**FRANT PARISH COUNCIL**

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THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

HELD AT FRANT VILLAGE HALL

ON 15th MAY 2024 AT 7.30PM

**Present:** Cllrs Crookshank (Chair), Rutherford, Best, Park, MacDonald-Brown, Steadman

 District Cllr J Howell

 Ms R Barnes (Clerk & RFO)

 Mr P Payne

**1. Elect a Chair**

Cllr Rutherford proposed Cllr Crookshank as Chair. This was seconded by Cllr Steadman and **agreed** unanimously.

**2. Elect a Vice-Chair**

It was **agreed** to consider electing a Vice-Chair later in the year.

**3. Enquire whether anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record**

**the meeting**

None.

**4. Receive apologies**

Cllr S Davies, Cllr G Miles, CCllr B Standley, DCllr S Glynn-Ives, DCllr J Hulbert.

**5. Receive declarations of interests on items on the agenda, notifications of changes to the Register of Interests and consider any requests for a dispensation**

None.

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

None.

**7. Approve the Minutes of the meeting on 17 April 2024 as a true and accurate record**

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

#### **8. To determine matters arising from the previous Minutes for updating and noting**

On agenda to discuss.

**9. Receive reports from County and District Councillors**

County

In CCllr Standley’s absence, no report was given.

District

DCllr Howell circulated her report prior to the meeting (see Appendix 1) and gave a summary from it.

DCllr Howell said she had received compliments from fellow councillors about the Clerk’s written representations on behalf of the Parish Council to the Draft Local Plan.

A report from DCllr Glynn-Ives was circulated prior to the meeting (see Appendix 2).

**10. Consider and approve new member(s) for co-option**

Postponed to a future meeting.

**11. Approve and adopt:**

**11.1 Financial Regulations**

The Financial Regulations were **approved** and **adopted**.

**11.2 Standing Orders**

The Standing Orders were **approved** and **adopted**.

**12. Planning**

**12.1 To consider licence and planning applications received:**

**12.1.1 WD/2024/0992/F & WD/2024/0993/LB**

Conversion of redundant barn and stables to dwelling (Class C3), including extension and new roof. Demolition of existing steel-clad open barn and replacement with new garage and ancillary accommodation.

Higham Farm, Higham Lane, Bells Yew Green, TN3 9AU

Link to documents: <https://planning.wealden.gov.uk/plandisp.aspx?recno=165570>

Councillors **agreed** to recommend **approval** on the grounds that it was a sensitive conversion of an unused rural building.

**12.1.2 WD/2024/0871/LB**

Drill flue-pipe hole through internal wall to outside wall for pipe from boiler to outside guard at regulation height from ground flue pipe. 2. Drill small hole inside wall to outside for drainage of water condenser from boiler.

Eridge Lodge, Frant Green Road, Frant, TN3 9DB

Link to documents: <https://planning.wealden.gov.uk/plandisp.aspx?recno=165422>

Councillors **agreed** to recommend **approval** as the proposed flue-pipe hole would be located in a discreet location and would not be harmful to the listed building.

**13. Finance**

13.1 Approve payments

**Approved.**

13.2 Approve the bank reconciliation

**Approved.**

**13.3 Approve quotation for refurbishment of village gates in Bells Yew Green**

The quotation from Mr N McGregor-Gould was **approved.**

**14. Approve Section 1 of the Annual Return: Annual Governance Statement 2023/24**

Councillors reviewed and **approved** Section 1 of the Annual Return: Annual Governance Statement 2023/24

**15. Approve Section 2 of the Annual Return: Accounting Statement for 2023/24**

Councillors reviewed and **approved** of the Annual Return: Accounting Statement for 2023/24.

**16. Note Internal Auditor’s conclusions**

Councillors noted the report from the Internal Auditor and thanked the Clerk.

**17. Pedestrian crossing**

**17.1 Update from meeting and agree way forward**

Cllr Crookshank gave a summary of a recent meeting held at the offices of Kember Loudon Willliams with ES Highways to discuss how to move the project along on a s278 basis. He noted it was a very productive meeting and that Monson Engineering would be developing the drawings required for ES Highways to approve the technical scheme. Mr Bee, representing the Eridge Estate Company, agreed to consider the principle of the Eridge Estate Company acting as promoter and on the basis of there being no liability, financial or other, on the Estate (including any payment of a bond). It was agreed to aim for commissioning a contractor by October this year.

Cllr Macdonald-Brown queried whether the Frant stretch of the A267 could be resurfaced at the same time. Cllr Best said that the Parish Council had to be absolutely certain about the details of the contract with the contractors and seek the necessary legal advice and insurance to the protect it from any liability, financial or other. This was **agreed**.

**17.2 Agree fee proposals in respect of proposed pedestrian crossing**

The fee proposals from Kember Loudon Williams and Monson Engineering (both involved in the original scheme at Fern Close II, the consent for which has a condition to provide the pedestrian crossing) were **agreed**.

It was also **agreed** to opt for the traditional style of streetlights for the scheme.

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

The proposed street names for the Benhall Mill Road development were discussed and it was agreed to suggest names that would allow for a more coherent theme. **ACTION: WR**

The recent video footage sent to the Parish Council by a local resident of supercars speeding through Bells Yew Green one Sunday morning was discussed. It was agreed to forward this again to the police. **ACTION: Clerk**

The status of Frant Stores was discussed with councillors questioning when it was due to re-open. Cllr Howell said she would liaise with enforcement to get an update. **ACTION: JH**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

**Appendix 1**

**Report from DCllr Johanna Howell**

Firstly I would like to congratulate Jessika Hulbert on being our new chairman of the council and am looking forward to working with her.

The council has announced that Residents on low incomes are entitled to have their Council Tax reduced – sometimes to zero.

As of 1 April 2024, residents can earn more compared to last year and still receive help with their Council Tax.

Under the enhanced scheme, a single person could receive a 100% reduction in their Council Tax if their earnings are up to £103.82 a week; a couple with no children could earn up to £153.32 a week; a couple or lone parent with one child could earn up to £214.90 and a couple/lone parent with two or more children could earn up to £275.25.

There was a meeting at Bewl with South East Water to explain about the plans for new water infrastructure which lead to more resilience in the system. The section that will affect Wadhurst will start in April and will last 16 months. They are building a more sustainable system, which will benefit us in the north of the district.

As you know the Local Plan is the big topic of the moment and I hope you will all read and contribute to it.

Wealden Community Lottery is celebrating its first anniversary with an event in Hailsham, which will have 50 attendees. Please spread the word this is a good way to get extra funding for our local community groups.

**Appendix 2**

**District Councillor report – Frant & Wadhurst Sarah Glynn-Ives May 2024**

A reminder about the Wealden Community Infrastructure and Spaces Funding Programme: Not for profit and Parish Councils can apply for a grant between £1,000 and £20,000 (50% match funded). Expressions of interest should be emailed to community grants@wealden.gov.uk.

More guidance can be found here: <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/information-for> businesses/economic-development-and-growth/rural-england-prosperity fund/wealden-community-infrastructure-and-spaces-fund/. Wealden Crematorium is celebrating its 5th year of operating. Their next open day is on Wednesday 31st July, 11am-3pm and can be easily accessed by car and by bus (bus stop outside for Stagecoach 51 and 51X). The Crematorium is set in 25 acres of Sussex countryside, just south of Horam on the A267. It is a peaceful setting with wildflower meadows, woodland and pasture.

Free NHS Health Checks are available to East Sussex residents aged 40-74 who are not on blood pressure or cholesterol medication, do not suffer from diabetes or heart/circulatory/kidney conditions or previously suffered from any cardiovascular events or had a NHS health check in the past 5 years.

The One You mobile health check van will be visiting:

Crowborough (Croft Road car park) on Thursday 16th May and Thursday 20th June

Uckfield (Luxford Field car park) on Thursday 23rd May and Thursday 27th June Hailsham (Vicarage Lane car park) on Thursday 30th May

Heathfield (Station Road East car park) on Thursday 13th June.

Spaces may not be available on the day, so booking is advised by emailing Sam.bentley@oneyoueastsussex.org.uk or by ringing 01323 404600