

# FRANT PARISH COUNCIL

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## THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BELLS YEW GREEN VILLAGE HALL ON 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2023 AT 7.30PM

**Present:** Cllrs Crookshank (Vice-Chair), Steadman, Best, Rutherford  
County and District Cllr B. Standley  
District Cllr K.Obbard  
Ms R Barnes (Clerk & RFO)

Four attendees

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

**2. Receive apologies**  
Apologies were received from Cllrs Howell and Macdonald-Brown.

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> March 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 that the existing grit bin in Frant on the Bells Yew Green Road was to remain in situ and he would request that it be re-filled. **ACTION: BS**  
It was **agreed** to purchase another grit bin for the scouts' site in Eridge.
- Cllr Steadman said that Mr Bowie would be quoting for installing either bollards or tree trunks along the edge of the green in Frant, parallel to the A267, to deter cars from driving onto the green and cricket pitch.
- Cllr Best said that the gates to the new green in Eridge had been rearranged as per previously discussed and the rotovating was due to start in the coming week.
- Cllr Standley confirmed he had raised the series of potholes on Frant High Street with Highways.
- The Clerk noted that Cllr Howell had contacted the officer at Wealden DC who deals with grants about possible funds for the cricket club roof repair. Awaiting response.

**6. Public Forum (time limit to be extended only at the discretion of the Chairman)**  
A resident referred to the planning application at item 11.2.2 of the agenda and gave some background to it and referenced the appeal decision on the site. He urged the Parish Council to raise an objection to the proposed development.

A representative for Inspired Village said the approval for reserved matters for Phase 1 of the development in Bells Yew Green had been received. Further reserved matters applications would be submitted in the summer. He said a public event was being held in The Stables in Frant, between 3-

7pm on 10<sup>th</sup> May and that he (and/or a colleague) would also attend the Parish Council's Annual Assembly on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May.

A resident of Bells Yew Green asked Cllr Standley what the likely response from Highways would be about traffic calming beyond the village gates toward Nobles Wood. Cllr Standley said he understood that it was not a priority for Highways and it was difficult to say how they might view it. A good outcome would be their agreement to review the situation. Cllr Crookshank suggested that the resident record all accidents, including 'near misses', to support the case.

The resident also raised the issue of supercars regularly speeding along the Bayham Road and into the village; this usually occurs at around 7-8am on Sunday mornings and it is very noisy and intrusive. He said it appeared as though they were racing each other. He noted that it was being reported to Operation Crackdown and number plates needed to be recorded. Cllr Best said this had previously occurred along the A26 and the argument then was that the cars were not 'racing'. He therefore encouraged him and his neighbours to collect evidence of the speed of the cars over a period of time.

## **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 Standley said that there was additional £2.36 million available from government to tackle the condition of the roads in the county; he said that, this year, there appeared to be a dramatic decline in and breakdown of the road surfaces which was proving costly and time consuming to fix.

Cllr Rutherford enquired as to a series of large, full jumbo bags left in the layby beyond Pococks Gate on the A267. Cllr Standley said he would try to find out whether they anything to do with future road works. **ACTION: BS**

## **8. Update from the Clerk on various matters**

The Albert Well – Additional quotes are being sought for repairs to the well and, following advice from Wealden DC's Conservation Officer, a Lawful Development Certificate application will be submitted.

Community Assets – A re-application is to be submitted to Wealden DC to designate the Brecknock Arms as an asset of community value once again. It is hoped to also submit an application for The George.

Pedestrian crossing – The tender document for Phase 1 will be sent out by the end of the month. The Clerk noted that owing to not enough councillors being elected this year, the Council does not have the General Power of Competence. Thus, Phase 2 may have to be delivered by ESCC.

Adopted red phoneboxes – Mr McGregor-Gould has quoted £1,500 (plus parts) to repaint and repair the two phoneboxes in Frant and Bells Yew Green. Cllr Rutherford asked that the redundant phonebox at Sleeches Cross be removed. **ACTION: CLERK**

Audit – The internal audit is scheduled for early June.

SLR – The next SLR is scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> June via Teams. The Clerk asked that councillors forward items for the agenda by the end of May,

Change in meeting date – The last Full Council meeting of the year has been re-scheduled and will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> December.

**9. Approve quote for migration to new email and website host**

Cllr Steadman said he had read through the information from the current providers and one other possible provider. He suggested that more information be sought from both to cut through the jargon and clarify exactly what was being offered. **ACTION: CLERK**

Cllr Obbard joined the meeting at this point and read out his report. He noted this was his last Frant meeting as he was not standing in the upcoming election. Cllr Crookshank thanked him on behalf of the Parish Council for all his hard work and support over the years.

**10. Discuss outcome of election nominations and impact on parish council**

It was noted that the Parish Council now had five councillors out of a total of eleven. The Clerk asked that councillors let her know in advance if they can attend meetings so she can ensure they will be quorate. Cllr Steadman noted he may not be able to attend meetings during the summer period. It was **agreed** that Cllr Crookshank would become a signatory on the online banking account.

**11. Finance****11.1 Approve the accounts payable**

The list of payments was **approved**.

**11.2 Approve the bank reconciliation**

The Clerk said that she had been unable to produce a bank reconciliation this month because Rialtas had been upgrading their software.

**11.3 Agree a sum to contribute to Frant Memorial Hall for replacement windows**

Details of previous payments to the halls in the parish was circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting. It was noted that Frant Memorial Hall have robust reserves and it was **agreed** to first ask to see a copy of their accounts. **ACTION: CLERK**

**12. Discuss arrangements for Annual Meeting**

Cllr Crookshank suggested inviting a representative from the High Weald AONB Unit to come to the meeting to talk about the recent drone surveys of local deer population. This was **agreed** and it was also suggested that the venue for the meeting be moved from Bells Yew Green to the Stables in Frant. **ACTION: CLERK**

**13. Planning****13.1 To consider licence and planning applications received and make recommendations:****13.1.1 WD/2023/0740/LDE - Mill Cottage, Benhall Mill Road, TN3 9AE**

Use of land as residential garden and use of outbuildings for purposes incidental to the dwelling house, together with formation of an earth bund and levelling of garden.

Councillors considered that the evidence provided with the application was satisfactory and did not raise any issues to the contrary.

**13.1.2 WD/2022/2626/F - The Stables, Hawkenbury Road, Bells Yew Green, TN3 9AN**

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

Councillors **agreed** to recommend refusal of the application on the grounds that it represented an over-development and intensification in use of this site within the AONB.

13.1.3 WD/2023/0889/F - The Oaks, 2 Sellbourne Park, Frant, TN3 3DG

Proposed two-storey rear extension, including demolition of existing conservatory, conversion of existing integral garage to habitable accommodation and an enlarged parking area.

Councillors **agreed** to recommend approval.

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

None.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

**Appendix 1****Summary table of actions**

<b>Action</b>	<b>By whom</b>
Find out information about the jumbo bags left stacked in the lay-by on the A267.	BS
Request that the grit bin in Frant be re-filled.	BS
Seek clarification about the proposals from email/website providers.	Clerk
Ask Frant Memorial Hall for a copy of their accounts.	Clerk
Change venue for Annual Meeting from BYG village hall to The Stables in Frant and contact the High Weald AONB Unit for a guest speaker.	Clerk
Liaise with BT about removing the phonebox at Sleeches Cross.	Clerk