



FRAMSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

All Councillors are reminded of their obligations under the Code of Conduct Regulations.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 11th November 2021 at Framsdén Village Hall

Attendance Dominic Vaughan (DV) Glen Buckingham (GB) Neil Mellor (NM)
Matthew Hicks (MH) Claire Macauley (CM) Nicola Whitmore (NW)
(County Councillor) Sarah Clare (Clerk)

Public present at the meeting: 6

FPC 21-07-01 Appointment of Chair

The Clerk asked for nominations for the office of Chair.

DV was nominated as Chair by GB, CM seconded, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**

The acceptance of office form was signed.

FPC 21-07-02 Apologies for Absence

Debra Pearce (DP) offered apologies due to illness. The Council accepted.

FPC 21-07-03 Declaration of Interests

None

FPC 21-07-04 Public Forum

A parishioner asked a question about whether there would be any benefit in having WiFi brought into the Village Hall. It was agreed that this would be an issue for the Village Hall Management Committee (VMHC) to consider and report back the Parish Council.

Concerns were raised about the lorry route consultation which was on the agenda for discussion later in the meeting. It was agreed that comments could be made on this item when discussed by the Council.

A question was raised about when VMHC meetings would be taking place. NM confirmed that there had only been the inaugural meeting to date and that it is planned to schedule meetings as required. The dates and agendas would be advertised in the same way as full Parish Council meetings – publication on the website and notification through the Parish Council email list.

A parishioner raised a query about how contractors who have quoted for work, but not been successful in their bid, are communicated with, due to recent issues. The Council took on board the comment and will look at ways to improve communication in the future, with suggestion that a formal policy is agreed around this issue at a future meeting.

FPC 21-07-05 To Receive District Councillor's Report – District Councillor Suzie Morley

The District Councillor's Report for November had previously been circulated to the Council and has also been posted on the village website www.framesden.onesuffolk.net

SM brought attention to the following:

Suffolk health bosses have asked the Government for extra help to fight COVID and subsequently the county is now an Enhanced Response Area for at least five weeks.

The Joint Local Plan has been paused by the Planning Inspectorate in order to allow extra time to review evidence.

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The District Council has spent £1½ in CIL money across the district in the last few months. Some of the CIL money was granted to Debenham for a new roof on the Community Centre.

The Local Energy Showcase had been a great success. One day had been devoted to business and one to community groups and it had been a fantastic opportunity to show off all the green energy improvements going on across the county.

The Tree for Life scheme is open to all families in the district who have, or are welcoming a new arrival during 2021, with parents who may have also lost a child able to apply for a remembrance tree as well. The cut off date for applications is 10th January 2022.

There is a scheme being jointly arranged between Suffolk Libraries and the District Council to help residents get online in an increasingly digital world, with a new iPad lending scheme

Finally, a careers festival (Careeriosity) organised in Stowmarket over the half term break had been very well supported, focussing on emerging careers in technology across the county. NW and the Clerk commented on the success of Careeriosity, praising the initiative.

CM raised a query with SM about a biodiversity email that had been sent out by the District Council some time ago, encouraging people to apply for free hedging plant via their Parish Councils. CM had spent considerable time putting forms together for three families in Framsdén, but had two applications had been declined because the trees were going to be planted on land that was not publicly accessible. This had not been noted as a condition of application and CM felt that a lot of time and effort had been subsequently wasted. It was also counterproductive to the Council's commitment to tree planting, as limiting the areas in such a way will make the tree planting target difficult to achieve, whilst the trees would be helpful to the environment no matter where they are planted. SM asked CM to forward the details to her and she would look into it.

CM and GB commented that they had both attended the Local Energy Showcase and although largely successful, GB raised concerns that houses that are rented through the private sector, those that are listed, or people on a low income, can find it difficult to implement a lot of the suggested measures. GB felt that those involved in the protection of listed buildings need to adopt a more 'open door' strategy to look at ways to help people address ways to improve the insulation and carbon footprint of their homes; rather than simply saying things can't be done, solutions should be sought, otherwise a large proportion of the population will be left behind. SM explained that this was not within the District Council's remit, with such matters being controlled by Central Government the only way forward was for people to lobby their MP's with their concerns.

FPC 21-07-06 To Receive County Councillor's Report – County Councillor Matthew Hicks



The County Councillor's Report for November had previously been circulated to the Council and has also been posted on the village website www.framsdén.onesuffolk.net

MH brought attention to the following points:

Suffolk has now been designated an Enhanced Response Area due to a significant increase in COVID numbers and the resulting pressures on hospitals in the area. This means that extra funding has been released by Central Government to support the vaccination programme, for both initial vaccinations and booster shots. Various pharmacies around the County are carrying out the booster shots for people, with Suffolk currently doing the best in the country at uptake in this area. DV and a number of parishioners present provided anecdotal evidence that there is quite a long wait for appointments, unless people were prepared to travel out of their local area.

There will also be teams working across Suffolk doing door to door knocking in areas with low vaccination take up and increased testing in schools. Additional powers are also available to authorities, such as mask mandates and there is funding available for additional advertising. Every household in Suffolk will receive a leaflet in the next week or so, reminding everyone of what they need to be doing to mitigate COVID risks.

Suffolk County Council have applied to Central Government for £50 million over a three year period as part of the Bus Back Better scheme, with the view to try and improve bus routes and uptake of bus travel in the County, including the roll out of contactless payment systems. GB asked how much the County Council currently subsidises bus routes by, MH was not certain, but stated that it had been cut back substantially and he would look into the amount and advise GB. CM asked about Park & Ride schemes and whether these could be expanded. MH explained that the schemes around Ipswich are not well supported as the parking in Ipswich is relatively cheap compared to other cities who use such schemes, so the incentive for people to use

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the Park & Ride is not so great. There are no plans at present to expand or re-introduce Park & Ride schemes above their current levels.

The County Council are also keen to hear back from Parish Councils regarding the HGV route review, it is important that feedback is provided by those who know the village and area best in each situation.

DV raised a question about when the proposed speed limit on A1120 is likely to be implemented. MH confirmed that he had signed the form to enact this change, it has now got to go before the cabinet member responsible for road safety and the Head of Highways for the case to be examined, but he doesn't expect there to be any hold-ups and hopes the matter will go through soon.

MH explained that there was a bit of a hold up regarding the request for an extension of the 30mph limit at Mill Hill, but this was due to a mistake about which property the extension should reach up to. MH will amend and resubmit the request.

Concerns were raised about the possible impact of electricity pylon lines running through coastal areas of Suffolk, bringing offshore energy inland to be run down to the South of England. Suffolk County Council are currently challenging this plan, asking that the lines be run down the Thames estuary and brought inland at Tilbury, arguing that if the majority of the demand is coming from London then this would be a better solution that impacting the lives of coastal communities throughout Suffolk and Essex. Alternatively, it is argued that the interconnectors could be offshore, but this is a cost issue. MH explained that unfortunately the Secretary of State does not look at the cumulative impact of such energy contracts, treating each on as an individual application and as a result the impact on small communities can sometimes be huge. Currently 30% of the UK's energy requirements comes ashore in Suffolk, so this is an issue that is likely to be of major concern for some time.

GB asked about plans for the cutting of grass verges next year, following concerns that this wasn't done properly this year. MH stated he was unaware of any change to the policy to be implemented on grass cutting next year, but he was very aware that there had been major issues around cutting this year, partly due to the way the growing season had been compressed into a short period of time, meaning that contractors simply couldn't keep up with the need to cut the verges. This also had to be balanced with the increasing numbers of requests to leave areas uncut for wildlife, but it was the policy of the County Council that visibility splays at junctions would always be cut for safety reasons.

FPC 21-07-07 Minutes of previous meetings

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th October 2021 as a true and accurate record, were proposed by NM, seconded by DV and **WERE SO RESOLVED**. The Minutes were signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

FPC 21-07-08 Matters Arising and Action Points

- 8.1 Future agenda item – Maintenance and cleaning schedule for play area. To be discussed later in meeting.
- 8.2 Send email out to encourage residents to sign up to SCC Solar Together initiative. DISCHARGED
- 8.3 Contact Suffolk Rights of Way Officer regarding the footpath bridge adjacent to the former Doberman Inn. DISCHARGED.
- 8.4 Organise meeting to discuss the footpath and walking map to be updated read for reprint. ONGOING
- 8.5 Speak to potential volunteer about Festival of Suffolk participation. DISCHARGED
- 8.6 Arrange inaugural meeting of the VHMC. DISCHARGED
- 8.7 Accept quote for external painting of the VH as agreed by the Council. DISCHARGED
- 8.8 Liaise with contractor for survey work to be carried out on VH soleplate. DISCHARGED – NM reported at the October meeting that this work has been postponed until the New Year.
- 8.9 Arrange for PAT testing to be carried out at the VH (to include some items from FF). ONGOING
- 8.10 Publish VH risk assessment on village website. DISCHARGED
- 8.11 Add garden benches to Asset Register. DISCHARGED

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- 8.12 Register VH on the Suffolk Solar Together scheme. To be discussed later in meeting.
- 8.13 Obtain quotes for a noticeboard with a VH nameplate and contact SM regarding Locality Budget Funding. To be discussed later in meeting.
- 8.14 Speak to Lord Tollemache about having a beacon at Framsdon Hall for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. ONGOING
- 8.15 Publish adopted Standing Orders on village website. DISCHARGED
- 8.16 Arrange for renewal of Parish Council insurance. DISCHARGED
- 8.17 To arrange online payments as approved at the September/October meetings. DISCHARGED
- 8.18 Advise PCC of decision on funding application. DISCHARGED
- 8.19 Submit responses to Planning Department at District Council/Planning Appeals as agreed. DISCHARGED
- 8.20 Accept quote for Play Area gate and fencing as agreed by the Council. DISCHARGED
- 8.21 Liaise with contractor for Play Area gate and fencing work to be carried out. DISCHARGED

FPC 21-07-09 Planning



- a) To consider planning applications that had been submitted since the last meeting:
 - i. DC/21/05907 – Householder Application – erection of single storey rear extension (amendment to scheme approved DC/20/04978) – Forge House, Ashfield Road, IP14 6LR

Councillors had all studied the application in advance of the meeting. After discussion it was decided to submit **NO COMMENT** to the application.

DV proposed, NW seconded, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED.**
- b) To consider any planning applications which have been submitted since agenda published: The Clerk explained that two applications had come in that afternoon and as Councillors had not had any time to consider the applications an extension to comment had been requested. Assuming this was granted an extra meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 9th December to consider these applications.
- c) Updates and outcomes on previous planning applications: None

FPC 21-07-10 Parish Council Activities & Projects

- a) To consider co-option to the Council - Nobody came forward for co-option. The Clerk confirmed that the vacancy is published on the village website. It was agreed that an email would be sent round to encourage applicants to come forward.
- b) VHMC Report - NM reported that the VHMC have now managed to secure the services of someone to carry out the essential woodworking repairs, including the production of a new finial post for the roof. These works are either completed or in the process of being carried out and it is expected that the painters will return soon once the woodwork has been done to complete the decorating.
 - i. Five Year Maintenance/Budget Plan – first draft
NM had circulated to Councillors an initial version of a five-year plan, with the intention of a managed maintenance scheme being adopted, instead of the current ad-hoc work being carried out when necessary. This will feed into the overall budget setting process of the Parish Council. Councillors thanked NM for his work.
 - ii. Electric Car Charging/Solar Panels at the Village Hall
GB had made enquires through County Council's Solar Together scheme for the possibility of getting solar panels fitted to the Village Hall roof. The initial application had been positively received with the possibility of being able to supply the electricity requirements of the Village Hall

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up to 97% of the time. This would substantially reduce the carbon footprint of the building, as well as save considerable money for the Council on the building's running costs.

The next stage of the application was for £150 to be spent on a formal survey to check the viability of the roof to support the PV panels and whether battery storage would also be a good idea.


CM queried whether permission would be required from the diocese prior to any installation being carried out. The Clerk will make contact to advise them of the plans and to ask for permission.

It was agreed to defer this matter to the VMHC for further consideration. NM queried about how the £150 would be paid, the Clerk advised that if the payment was needed in advance online then the simplest solution would be for an individual to make payment and apply for reimbursement of the cost from the Parish Council. The amount is well within the Terms of Reference for the VHC to authorise the expenditure.

iii. Noticeboard

The Clerk had circulated various options for the Council to consider. It was agreed that the VHC would make the final decision and the feedback to the Parish Council, as the amount is likely to need full Council approval. In the meantime, the Clerk would chase up the information about how to make an application for funding through the District Council Locality Budget.

- c) Overgrown Hedges on A1120 – A letter had been received from a resident of Ashfield-cum-Thorpe raising concerns about hedges on the A1120 in the Framsdan area. GB had looked into the matter and reported back to the Council that the section in question was not overgrown, but instead the road was actually narrower in the area of concern. NW reported that residents along that section of road had received letters from Suffolk Highways in the past raising the same concerns, but again the hedges could not be cut back any further. GB believed that the road was classified as an A-road during the period that Sizewell A was being constructed, as it was the only suitable route across the county at the time. The County Council do not want to demote the road as they receive greater funding for an A-road, but in truth the road is more suited to be classified as a B-road in the areas where it narrows. The Clerk will reply to the Ashfield-cum-Thorpe resident explaining the situation.
- d) Consideration of plastic bottle recycling bank – An email had been sent to the Clerk with a suggestion about adding a plastic recycling bank. Following discussion, including noting that plastic is recycled from the kerbside as part of the standard recycling scheme every fortnight, it was agreed not to proceed with such a bank. The volunteer who manages the current banks was thanked for his efforts in keeping the layby neat and tidy. In the last six months the glass recycling has raised a lot of money for the village, although the textile bank has not proved so profitable. It was noted that the textile bank had been installed without any consultation with nearby residents and the Parish Council agreed to ensure that, going forward, consultation on any changes to the recycling area would be done with nearby residents prior to any implementation.
- e) Update on Quiet Lane progress – GB stated that this process has stalled a bit at present, the last communication he had received from the District Council was that due to staffing problems there was a delay in checking the survey work. Framsdan is within Wave 2, which is supposed to have been completed by now, all the roads are mapped correctly and it is just a question of waiting for an update.
- f) Update on provision of a Speed Indicator Device or ANPR – NW reported that she was awaiting information from the District Council. The Clerk will chase up for an update.
- g) To received Annual Play Area inspection – The report had been circulated to the Councillors before the meeting. DV noted that the majority of the amber warnings related to cleaning or the potential for splinters. CM explained that most of the issues would be dealt with during the refurbishment work, but agreed to compare the report with the intended refurbishment and report back to the Council which items may still require attention.
- h) Play Area Working Party report – including consideration of cleaning and maintenance – CM was pleased to report that all the funding needed for the play area refurbishment has now been secured. The decision now needs to be taken upon which supplier the Parish Council wishes to work with in order to move forward. After discussion CM agreed to carry out further research to assist the Council with making a decision on which supplier to go forward with. Once the supplier has been finalised and equipment selected a consultation will take place with residents to ensure that needs are met before installation is completed. The decision on which supplier to instruct will be taken at the next available meeting of the Parish Council (likely to be in December).

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- i) Consideration of response to Police & Crime Plan consultation – After consideration it was felt that there was no need for a formal response to be submitted.
- j) Consideration of response to Draft Housing Land Supply Consultation – It was noted that Suffolk and the surrounding area appears to have enough housing planned for the next nine years supply. However, as the Joint Local Plan (JLP) is currently paused it was agreed to wait until after the JLP has been finalised before making a final decision on whether a response is required
- k) Consideration of response to HGV Route consultation – DV noted that as Framsdon is only listed on a blue route it was difficult to see what could be commented on. A parishioner asked whether the routes would be stopped or restricted in any way or whether the routes are only offered as guidelines and whether any recommendations would actually a change in behaviour from hauliers. There have been some issues with lorries driving on the routes in the early hours of the morning and it was agreed that comments like these needed to be fed into the Parish Council, so that a formal response can be put together representing the views of the village as a whole. The Clerk will circulate details of the consultation to residents asking for feedback and this will be considered again at the December meeting.

FPC 21-07-12 Finance

- a) To review the Financial Statement for the month – The Clerk had previously circulated the Financial Statement for November. There were no queries. CM proposed acceptance, NM seconded and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**. The Chair signed the corresponding Bank Statements to confirm the figures.
- b) To confirm Unity Bank balance – as at 9th November 2021 the balance was £35,929.07
- c) Petty Cash Payments Report – Total Petty Cash spend since September meeting = £12.83
- d) Budget Planning – A draft budget for 2022-2023 had been circulated by the Clerk. After discussion a couple of items were agreed to be amended/noted:
 - The VH Major Repairs figure would be updated to reflect the 22/23 year in NM's five year plan for the Village Hall.
 - Depending upon the results of the Solar Together survey a sum may need to be set aside.

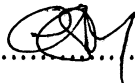
The Clerk will produce a second version draft for consideration at the December meeting.

- e) To agree payments as detailed on Payment Schedule – CM proposed authorisation, DV seconded and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**. The Clerk will arrange online payments accordingly.
- f) Funding Applications
 - i. Headway Suffolk
 - ii. Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau

It was agreed to defer the decision on an funding requests to the January meeting, when all applications received during the course of the year can be considered at one time.

FPC 21-05-13 Matters of urgency to be brought to the attention of the Council

- a) GB enquired about the progress of ongoing works in the Village Hall garden. The parishioner who looks after the garden confirmed that all is going well, with some items having been kindly donated, thereby saving money.
- b) DV agreed to remain in post as Chairman until Remembrance Sunday and to lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.
- c) Items for next agenda:
 - Contractor Communication Policy
 - Planning Matters – providing extension to deadline for comment is granted.
 - VHMC Report
 - To compare Play Area Inspection Report to planned refurbishment works and consider any immediate remedial actions that may be required.
 - To consider instruction of Play Area supplier

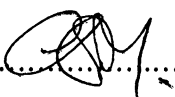

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- Consideration of response to HGV Route consultation.
- Further Budget Planning

Items for the December Agenda – please notify the Clerk of any further items for the agenda as soon as possible and by Monday 29th November at the latest, with any accompanying paperwork ready to be circulated with the agenda upon publication.

There being no further business requiring the attention of the Parish Council, the meeting was closed at 9.24pm. The next Parish Council meeting is set for **Thursday 9th December 2021** at 8.30pm, in Framsdon Village Hall

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