

FRANT PARISH COUNCIL

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THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT FRANT VILLAGE HALL ON 17th APRIL 2024 AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllrs Crookshank (Chair), Best, Miles, MacDonald-Brown, Steadman, Davies.
County Cllr B. Standley, District Cllr J Howell, District Cllr S Glynn-Ives
Ms R Barnes (Clerk & RFO)

Mr and Mrs Parminter
Mr P Payne
One member of the public

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

2. Receive apologies.

Cllr D Park, Cllr W Rutherford, DCllr J Hulbert, CCllr G Taylor.

Cllr Crookshank noted DCllr Hulbert's appointment as Chair of Wealden District Council and expressed congratulations to her on behalf of the parish council.

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 20 March 2024 as a true and accurate record.

The Minutes were **approved** and **adopted**.

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

On agenda to discuss.

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

Mr and Mrs Parminter introduced themselves to the parish council and gave an account of the work they have been undertaking for their immediate community at Warren Green. Mrs Parminter said the community was made up of some 16 dwellings; she also noted that her and her husband had been hosting a Ukranian family. This work, which is still ongoing, involves restoring a field and its natural habitat, soil enhancement, provision of deer fencing, planting of 450 plugs of cow parsley and creating a wildflower meadow, apple orchards, a gate and kissing gate, a memorial tree and two water connection points. Mrs Parminter noted also that they have applied for a CPH licence to keep a limited number of livestock. Councillors acknowledged the Parminters' efforts in developing something for the

community to use and suggested a number of grants they might consider applying for, including the Sussex Lund grant and a grant from Wealden District Council for orchards.

Mr Payne circulated two photographs of recent fly-tipping at a bus stop in the parish. Cllr Crookshank encouraged all fly-tipping to be reported to East Sussex County Council, noting that they always responded very promptly.

A local resident of Bells Yew Green referred to a document he had compiled along with his neighbours in response to the recent Highways feasibility appraisal into safety measures in Bells Yew Green. He suggested that the case for, if not a 30mph limit, then a 40mph limit was strong, noting that government guidance considered that a transition limit of 40mph was appropriate for a road that enters into a village off of a fast 60mph road. It was agreed to forward this report to both Cllr Standley and also to Highways, for their further consideration.

ACTION: CLERK

7. Receive reports from County and District Councillors

County

A report from Cllr Standley was circulated prior to the meeting (see Appendix 1).

Cllr Standley said he had been to look at the various potholes near Tangier Lane on the A267 and said that two had been identified as 'temporary' (marked with a 'T') and a third clearly met the criteria for a repair within 28 days. He said he would continue to follow up with this.

ACTION: BS

District

DCllr Howell said she did not have anything to add over and above her report, circulated prior to the meeting (see Appendix 2).

A report from DCllr Glynn-Ives was circulated prior to the meeting (see Appendix 3).

DCllr Glynn-Ives noted the 50th anniversary of the formation of Wealden District Council. She also said that there was an imminent reorganisation of the Biffa rubbish collection rounds and residents would receive a letter outlining any changes to their collection days. Lastly, DCllr Glynn-Ives noted the ongoing Draft Local Plan consultation and encouraged the parish council to respond.

8. Planning

8.1 To consider licence and planning applications received:

8.1.1. WD/2024/0565/F – Melfort House, Wadhurst Road, Frant, TN3 9EH

Rear extension to garage/annexe building to provide a store and workshop and for the installation of a sash window in the existing side elevation.

Councillors **agreed** to recommend **approval**.

8.2 Response to Draft Local Plan

Councillors expressed their disbelief at the quantum of housing proposed for the parish and its location within the High Weald AONB. The serious negative impact on the parish in

terms of potentially tripling its population and of the proposed location of the housing on the AONB landscape was discussed. It was agreed that the parish council, on behalf of the parish, would object to the allocations in the strongest term.

9. Finance

9.1 Approve payments

The payments were **approved**.

9.2 Approve the bank reconciliation

The bank reconciliation was noted and **approved**.

10. Update on the Albert Well

The Clerk asked councillors if they wished to proceed with a Wealden DC pre-application query about the Might Oak proposal for the Albert Well repairs at a cost of £57.60. This would determine whether these repairs would require listed building consent, or not. Councillors **agreed** and this payment was added to the list of payments considered at item 9.1.

11. Oak trees in Bells Yew Green

Cllr Crookshank gave the background to this issue that had arisen on Middle Road, in Bells Yew Green. The oldest oak tree in a group of other oak trees was the subject of a dispute, with an insurance company demanding it be felled owing to potential damage to a nearby property. Cllr Crookshank said he had spoken with the company's legal team to convey the parish council's concern at this; this was followed up by an email. He said that, for now, the matter appeared to be resolved but that the parish council should remain vigilant especially as, owing to the ongoing dispute, a TPO could not be applied to that particular tree (the other trees do have TPOs). DCllr Howell offered to lend her support to this and this was welcomed.

12. Opening of new green in Eridge

Cllr Best said that it might be possible to open the green to local residents as soon as 1st May. He asked councillors their opinion on whether the green should prohibit dogs from the outset. After some discussion during which it was noted that there were plenty of other areas available for dog-walking, it was **agreed** that the new community green should remain dog-free.

13. Refurbishment of white village gates

Cllr Macdonald-Brown said that the gates in Bells Yew Green were made of wood and covered in a heavy-duty plasticised paint that was now deteriorating. Cllr Crookshank confirmed that the gates were owned by the parish council and therefore a rolling programme of refurbishment should be agreed on.

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

Cllr Crookshank said that he had met with Reverend B Martin and agreed a location for a new dog bin, alongside the black and green bins at the top of the drive down to The Stables.

Cllr Miles enquired who normally carries out refurbishment of fingerposts and Cllr Crookshank said this was outsourced by the parish council to JakkUK.

Cllr Crookshank suggested the Clerk contact Mr J Black of Kember Loudon Williams to do a presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting about the pedestrian crossing. **ACTION: CLERK**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Appendix 1

County Councillor Report to Frant Parish Council: April 24

SEN Pressures

I reported last month on the continued pressure on SEN funding. Whilst pressures remain on revenue funding the good news is that last week the Sec of State announced funding of £850m towards capital cost to provide 60K more special needs places. East Sussex will get £6.7m of which 4.7m has already been received and a further £2m for 24/25.

Pressures still remain on the revenue funding of special places.

Highways

The wettest February since 1836 followed by an almost equally wet March has done little to improve the number of defects. The number of crews deployed has increased to the highest ever. I am still lobbying for extra funding to improve the amount of patching and hopefully the better weather will mean fewer potholes and more longer term patching completed.

Uplands Academy 6th Form Proposed Closure

As you are aware this is not a decision for ESCC but nevertheless is of interest. My understanding is that the decision is now with the DfE to decide on the proposal to close.

New Director of Children' Services

Alison Jeffreys will be retiring at the end of the month. Carolyn Fair was appointed a few weeks ago and took up her post this week. Carolyn has extensive experience in both a London Borough but also with Somerset County Council

RWS Apr 24

Appendix 2**Cllr Johanna Howell - Wealden District Report: April 2024**

Residents and organisations across Wealden are being asked to take part in a climate change survey.

Wealden District Council is creating a new Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan and is asking residents across Wealden to take part in a survey to gather opinions on climate change action in the district.

The survey takes on average 15 minutes to answer and the views and opinions expressed from feedback will help to form the new strategy and plan, and ensure it meets the needs of local communities, captures climate action taking place already and reflects future priorities.

To complete the surveys, visit Climate Change | Let's Talk Wealden. The survey will be open for eight weeks and closes Friday 10 May 2024 at 12pm. For more information residents can contact the Climate Change team at sustainability@wealden.gov.uk

A total of £27,756 of funding has been awarded to Wealden District Council to support community orchards in the Wealden district.

The funding has been allocated by the UK government through The Coronation Living Heritage Fund, which celebrates the coronation of King Charles III and supports tree planting projects nationwide and honours the King's dedication to preserving the natural environment.

Wealden council is asking schools, residents' associations, village hall trusts, parish and town councils, businesses, community and voluntary groups, charities, not for profit organisations, and landowners with publicly accessible land to apply for grants between £1,000 and £3,500.

Please also take a look at East Sussex 4 Community if you are actively looking for funding opportunities. A free-to-use funding website with information on grants, loans and other initiatives focusing on East Sussex area: <https://www.idoxopen4community.co.uk/eastsussex/>

You can also sign up to East Sussex County Council's monthly funding newsletter: <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/community/funding/news>

Johanna Howell (Cllr)
Frant and Wadhurst

Appendix 3

Wealden District Councillor report – Frant & Wadhurst Sarah Glynn-Ives: April 2024

Wealden began their 50th anniversary celebrations at the start of this month. Details of further celebrations will be made known over the coming weeks. Wealden was formed back in 1974 from two former districts, Hailsham Rural and Uckfield Rural and was named after the local landscape and woodland.

This week (week commencing Monday 15th April), sees, for some of our residents, the start of the new round changes by Biffa, the council's waste contractor. A black and white mail out regarding the changes was sent out in error. A colour version has now been sent out, the cost of the second mail out has been covered by the mailing house, not by the council.

There is a little under 4 weeks until the Draft Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation closes at 5pm on Friday 10 May. A reminder that the face-to-face exhibition comes to Frant Memorial Hall on Tuesday 23rd April from 2pm to 8pm.

16th April, 2024 Contact Wealden District Council on 01323 443322
Contact Cllr Glynn-Ives on 07812 99080