

# 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)

## THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BELLS YEW GREEN VILLAGE HALL ON 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7.30PM

**Present:** Cllrs Crookshank (Chair), Macdonald-Brown, Miles, Best, Park

County Cllr Bob Standley  
District Cllr Johanna Howell

One representative from Inspired Villages  
Mr P Payne  
Ms S Davies

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

**2. Receive apologies**  
Cllrs Steadman and Rutherford. Apologies were also received from the Clerk and the Council sent their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

**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 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023 as a true and accurate record**  
The Minutes were approved and duly **adopted**.

**5. To determine matters arising from the previous Minutes for updating and noting**  
None.

**6. Public Forum (time limit to be extended only at the discretion of the Chairman)**  
Mr Payne thanked the Parish Council for addressing the damaged bench on Frant green so quickly and asked if it could be repaired. On the agenda to discuss.

Mr Payne also expressed concern about a pole that has been placed by the bus stop at Screechers Cross. Cllr Standley agreed to look into this. **ACTION: BS**

**7. Receive reports from County and District Councillors**  
Councillors confirmed they had received written reports circulated prior to the meeting, via email. Cllr Standley gave an update on the pedestrian crossing and an alternative, new safe crossing. The Parish Council asked that, once costings were obtained, a meeting with the developer would take place followed by a full Parish Council discussion on the new proposal, if financially viable.

Cllr Best asked Cllr Howell about the very poor state of the A26 especially at Boars' Head. Cllr Howell said that plans are in place to resurface that stretch of road in January.

## **8. Green Spaces**

### **8.1 Confirm appointment of gardener to maintain the bund at the green in Bells Yew Green**

The appointment of Ms S Tapp was **confirmed**, at a rate of £1,000 per annum.

### **8.2 Use of the greens for construction work**

The Parish Council **agreed** that construction workers could use part of the green in Bells Yew Green to carry out remedial works to preserve a 300-year old oak tree in Middle Road.

### **8.3 Consider options for deterring motorists from driving on the green in Frant**

Cllr Crookshank confirmed that, after discussions with Mr D Huskisson, it was **agreed** that a bank should be built along the part of Frant green parallel to the A267 to deter motorists from driving up and on to the green. **ACTION: Clerk** to contact utility companies to ensure that they have no objections.

### **8.4 Discuss next steps for broken bench on the green in Frant**

It was **agreed** to repair or replace Wendy Payne's memorial bench on Frant green. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Howell raised concerns about the parking on Frant green at Shernfold Park and it was agreed to put this on the next agenda.

## **9. Finance**

### **9.1 To note outcome of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022-23 (AGAR)**

The AGAR was returned with no issues raised and this was noted by the Parish Council.

### **9.2 Approve the accounts payable**

The accounts to be paid were **approved**.

### **9.3 Approve the bank reconciliation**

The bank reconciliation was **approved**.

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

It was **agreed** to contribute £500 to Frant Memorial Hall for replacement windows.

### **9.5 Agree an allocation from Henry Smith funds to the Frant Friendship Group**

It was **agreed** to contribute the sum of £250 from the Henry Smith EMR to the Frant Friendship Group to assist with the exercise classes they run.

## **10. The Albert Well**

### **10.1 To approve quotation for repairs**

The Parish Council considered the three quotations and **agreed** to select the quotation from Mighty Oak to carry out repairs to the well structure. It was also agreed that if any changes to the quotation and/or additional costs were uncovered once the structure had been opened-up, that these be first referred back to the Parish Council for consideration and approval.

### **10.2 To consider supplementary investigation of the well to inform future decisions**

As part of 10.1, the Parish Council **agreed** to commission Archaeology South East to undertake a building archaeology study of the well to inform the repairs and the listed building application.

## **11. Planning**

### **11.1 To consider licence and planning applications received and make recommendations:**

#### **11.1.1 WD/2023/2183/F – Fawkeners, Ely Grange, Frant, TN3 9DY**

Addition of external water tanks to east of the site

The Parish Council **agreed** to recommend **approval**.

#### **11.1.2 WD/2023/2027/MRM – Little Mount Farm, Benhall Mill Road**

Reserved matters pursuant to outline permission

WD/2019/1648/MAO

The Parish Council **agreed** to recommend **approval**.

#### **11.1.3 WD/2023/1639/F – Perros, Church Lane, Frant, TN3 9DX**

Replacement of up and over garage door with window

The Parish Council **agreed** to recommend **approval**.

### **11.2 To note applications approved by Wealden District Council**

#### **11.2.1 WD/2023/1857/F – Stone Farm, Bayham Road, Frant TN2 5HU**

Construction of detached garage with home office and change of use of land to residential.

Noted.

#### **11.2.2 WD/2023/0412/F – Lightlands, Down Lane, Frant, TN3 9HR**

Installation of solar panels on outbuilding

Noted.

#### **11.2.3 WD/2023/1701/F – 8 Sussex View, Frant, TN3 9EZ**

New window for rear wall of garage

Noted.

### **11.3 To note applications refused by Wealden District Council**

#### **11.3.1 WD/2023/1753/F – 1 Lightlands Cottage, Down Lane, Frant, TN3 9HR**

Proposed conversion of existing outbuilding into single unit of residential accommodation.

Councillors expressed some surprise at this decision. A discussion then followed about the difficult and sometimes conflicting balance between trying to maintain agricultural buildings and the desire for more houses.

### **11.4 To note recent appeal decisions**

#### **11.4.1 WD/2022/0598/FR– The Stables, Church Lane, Frant, TN3 9DX**

Retrospective application for single-storey detached building to be used as church offices for St Albans Church.

Appeal allowed.

Noted.

Cllr Crookshank then informed Councillors that planning permission had been granted for another mobile home at Hawkenbury stables. This generated a lively debate about this property and its increasing development. It was noted that the owners had also now put in a gate in the hedge onto

Hawkenbury Road and put several ponies in the field, leading to 3-4 cars being regularly parked on this very busy road.

**11.5 Discuss Clerk's role in connection with the consideration of planning applications**

It was **agreed** that input from the Clerk on planning applications before decisions were made would be very welcome.

**12. To note findings of annual RoSPA inspections and agree any minor repairs.**

The findings were noted and it was agreed to carry out minor repairs.

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

Cllr Crookshank informed the Parish Council that the Brecknock Arm's status as a Community Asset had been renewed. He said that The George had also intimated it would like the Parish Council to nominate it as a Community Asset. Cllr Crookshank to confirm with The George. **ACTION: SC**

Cllr Crookshank confirmed that Ms Sarah Davies had agreed to be co-opted as a Frant Parish Councillor at October's meeting. This was welcomed by Councillors.

There being no other business, the meeting closed 8.15 pm

## **Appendix 1**

### **County councillor report to Frant Parish Council Sep 2023**

**August** tends to be a quieter month with fewer meetings and absence of Cabinet and Full Council meetings.

#### **Crossing on A267**

Given the increasing cost of the crossing it was suggested that the project reverts to a refuge although this would need to be deeper than the present refuge. Having approached ESCC a refuge in the same place as the proposed crossing would entail significant re-alignment to increase the road width to make the refuge suitable for pedestrians and push chairs/prams etc. The re-alignment would need to be significant to allow for HGV's etc.

The advice from ESCC is that given the significant re-alignment the cost would not be dissimilar from the crossing!!

I therefore put forward another possibility which is to move the refuge to a place that could utilise the bus stop to create the extra road width for a refuge.

ESCC have stated the project is feasible although they made a number of comments. I have asked for an estimated cost.

#### **GCSE and A Level**

These were announced in August and congratulations to all pupils who worked hard to achieve their results. Whilst the national figures are not published until October the East Sussex GCSE figures did show a fall from previous years although comparison difficult given the lack of exams during the pandemic.

Attainment 8 was 43.3 (45.3 in 2019) Grades 9-5 41.0% (41.7% 2019 and grades 9-4 62.8 (63.7 in 2019)

With A levels the East Sussex headline results were

Attainment 8 46.6

Grades 9-4 in Maths and English 66.1%

Grades 9-5 in Math and English 46.1%

#### **Holiday Activity Fund**

EscC ran a wide range of Activities for eligible children (FSM) and I met Sec of State Gillian Keegan which she visited one of the projects in Hastings. I was able to raise a number of issues with her inc. SEN and the challenges of attendance figures. HAF is funded by Govt grant.

#### **More Bus less Fuss Campaign**

Campaign continues for residents where possible to use buses.

Fares remain at £2 till October 23 and after that at £2.50 till Nov 2024

Up to 4 Under 19's travel can travel free with 1 Adult fare payer.

Over 66 and travel is free with concessionary bus pass.

Flexibus for residents without regular bus service.

#### **Older Persons Day**

Awareness Day is on October 1<sup>st</sup> and there are various activities through Oct and November.

Many events are free the programmes led by ESCC and ESSA (East Sussex Seniors Association)

[www.eastsussex.gov.uk/olderpeoplesday](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/olderpeoplesday)

#### **Creative Business Investment**

Creative South East programme is aimed at helping creative industries grow across the SE and East Sussex who have lobbied govt and secured funding from DCMS. Creative industries. Creative industries across the UK generate £108bn with over 2.3m employed in the sector.

**Aerated Concrete**

Only one school in East Sussex is known to have a problem and action is being taken and the school operating normally.

RWS Sep 23

## Appendix 2

### **Wealden Report September 2023 – Cllr Johanna Howell**

Balfour Beatty is working in partnership with East Sussex County Council to manage the highways service across East Sussex. As part of this, we will be carrying out site investigation works in Bartley Mill Road, Frant. This investigation is prior to carriageway surfacing works later in the year.

The investigation involves small core holes being drilled into the carriageway surface to allow for testing of the carriageway surface.

Work will take place on Thursday 14 September and Friday 15 September between 7am-7pm.

Bartley Mill Road will remain open during these works with traffic signals in place. The investigations will take place between the B2169 Bayham Road and the junction with Buckland Hill.

### Upgrade for Bewl Water

This £30 million project involves the installation of three large hydraulic siphons at the northern end of the reservoir, which will allow us to reduce the water level more quickly if needed. There are many reasons why they might need to do this, for example, to reduce high water levels during exceptionally heavy rainfall, or to carry out repair works to the dam.

I have been invited to a stakeholder briefing session on the 29th September.

### Journey's Festival of Dance comes to Hailsham

A unique music festival is set to visit Hailsham to give residents a day of theatricals, dance and family-filled fun.

Journey's Festival of Dance is a three-day event in September starting in Newhaven, heading to Hailsham and then ending in Bexhill. The event is being delivered by local events company 18Hours, in collaboration with Wealden District Council and the Arts Council.

The council is fully funding the event in Hailsham through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to ensure the event remains free and accessible to residents.

The vibrant event will raise community spirit by bringing excellent quality dance performance to everyday outdoor space, raising the profile of dance, encouraging participation and reflecting local diversity.

There will be workshops featuring the Corina Piatti Tango Trio, a talented group of musicians and singers bringing the authentic sounds of Argentine Tango to Vicarage Field. In the evening there will be a performance by Compagnie Bilbobasso's 'Amor' which combines tango, fire, and theatre in a spectacular show.

For anyone who would like to learn some tango moves themselves, there will be an opportunity to join in with a tango workshop led by Caola Degener-Pereira, a professional tango dancer and teacher.

All events are free to attend with no need to book in advance.

- Saturday 23 September, 11am & 12.15pm – free public tango workshops with Caola Degener-Pereira Vicarage Field, Hailsham High Street, BN27 1BG
- Saturday 23 September, 11.45am & 1pm – Live music from Corina Piatti Tango Trio. Vicarage Field, Hailsham High Street, BN27 1BG
- Saturday 23 September, 8pm – FREE Compagnie Bilbobasso's 'Amor' Vicarage Lane Car Park , Hailsham, BN27 1BE

For more information about the Journey's Festival of Dance visit <https://www.explorewealden.co.uk/experience-our-culture/journeys-festival-of-dance-performance-p2009971>

### Let's Talk Wealden goes live

A new online community engagement hub has been launched to improve engagement between Wealden District Council and its residents.

Let's Talk Wealden aims to provide an interactive and relaxed space for residents to find out about the latest proposals for their area, have their say, ask questions and discuss ideas with the community. Residents do not need to sign up if they wish to view the site but will need to register if they wish to comment, discuss, or ask a question.

Residents can sign up by visiting <https://letstalk.wealden.gov.uk/>

And finally Wealden have decided to consult Counsel again on the level of planning powers they have to impose restriction of Southern Water, despite having had a negative from Counsel in the past they are hoping that they may have greater say in the future.

**Johanna Howell (Cllr)  
Frant and Wadhurst**