

FRANT PARISH COUNCIL

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THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT ERIDGE VILLAGE HALL ON 22nd MARCH 2023 AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllrs Howell (Chair), Crookshank (Vice-Chair), Steadman, Macdonald-Brown, Best.
County and District Cllr B. Standley.
Ms R Barnes (Clerk & RFO).

Five attendees.

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

2. Receive apologies

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

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 22nd February 2023 as a true and accurate record
The Minutes were **approved**.

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

- Cllr Standley confirmed he had written to Highways after the last meeting about possible measures to slow traffic down in Bells Yew Green, from roughly Nobles Wood and into the village. He said he would follow-up for a response. Carried forward. **ACTION: BS**
- Cllr Standley agreed to liaise with ESCC about re-siting unused grit bin in Frant to the Scout site in Eridge. Carried forward. **ACTION: BS**
- Identify sources of grant funding to support the provision of a replacement roof for the cricket pavilion in Frant. Carried forward. **ACTION: JH/Clerk**
- The Clerk relayed the response from Highways about re-siting the ESCC-owned grit bin in Frant, which is full of litter and unused, to the Scout site in Eridge. They had not agreed to this and Cllr Standley said he would liaise with them to take this forward. **ACTION: BS**
- The Clerk said she had reviewed the financial records to 2019, which showed one donation to Eridge Village Hall of £200 for the new flagpole. She said she would delve further back into the records from 2016. Carried forward. **ACTION: Clerk**
- The Clerk said she had written to Highways about obtaining further detail about the costs and options in the Feasibility Report for the junction of the Wadhurst Rd/A267 and was awaiting a response. Carried forward.
- Cllr Macdonald-Brown said that Cllr Standley had helped to arrange a site meeting with Highways about the flooding at the railway bridge in Bells Yew Green. He said the meeting had been very positive and productive.
- Cllr Howell confirmed that she had asked N.McGregor-Gould to re-site the three fruit trees on the parish field.
- The Clerk confirmed she had submitted the Parish Council's responses to the NPPF consultation document.

- Cllr Steadman agreed to liaise with Mr Bowie about the costs of installing bollards along the edge of the green along the A267 to deter vehicles from driving on the green and causing damage to the cricket pitch/wicket. **ACTION: CS**
- Cllr Howell said she had liaised with Wealden DC about how best to support local residents during crises. She was told that, due to the constraints in law of keeping people's data (GDPR), it would not be advisable for the Parish Council to maintain a list of contacts.

6. Public Forum (time limit to be extended only at the discretion of the Chairman)

Mrs Lynn addressed the Parish Council to relay her and her husband's concerns about the way in which the new vehicle and pedestrian gates at the new green in Eridge had been constructed. She said part of it had been hung off their gate post and that only some 10cm was available to plant the hedge at this end. She also said that there was currently no boundary between the right of way and their garden. Cllr Best thanked Mrs Lynn for her comments and apologised that the new gates had been hung off the existing gate post. He said this would be rectified and a 2-strand fence installed to delineate the boundary. Mrs Lynn said that these measures were acceptable.

One of the attendees said he lived close to the new green but had no prior knowledge of it or how it had come about. He said he had not received leaflets through his letterbox about the proposals. Cllr Best explained how the land had been leased to the Parish Council by the Nevill Estate for a peppercorn rent and that planning permission had been obtained for the new open space. He said it was intended to be used as a green by local residents, noting that Frant and Bells Yew Green both have a green. He emphasised that it was in no way connected to any other future developments and was an entirely standalone initiative. Cllr Best also confirmed that the field gate would be kept locked, apart from when the Parish Council's contractors were mowing the grass and the pedestrian gate would be kept unlocked so that local residents could gain access.

Mr Payne enquired as what was proposed with the tree that was leaning on the green in Frant. The Clerk said that following agreement by the Parish Council, she had asked Treework to remove it and confirmed it was not going to be replaced. Mr Payne also asked if the Parish Council was organising any events for the Coronation. Cllr Howell responded that it was not but was, of course, very happy to support any community initiatives.

7. Receive reports from County and District Councillors

It was noted that the County and District Councillors were in purdah because of the upcoming elections.

Cllr Howell raised the problem of potholes along the High Street in Frant. Cllr Standley said he would raise it with Highways. **ACTION: BS**

Cllr Howell introduced Ms G Weavers, a candidate running for District Council.

8. Green spaces

8.1 Centenary Green in Eridge

As discussed during the public forum, it was **agreed** to install a 2-strand fence (which will also help to support the hedge) and for Cllr Best to liaise with Orchard Landscapes about seeding and the hedge. **ACTION: AB**

9. To discuss ward boundaries

The Clerk said she had spoken to the Electoral Services Manager at Wealden DC and she explained the origins of the realignment of the ward boundaries in the Parish, which had resulted in just one councillor in the Eridge ward. Cllrs queried whether the Parish needed to be warded at all.

10. Finance**10.1 Note outcome of interim internal audit on 30 January 2023**

Cllrs noted the auditor's report and were pleased with the outcome.

10.2 Approve the accounts payable

The payments below were **approved**.

Item no.	Payee	Item	Amount
1.	Imago	Dial2Drive Feb 2023	£143.50
2.	N. McGregor-Gould	General maintenance	£85.00
3.	ESCC	Inv no. 8005066898 Streetlight maintenance contract	£1,130.40
4.	Mr P King	Mole catching services on parish field: Feb 2023	£180.00
5.	Ms G Miles	Maintenance of BYG green for one year	£1,000.00

10.3 Approve the bank reconciliation

Th Clerk noted that the difference of £306.30 related to an energy bill for the streetlights for which she was awaiting an invoice. The bank reconciliation below was noted and **approved**.

Date: 22/03/2023 Frant Parish Council Page 1
Time: 12:11 **Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 22/03/2023** User: CLERK
for Cashbook 1 - Current Bank A/c

<u>Bank Statement Account Name (s)</u>	<u>Statement Date</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Balances</u>
Current A/c	22/03/2023		400.00
Business Reserve	22/03/2023		125,722.80
			126,122.80
<u>Unpresented Cheques (Minus)</u>		<u>Amount</u>	
		0.00	
			0.00
			126,122.80
<u>Receipts not Banked/Cleared (Plus)</u>			
		0.00	
			0.00
			126,122.80
		Balance per Cash Book is :-	126,429.10
		Difference is :-	-306.30

(Cllr Crookshank chaired item 11)

11. Planning

11.1 Approve the Minutes of the Planning Meeting on 6th March 2023

The Minutes were **approved**.

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

11.2.1 WD/2023/0412/F

Location: Lightlands, Down Lane, Frant, TN3 9HR

Description: Installation of solar panels on outbuilding.

It was agreed to recommend **approval**.

11.2.2 WD/2022/2626/F

Location: The Stables, Hawkenbury Road, Bells Yew Green, TN3 9AN

Description: Stationing of additional mobile home for use by carer in association with main dwelling. New access and parking provisions.

Cllr Crookshank referenced an appeal decision in 2012 in which he thought the Inspector had allowed the (then) proposed mobile home up be permitted on the condition that it be removed once the applicants no longer needed it. It was **agreed** that if this were the case, the current application should be refused unless the same condition could be applied.

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

None.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Appendix 1**Summary table of actions**

Action	By whom
Follow-up for a response from Highways about possible measures to slow traffic down in Bells Yew Green, from roughly Nobles Wood and into the village. To also include asking Highways whether the delineation of the village boundary in Bells Yew Green could be revisited to allow for road safety measures to be introduced beyond the village gates.	BS
Liaise with ESCC about re-siting unused grit bin in Frant to the Scout site in Eridge.	BS
Review financial records to identify previous donations to village halls.	Clerk
Assist in identifying sources of grant funding to support the provision of a replacement roof for the cricket pavilion in Frant.	Clerk/JH
Liaise with Mr Bowie about costings for installing bollards along the green, adjacent to the A267.	CS
Liaise with Orchard Landscapes to get work underway at the green in Eridge.	AB
Raise issue with Highways of multiple potholes on the High Street in Frant.	BS
Speak to NatWest about possibility of setting-up standing orders.	Clerk