discussed at length and it was noted that costs would likely increase. It was **agreed** that artists' impressions of the new crossing be commissioned as soon as possible and presented for public consultation.

Action: Clerk

8.2 Discuss provision of electric charging points in the parish

Cllr Howells raised the possibility of the Parish Council engaging with the village halls to take forward electric charging points. There was some discussion around this, including other areas for charging points (e.g. the railway carpark), the cost of the technology and enforcement issues. It was **agreed** to obtain more information at this stage.

Action: JH

8.3 Discuss provision of village gates on the Bells Yew Green Road

It was **agreed** to pursue the provision of village gates.

Action: Clerk

(Cllr Standley left the meeting)

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Date:

9. Finance

9.1 Approve the accounts payable

The accounts, as follows, were **approved**.

Item no.	Payee	Item	Amount
1	ROSPA	Inv 58207 Annual inspections	£210.60
2	Wealden Association of Local Council	Annual subscription for year ending 31 March 2022	£23.00
3	PKF Littlejohn	Inv SB20213208 Annual review	£360.00
4	Honnington Farms	Inv SI22830 Installation of bollards around Frant green	£14,898.00
5	Fraser Murdoch	Inv 92 Final payment	£75.00
6	Orchard Landscapes	Inv 1519 Maintenance of greens	£9,268.80
7	Orchard Landscapes	Inv 1517 Removal of cuttings from wildflower areas and field	£1,464.80
8	PCC Frant with Eridge	Hall hire (The Stables)	£24.00
9	Information Commissioners Office	Annual data protection fee	£40.00
10	Imago	Dial2Drive for Sept 2021 (Henry Smith EMR)	£130.20
11	Staff	Staff costs	£2,015.49

9.2 Approve the bank reconciliation

The bank reconciliation, as follows, was **approved**:

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Date:

<u>Bank Statement Account Name (s)</u>	<u>Statement Date</u>	<u>Page No</u>	<u>Balances</u>
Current A/c	20/10/2021		400.00
Business Reserve	20/10/2021		159,319.13
			<u>159,719.13</u>
<u>Unpresented Cheques (Minus)</u>		<u>Amount</u>	
01/04/2021 BACS SSALC		144.00	
			<u>144.00</u>
			159,575.13
<u>Receipts not Banked/Cleared (Plus)</u>			
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			159,575.13
		Balance per Cash Book is :-	159,575.13
		Difference is :-	0.00

9.3 Note conclusion of external audit

The conclusion of the external audit and the auditors' comments for the year ending March 2021 were **noted**.

9.4 Agree payments for ESCC urban grass cuts for 2022

It was **agreed** to continue with the following option, as follows:

Extra cuts: Parish/Town Councils may fund an additional four cuts to be carried out by ESCC, totalling six cuts (two standard and four extra) over the course of the year. This would cost the Parish/Town Council a total of £230 for the year.

9.5 Discuss councillors' allowances

It was **agreed** that councillors would not accept remuneration offered under the allowances scheme.

10. Green Spaces

Cllr Steadman noted that the installation of the bollards and sleepers around the green in Frant had been completed. He also said that Orchard Landscapes and the waste disposal firm had done a good job in removing the piles of cuttings from the field with virtually no residual damage to its surface.

Cllr Steadman advised the Council that Corylus would be producing their additional report concerning the ecology on Frant green within a month or so.

It was agreed that Cllr Steadman would liaise with Mr Bowie about reinstating the replacing bollards near to the entrance way to Shernfold Park. **Action: CS**

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Date:

The issue of moving the dog bin and litter bin on Frant green to the location proposed by Mr Freestone was discussed. While some saw merit in this, others felt that a more suitable location could be found. It was agreed to revisit this at a later date.

Cllr Luther informed the Council that SGN had installed a rather intrusive 'box' on the green and had seemingly done so without permission. It was **agreed** to contact both SGN and enforcement about this. **Action: Clerk**

11. Communications and Events

11.1 Consider ideas for celebrating the Queen's Jubilee next year

Various ideas were discussed, including a street tea party and streaming live events from Westminster Abbey. It was **agreed** to continue to consider ideas and also to ask the community through Parish News. **Action: All**

11.2 Update on school fireworks/bonfire event in parish field

The Clerk confirmed that a contract had been drafted and signed by both the PTFA of the primary school and the Parish Council, conveying full liability for any third party claims to the PTFA.

11.3 Consider ideas for Christmas celebrations and agree payment for tree(s)

It was **agreed** to pay for the tree in Frant again this year.

12. Planning

12.1 Wealden Local Plan – rolling item

None.

12.2 To consider licence and planning applications received and make recommendations:

- WD/2021/2184/F & 2185/LB – 29 High Street, Frant, TN3 9DT

First floor storey above existing ground floor extension with pitched roof.

No objections were raised to this proposal and given it is a listed building, it was noted that the Conservation Officer would give it due consideration.

- WD/2021/2393/F & 2394/LB – Higham Farm, Higham Lane, Bells Yew Green, TN3 9AU

Installation of external air source heat pump.

Cllr Crookshank said he had been asked by the applicant to relay to the Council their frustration that the proposal is an eco-friendly alternative to a boiler and is significant in terms of cost and yet still requires planning permission, which takes eight weeks at a minimum to obtain. It was felt that Wealden District Council should be encouraging homeowners with such eco-installations by fast-tracking applications.

The Council considered the application at hand and raised no objections.

- WD/2021/2311/LB – Flat 4, Shernfold Park, Frant, TN3 9DL

Relation of kitchen with bedroom and alteration including alteration of location of existing internal door.

The Council considered the application and raised no objections, again noting that it is a listed building and the Conservation Officer would therefore give it due consideration

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Date:

- WD/2021/2261/F – The Oaks, 2 Sellbourne Park, Frant, TN3 9DG

Proposed porous macadam tennis court including associated court fencing and green oak retaining wall.

Cllr Howell expressed her concern that once land was given over to development as a tennis court, it became a brownfield site, with all of the consequences that this can entail, especially in very sensitive location as the application site. On balance, the Council raised no objections but agreed to require that no external lighting be installed.

13. Chairman’s announcements & correspondence for noting

None.

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

The Clerk noted that SLR meetings with Highways were being reinstated now that face to face meetings could take place. A date would be circulated shortly.

Cllr Macdonald-Brown raised an issue with the bridge at Bayham Old Abbey and that he was endeavouring to open up a dialogue with Wealden District Council about this.

Cllr Park, in following up on an action from a previous meeting, said she had been unable to identify the grit bin near Benhall Mill Road on google maps because of the dense tree cover in this area. It was **agreed** to put this on the next agenda.

Cllr Luther noted that the chains on the swings in Frant needed oiling.

Action: Clerk

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9.05pm.

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Date:

Actions	By whom
Pursue provision of village gates.	Clerk
Think of ideas to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.	All
Find out more information about electric charging points from Wealden DC	JH
Liaise with Mr Bowie about replacing bollards at Shernfold Park.	CS
Speak with SGN/enforcement about installation of box on the green	Clerk
Commission architect to produce artist's impressions of proposed pedestrian crossing.	Clerk
Ask Niall to oil swings in Frant playground.	Clerk

Signed:

Date:

APPENDIX ONE

County Council Report Cllr Standley

Council Monitoring

1st qtr. report was approved by Cabinet last week. The majority of targets – 43 of 52- have been met although there are a number, esp. re schools, which can't be measured because of the pandemic. The report did highlight a one-off surplus of £8.8m which will be used for Climate Change and highways one off expenditure. Exact details to be decide at the November cabinet.

Climate Change

Climate change is rightfully always in the forefront of the council's policies

The County Council debated climate change in 2019 and agreed the following

- 1) to declare that a climate emergency
- 2) To achieve net carbon neutral as soon as possible and by 2050 at the latest
- 3) To set a plan of action
- 4) To report on progress will be made to East Sussex Cabinet and then on to Full Council

The commitment to delivering the action plan is cross party and whilst there will be differences in the approach the will to deliver the plan is agreed.

The Council's Place scrutiny committee also produced a report "Becoming a Carbon Neutral Council.

This report was accepted by Council and its recommendations combined into the action plan

Progress on the action plan is reported to Cabinet and Full Council each year.

Of these 37 recommendations 5 have been completed

28 (76%) ongoing and just 4 not yet started

The council aims to has been reducing its emissions by 13% each year clearly this is easier in the early years and gets progressively harder as the low hanging fruit is picked.

Included in that target of 13% pa are maintained schools

A small example on work done is at Buxted Primary School where the replacement of fluorescent lamps with LED reduced emissions by 5 tonnes of CO2 saved £1500 a year with a capital out lay of 15k

We have also a Street light programme to replace 16000 sodium lights with LED- also some lights switched off at midnight but mindful of public safety

The Action Plan will be reviewed every 2 years to ensure the target of 2050 is met or ideally bettered

This is clearly not a County Council only programme and we work with District and Boroughs locally

and also with our partners in SE7. We are also working with the SE Local Enterprise Partnership

Remote working – covid has given evidence on home working can assist in reducing carbon footprint – there are some disadvantages in home working

Move to Electric Vehicles on replacement of current vehicles.

Bus Back Better initiative will encourage more residents onto public transport but again more challenging in rural areas

Council member of Hydrogen Sussex

This is not just about Councils or business but all of us need to make our contribution

Final point on roads – and where I differ with the Green Party that does not want any new roads- don't confuse traffic jams and emissions – an electric car or hydrogen vehicle can create traffic jams in the same way as Diesel or Petrol. Population in the UK and SE is increasing hence the need for housing and new roads to keep the economy growing.

There was a further extensive debate at Full Council last Tuesday.

Council resolved the following

Signed:

Date:

1. That it believes that:

i Government climate and ecological initiative, as informed by its commitment to the Millennium and UN Sustainable Development Goals, its environmental policies and its current national carbon budgets as laid down in legislation, advised and audited by the Committee on Climate Change, strike the right balance for a country that leads the G7 on Climate initiative and accounts for approximately 1% of current global territorial emissions.

ii. Focus on properly valuing eco-system services, safeguarding and enhancing carbon sinks, conserving and restoring biodiverse habitats, natural and human modified ecosystems and the health of their soils must be an increasing focus for policy.

iii. High-level policy ambitions must be grounded at a national, regional and local authority level in direction & fine detail, supported by central funding.

2. To write to our MP's asking them to press Ministers for that greater direction, detail and support to assist us in delivering on net-zero. Additionally, to ask that they consider further Page 1 Agenda Item 7 policy action which puts a proper value on eco-system services, enhances carbon sinks, preserves and improves natural and human modified ecosystems and promotes biodiversity

Application for secondary school places

Reminder that parents of year 6 who will moving to senior school in Sept 2022 need to have completed the application form by Oct 31st

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Date:

APPENDIX TWO

Report for Frant Parish Council 20th Oct. 2021

The Annual Parish Conference has been rescheduled to next Spring.

It will probably take place in April or May 2022.

This is a key opportunity for Parish Councils across the District to come together and discuss various topics which affect them all, and the chance to question the Council Leader and members of the Senior Management Team.

The change of date has partly been due to the disruption from Covid, but also to give the District Council the opportunity to disseminate information about the new Local Plan.

By Spring of 2022 the next stage of public consultation should be underway and a much clearer idea of the likely content of the Plan will be apparent.

Grants to be replaced with Crowdfunding and Lottery.

At the recent Cabinet meeting the decision was taken to replace the direct grants that the Council makes to local voluntary and community organisations with a combination of Crowdfunding and community lottery.

This has been successfully used by several other local authorities and should provide more funds to these local organisations and at a lower cost to the Council.

The Crowdfunding will possibly start in the next financial year and the lottery over the next 2 or 3 years.

The Housing and Revenue Account Business Plan has been published for the period 2021 – 2025 (it should be on the Council's website but I can find it!)

This sets out the Council's Social Housing plans for the next 5 years, analysing the requirements and how we can meet that demand.

It is planned to build about 150 new homes at an approximate total cost of £40m in the period to 2025

The cabinet also considered a report on the decarbonisation of the housing stock

This would aim to bring all the Social housing up to an average EPC rating of "C" this is likely to cost between £50m -£60m.

(All new builds will aim for a "A" rating)

No final decision can yet be made regarding the replacement of gas boilers until the grant regime from central government is clear.

Wealden District Council

You will no doubt be aware of the passing last month of Chris Hardy, the District Councillor for Hartfield Ward.

There will be a memorial service for him in Withyham Church this week.

If you have any specific questions or requests, I am contactable by phone or email and I will do my best to deal with them for you.

Cllr Keith Obbard,

Wealden District Member for Withyham Ward.

Cllr.keith.obbard@wealden.gov.uk / 07941 57842

Signed:

Date: