

# FRANT PARISH COUNCIL

[clerk@frant-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@frant-pc.gov.uk) / 07903 661581 / [www.frant-pc.gov.uk](http://www.frant-pc.gov.uk)

## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at Frant Memorial Hall**

Present: Cllr Crookshank (Acting Chair)  
Cllrs Macdonald-Brown and Park  
County and District Cllr Bob Standley  
21 members of the public

### **1. Welcome**

Cllr Crookshank welcomed everybody to the meeting and gave apologies for councillors who were unable to attend.

Cllr Crookshank thanked councillors for their input and commitment to the Parish Council, noting that they all do so on a voluntary basis. He also thanked the Clerk for her work for the Council.

Cllr Crookshank extended thanks on behalf of the Council to Cllr Standley, for his work and input during his time as Leader of Wealden District Council, and for his constant attendance at Council meetings.

### **2. Approve Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019**

The Minutes were **approved**.

### **3. Comments from County and District Cllr Bob Standley**

#### **County**

Cllr Standley gave the following information:

- Some two thirds of council tax income is spent on adult social care and children's services;
- The county is likely to see the highest number of over-85 year olds in future years;
- An extra £5 million is available for road patching;
- Some 17,000 potholes have been repaired in the last year;
- Ukrainian guests have been arriving with the majority of host coming from the Wealden area. 500 guests are expected in total. He noted that, at the moment, hosts could not swap between using the two schemes available: Homes for Ukraine and Friends of Ukraine;
- He said he was the Deputy Chair of the Peace and Crime Panel which scrutinises the Police Commissioner and the budget.

#### **District**

Cllr Standley said he had been Leader of Wealden District Council for 12 years and a member of the Cabinet for 15 years. He explained he would remain as a councillor. He said that he would be leaving the District Council's finances in a strong position, noting that there had been only a 2.3% difference in the budget between 2010 and 2022, despite currently not receiving any central government grants.

Cllr Standley said that Wealden was obliged to produce 1,225 houses per year for five years. He noted the difficulties with this, given that two thirds of the district was constrained by AONB, the

Ashdown Forest and the Pevensey Levels. He said he had met with Ministers and conveyed that the housing obligations were too high.

Turning to the issue of waste, he noted that black bin waste is incinerated at a facility in Newhaven, which in turn powers some 20,000 homes. He referred to the ongoing bin strike and gave some background.

#### **4. Talk given by Dr Andrew Macdonald-Brown about the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in the community**

Dr. Macdonald-Brown's talk is at Appendix One.

One member of the audience asked the Parish Council about a list of First Aiders to display in the village hall. The Clerk explained that she was unable to provide a public list of contact details as not all of the participants of the First Aid course had confirmed their consent for this. It was suggested that participants agree to this during any future First Aid courses.

Another member of the audience asked about whether, for example, the village hall could be sued for not installing a defibrillator should an event occur. Dr. Macdonald-Brown said that the Good Samaritans Law did not compel venues or event holders to provide defibrillators.

#### **5. Summary of the Parish Plan results given by Cllr Debby Park**

Cllr Park provided the headline results from the survey. She said the Parish Council was keen to involve residents in the parish in shaping a plan for its future and it was important to have residents' input in the process and to improve routes of communication.

One member of the audience asked about where new development could go in the parish and there was some discussion about SHEELA sites; it was noted that information about these sites was available on Wealden District Council's website.

One member of the audience enquired as to what the responses had been concerning the provision of health facilities. Cllr Park said that disappointment had been expressed about the loss of the surgery on the High Street in Frant; others noted difficulty in getting to and from the surgeries in Wadhurst and Lamberhurst. It was noted that the Parish Council funds a scheme called 'Dial2Drive' which can organise lifts to doctors and hospital appointments. Details are on the Parish Council website. One member of the audience asked why people had not been told of this scheme at the time the surgery closed. Cllr Macdonald-Brown said it was because the scheme was not running at that point, but began some time later.

Cllr Park noted that the new Inspired Villages development in Bells Yew Green intended to provide a surgery but doubts had been raised by the Parish Council as to whether it would be able to recruit a GP(s).

#### **6. Projects the Council has been working on during the last two years**

In addition, to the day-to-day work of the parish council, Cllr Crookshank talked about some of the projects that the Parish Council has been working on, as follows:

- maintenance of green spaces in the parish;
- repair and refurbishment of fingerposts;
- the new green in Eridge;
- refurbishment of lampposts;
- new solar light in Bells Yew Green;

- commissioning consultants to ascertain extent of erosion of the green in Frant and suggest remedial action; it was noted that the Parish Council had taken a pragmatic and more affordable approach, by reinstalling sleepers and bollards around the green;
- maintenance of bus shelters;
- maintenance of play areas.
- refurbishing the phoneboxes in Frant and Bells Yew Green

There was some discussion about the proposed pedestrian crossing in Frant, including its location, the number of lights, cost and developer contributions. Cllr Crookshank noted that a Feasibility Study was underway to improve safety at the junction of the A267 and the Wadhurst Road. Measures here, combined with the pedestrian crossing at the other end of the village, would serve to greatly improve safety, particularly for pedestrians. One member of the public noted there are no safe crossing provision outside Frant Court, not even an island in the middle of the road. The question was also asked about what could be done about people turning - in the wrong direction - out of the one way street by the corner shop and onto the A267. Cllr Crookshank said this could be raised at the Parish Council's next meeting with Highways.

One member of the audience said that the path across the green used to be maintained as such, which had helped people cross the green, including those with mobility issues or using a pushchair.

#### **7. Future projects and call for volunteers**

Cllr Crookshank said that volunteers were needed for two projects – litter picking and Community Speed Watch. He asked the attendees to leave their details on the sheets available at the back of the room if they wished to volunteer.

#### **8. Parking on the green in Frant – an ongoing concern**

Cllr Crookshank said that parking on the green was a perennial problem and had been shown to be contributing to the deterioration of the green. He noted that the Parish Council owned the green and parking was prohibited. He said that the bund formed around the green in Bells Yew Green had served to stop cars from parking there.

At this point, Cllr Crookshank invited Mr Payne to talk about the possibility of a village sign in Frant. Mr Payne said that there were three things that were forthcoming that were important for the village: the new housing by Fern Close, the pedestrian crossing and the village sign. Turning to the design for the sign, Mr Payne said that the Historical Society of Ottawa had confirmed that Colonel By did not have any links to slavery. Cllr Crookshank said that this is not what he had said; rather, he had concerns about the association of Colonel By with the Victorian, imperialist era. One member of the audience noted that the possibility of a village sign had been discussed some twenty years ago. Cllr Park noted that at the last Annual Parish Meeting, the majority had voted against a village sign so the Parish Council had to be mindful of all views. Cllr Crookshank said the Bells Yew Green had voted in favour of a sundial, instead of a village sign.

Cllr Crookshank said he felt Mr Payne was 'pushing at an open door' and that the Parish Council would probably approve a village sign for Frant in due course; the design and location would also need to be debated. Mr Payne said he had obtained preliminary costs from a woodcarver and bricklayer. He noted the cost of the sign in Eridge in 1980 had been approximately £2,000.

Mrs Pybus thanked Mr Payne and the councillors for their efforts.

## **9. Summary**

Cllr Crookshank thanked everyone for coming and invited them to stay for snacks and refreshments and he reminded them to sign up to volunteer, if they felt they could.

## **10. Q&A**

One member of the audience asked when the pile of grass cuttings near the cricket pavilion would be removed. The Clerk said she had been chasing the contractor for a date and would do so again. She noted the Council was legally obliged to have the waste collected by a licenced contractor and properly disposed of. The same member of the audience asked about relocating the dog bin to nearer the litter bins by the cricket pavilion and the path. Cllr Crookshank said this issue had not been forgotten and would be put on the June agenda. He noted further that the Parish Council was going to fund a new dog bin to deal with waste from dog walkers coming through the churchyard and onto the High Street in Frant.

Mr Bannerman asked if he could say to the Historical Society of Ottawa that the village sign was approved. Cllr Crookshank reiterated that he felt it likely the Parish Council would approve it and then would go on to looking at the specific design.

There being no other business, the meeting closed.

## Appendix One

### AED (automated external defibrillator) in the Community – a talk given by Cllr Dr Andrew Macdonald-Brown

The Parish Council has been asked about the provision of a defibrillator in the village, and I will talk about the pros and cons, and why we have declined to fund one so far.

What does a defibrillator do?

Following collapse it converts an abnormal heart rhythm, back in to a normal or recoverable rhythm using an electric shock from a battery pack. CardioPulmResus prior to the shock helps stimulate the heart and oxygenate the lungs. Several types of AED guide the user with audible instructions.

I think it would be helpful to put some statistics into the background. In the UK, there are approximately 60,000 sudden cardiac arrests annually. Resuscitation is attempted in only about half of these, but less than 1 in 10 survive. CPR (cardiopulmonary resus) is more likely to be attempted on men than women, because, unsurprisingly there is public hesitation to aggressively compress a woman's chest !

Restarting the heart following cardiac arrest shows that within

- 0-4 minutes: brain damage is not likely; chances of survival and good health are high
- after 4-6 minutes of arrest: brain damage could occur; which may be the beginning of brain death
- after 6-10 minutes: brain damage is likely; the person may suffer ongoing issues after being resuscitated
- after 10+ minutes: brain death is likely to occur; very slim chance of person regaining consciousness or surviving at all, the exception being extreme hypothermia.

Even if a person is resuscitated, eight out of every 10 will have been in a coma and sustain some level of brain damage.

People worry about the legal implications of attempting resuscitation on a collapsed person. You are covered by the

#### **Good Samaritan act UK.**

A good Samaritan act is where medical assistance is given in a bona fide medical emergency. No one has yet been prosecuted for using a Defib in a failed resuscitation, but things could get awkward if an elderly or terminally ill person is wearing a Do Not Resuscitate bracelet or necklace, or have it tattooed on their chest!

It is not just the elderly who may have need of a defibrillator , but understandably they do make up a significant %age of those requiring defibrillation. Young people rarely suffer unexpected cardiac arrests, one study quotes 2/million over 15 years, and when they do it is usually due to an undiagnosed or undiagnosable cardiac condition. The majority occur on playing fields during exercise.

**Historically** AEDs have been placed in many busy public areas, workplaces, sports locations, . gyms, where trained first aiders are likely to be near.

There are many types of AED; they may be fixed to the outside of a building, or inside somewhere like a decommissioned phone box, they can be locked with a keypad, or unlocked, or they may be portable. They should be waterproof and their batteries kept charged, and the device kept at the correct temperature and humidity, hence the need for a power supply. There should be a named individual responsible for checking the AED regularly.

### **British Heart Foundation and Resuscitation Council's**

Website gives extensive advice on the installation of a defib. They both recommend a visible unlocked device on the grounds of time getting the device to the patient. The Resuscitation Council UK encourages all owners of AEDs to register their devices with their local ambulance service so that every AED can provide maximum benefit to the community. The idea is that when you 999, the ambulance service will direct you to the nearest registered device, but this only works if the device is registered with your local ambulance service in the first place. If the AED is a locked version, they will provide the key number to unlock it. All this takes time and the requirement of a mobile phone signal

website <https://www.heartsafe.org.uk/aed-locations> details a map with the position and state of all registered AEDs in our area.. The 4 nearest to Frant at present are at Sainsburys TW (not with 24hrs access), The Wells Free school TW, Rotherfield village hall and Ticehurst. But none of them have provided full updated information to the ambulance service. There must be other AEDs in the district but not registered.

### **Where to install?**

#### **Telephone box option.**

The PC have taken over ownership of the disused telephone boxes in Frant and BYG and are going to refurbish them. **Community Heartsafe Trust** has an agreement with BT to re-establish power supply to a disused disconnected telephone box, but not on-going costs. A community could take on the supply with BT, which will incur not only a monthly charge, but also a significant meter installation cost, and quarterly standing charges. Not all defibrillator cabinets are suitable to be installed into telephone boxes and Vandalism has been a problem in one or 2 parishes. The AED outside Crowborough Comm Centre even has a DNA forensic tracking facility.

*(All CHT "ShockBox" Cabinets are Class II (From an ISO Rated Manufacturer) and designed to be 12-24V Installed With RCD & Certificate Issued and therefore meet BT's approval.)*

**Alternative to a phone box:** attach it to the outside of a local building where power is available – av running costs £10-15pa. **Planning permission not normally required.**

#### **AED costs:**

£1000-1500

#### **Equipment ongoing costs**

4 year shelf life for electrode pads and lithium batteries. Replacements approx. £300.

### **What is the situation in schools:**

The most recent Gov guidance from the DoE on AEDs in schools is dated 31 Oct 2019 and hasn't been updated since. At that time there was advice to schools on installing and funding an AED. Although the government recommend schools having an AED, it is not compulsory. I am informed that Frant school does not have an AED citing funding as the reason.

### **Sport**

I understand TWRC which is in the parish has a defib but not available for public access.

**A word about Landlines and mobile phone signals to contact emergency services:** By Dec 2025 all copper landlines will be switched off and phone calls will be via the internet. Recent storm power cuts showed how some of us were unable to make calls at all as the power to our computers was cut, and mobile coverage poor. (Incidentally, If you have already made the transition to a digital phone, BT and other providers can reinstate landline in areas with poor network coverage.) Ofcom's map of mobile phone coverage for O2, EE, Vodafone and Three, shows that Frant village and most of the parish, has 'some problems' with 4G coverage, and using a mobile phone to call an ambulance could be testing. Geographically, our best bet of getting a signal interestingly enough is in the middle of Eridge Park!

### **Considerations before purchasing an AED**

Clearly, the chances of the requirement of an AED depends on the likelihood of need. The more people congregating in a single space, where adrenaline may be flowing, the greater the likelihood that one day a person may require defibrillation.

There is currently no legislation in the UK which obliges businesses or premises to provide an AED, however there are first aid guidelines from the Health and Safety Executive for employers.

Any organization that installs an AED takes responsibility for its care and maintenance. So in general terms the following could be considered risk venues that may require an AED:

- High attendance sports grounds and clubs
- Airports
- Busy train/bus stations
- Music festivals
- Theatres / cinemas
- Endurance sports courses
- Large schools
- Public Gyms
- Work premises with a significant work force.

None of these relate to Frant, other than the Black Deer festival in Eridge Park which has its own medical facilities and defibrillator when on site.

What does relate to the need for an AED in Frant is its relatively isolated rural position meaning the access time for the emergency services may be longer than hoped for.

Where may be the risk areas for the public in Frant, and how far from a central point for an AED:

- 2 Pubs – Ab 700m and George 160m
- Church – 300m
- Stables Hall– 360m
- Frant Memorial Hall – 200m
- Cricket field – 100m
- Bowls green – 200m

All are within 300m of AED sited say in the High St.

The evidence for the funding, placing and maintenance of an AED by the Parish Council is in my opinion, weak, and a much more appropriate use of funds would be to maintain good first aid skills for residents and workers alike. A Red Cross course funded by the PC was held in 2019 and is being repeated this September. Places are available.

Performing good-quality CPR is a vital skill that increases survival from cardiac arrest and can buy time until an AED can be used.

I believe it is up to organizations in the community to decide whether to purchase and maintain an AED, but would like to invite your comments back to the PC.

Thank you for listening.

