

FRANT PARISH COUNCIL

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THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT ERIDGE VILLAGE HALL ON 22ND JUNE 2022 AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllrs Howell (Chair), Park, Crookshank, Rutherford, Best, Macdonald-Brown
District Cllr Obbard
Mr. P. Payne
Three members of the public

- 1. Enquire whether anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting**
None.
- 2. Receive apologies**
Cllrs Steadman and Luther, County Cllrs Standley and Taylor and the Clerk.
- 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 18th May 2022 as a true and accurate record**
The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.
- 5. To determine matters arising from the previous Minutes for updating and noting**
 - Proposed pedestrian crossing – beeping will start/stop at dusk; a tactile button can be fitted which vibrates. Decision on match-funding from East Sussex County Council will not be available until October 2022.
 - Shernfold Park – held over until next meeting.
 - Bollards – held over until next meeting.
 - Cllrs reminded to get their views on AONB document to the Clerk as soon as possible as deadline is 30th June.
 - Albert Well – held over until next meeting.
- 6. Public Forum (time limit to be extended at the discretion of the Chairman)**

A paper was submitted by Mr Payne on behalf of Mr Bannerman, elaborating on the historical record concerning Colonel By. Mr Payne was reminded that submissions must be received prior to a meeting so that due consideration might be given. Mr Payne asked if the Council was using an architect(s) to produce designs for the village sign and if they were available yet. Cllr Howell said yes and the Parish Council was progressing it. Mr Payne insisted that the sign must go up during the Queen's Jubilee year as he said the Parish Council had said it would and asked if the designs would be put out to public consultation. Cllr Howell responded that the sign would be erected in due course but could not confirm it would be this year as there were too many dependent factors.
- 7. Receive reports from County and District Councillors**

Cllr Howell said that reports had been circulated prior to the meeting (see Appendices). No questions were put forward.

8. Highways

8.1 Approve quotation for first phase of village sign for Frant

The quotation was **approved**.

8.2 Speed survey in Bells Yew Green

To date, eight people have volunteered to be involved in Community Speedwatch. **ACTION: Clerk**

8.3 Deer population

Cllr Park said there was growing concern about the increasing number of deer in Bells Yew Green village and on the local road network. Cllr Crookshank said that, historically, there had been an agreement between landowners that they would arrange three organised culls a year. It was agreed that Cllr Park would speak to a landowner to ascertain if there is anything the Parish Council can assist with. **ACTION: DP**

8.4 Re-use of phoneboxes – update

It was noted that the boxes are listed and therefore required expert restoration. Further quotes to be obtained. **ACTION: Clerk**

9. Finance

9.1 Approve the accounts payable

The accounts as follows were **approved**.

Item no.	Payee	Item	Amount
1.	IMAGO	Dial2Drive Apr and May 2022	£388.50
2.	Coppard Plant Hire	Road signs for Jubilee road closures Inv # 2206/13961	£153.00
3.	Playdale	Replacement parts, installation and repairs to playground in Frant Invs # 45958 and 46160	£7,886.36
4.	Honnington Farm	New fencing around parish field Inv # S124645	£5,160.00
5.	Jakk UK	Benhall Mill Road fingerpost repair Inv # 4885	£1,494.72
6.	N. McGregor-Gould	General maintenance May 2022	£95.00

9.2 Approve the bank reconciliation

Approved.

10. Green Spaces

10.1 Ad hoc use of the Glebe for parking

It was agreed that the vie of the Diocese should be sought as the land belonged to them, not to the Parish Council.

11. Communications and Events

11.1 Involvement with Christmas events

Given the success of the Jubilee events, it was agreed that the Parish Council would facilitate, not organise, Christmas events and clarity should be sought early on about any insurance requirements.

12. Planning

12.1 Discuss response to final stage of evaluation of local planning matters by Wealden DC

DP explained this was a final point at which Parish Councils could express support for, or request modification to, the various component reports that will inform the Wealden Local Plan. It was agreed to convene an extraordinary meeting to discuss the Parish Council response.

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

- WD/2022/1060/F – Rowden Oast, Down Lane, Frant, TN3 9HP

Proposed extension to garage/store to provide tractor and implement accommodation.

No objections raised.

- WD/2022/1101/F – Aldershaw House, Wadhurst Road, Frant, TN3 9EH

Proposed detached log store/workshop

No objections raised.

Cllr Crooshank raised his concern that the Parish Council did not appear to receive updates on applications upon which objections were raised but which were subsequently approved by WDC. The Council agreed that training for councillors, particularly in relation to planning within the AONB, would be useful.

Cllr Park raised a possible matter for enforcement at a property on Dundale Road/Hawkenbury Road.

ACTION: DP/JH

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would decide on an application-by-application basis whether or not to engage in pre-application consultation with developers/consultants. It was noted that, previously, consultants had misrepresented the Parish Council's comments at the informal stage.

13. Chairman's announcements & correspondence for noting

None.

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

None.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20:15.

Appendix 1

County Councillor Report to Frant Parish Council June 2022

Apologies for not attending but I have injured my hamstring which currently makes sitting in a car an uncomfortable activity.

Council Monitoring

Year-end report comes to Cabinet next week. Cabinet last week: the majority of targets – 36 of 54- have been met – 11 not met and the remainder carried over. Children's Services remain the greatest challenge with a £2,812 overspend albeit down on the 3rd qtr. prediction of £3.05. Particular pressure on Looked After Children (LAC) and the need to use expensive private residential placements.

Libraries

Step into Reading initiative is being launched in Eastbourne, Hailsham Uckfield and Newhaven. This is part of the new 5-year Library strategy launched last year and offers mentoring to adult learners. Poor reading skills put those in that position at a clear disadvantage in the workplace.

Ukraine

Further funding to assist integration into the community for the 1,460 guest now expected has been announced. The new funding of £490k will be distributed by 3VA (voluntary organisation covering Eastbourne, Lewes and Wealden)

Bunny Lane

Pleased to say patching work will take place starting on 4th July but the road will be closed 9.30am to 4pm each day whilst the work is carried out. Due to end on 9th July.

Proposed crossing beepers

I emailed ESCC safety team immediately after the May PC but have not received a response. I emailed again on my return from holiday on Monday. Once I hear I will circulate the reply.

Bob June2022

Appendix 2

Report for Frant Parish Council 22nd June 2022

District Wide

Bin Lorry Dispute

As you will all know by now the bin lorry strike has ended.

The teams will be getting back to normal as fast as they can, but it may be a week or two before they have caught up with the extra bags of recycling and rubbish that has accumulated over the strike.

The most up to date information is on the WDC website here;

[Waste collection and street cleansing industrial action update - Wealden District Council - Wealden District Council](#)

On the subject of bin lorries, Biffa are trialling the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) in some vehicles. This is a bio-diesel fuel which is made out of waste vegetable oil and may be better suited to our very rural district than electric trucks as a low carbon alternative to fossil fuels.

New Council Leader

Cllr. Ann Newton chaired her first Wealden Cabinet meeting last week.

The business discussed and agreed included the end of year performance figures for the WDC, which were pretty much in line with budget, except for the Housing Service where the fall-out from the Covid restrictions has meant that getting council homes refurbished and back into use after a change of tenant has been taking much longer than normal.

Other issues agreed at the Wealden Cabinet was a change to the Council house allocations policy, progress with 'decarbonizing' the housing stock, a review of the housing maintenance contracts, and the Council's 2023 Pay Review.

In advance of the District Council Elections in 2023 the Council are running some "Become a Councillor" events to encourage a greater diversity of people who are Councillors.

There are two sessions organised so far.

The first at the Civic Centre, Uckfield TN22 1AE on Saturday 2nd July 10 am to 12.30

The second on Monday 4th July 6 – 8pm at the Civic Centre, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham. BN27 1BH

Tax Refund

The Government scheme to give a £150 rebate of Council Tax to help with rising energy costs is underway, with many households having already received theirs. Residents living in Council Tax band A-D properties are eligible, and if you pay by Direct Debit the Council will pay you automatically by credit transfer.

Anyone who pays their Council Tax by cash or cheque will need to apply for the refund, but the simplest thing to do it to sign up for a direct debit as soon as possible. There may be a discretionary refund for people living in Properties in band E – H.

If there is anything specific you wish me to follow up, I will do my best to do so. You can email or phone on the contacts below.

Cllr Keith Obbard,
Wealden District Member for Withyham Ward.
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