



FRAMSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 9th November 2023 at Framsdén Village Hall

Attendance	Dominic Vaughan (DV)	Ian Seager (IS)	Neil Mellor (NM)
	Claire Macaulay (CM)	Nicola Whitmore (NW)	Glen Buckingham (GB)
	Sarah Clare (Clerk)	Nick Hardingham (NH) District Councillor	Matthew Hicks (MHi) County Councillor

Public present at the meeting: 11

FPC 23-09-01 Appointment of Chair

GB had not resigned from the meeting in September, so remained in post as Chair.

FPC 23-09-02 Apologies for Absence

None

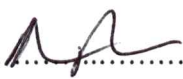
FPC 23-09-03 Declaration of Interests

CM declared interest in FPC 23-09-09 d) as a close neighbour to the property concerned.

FPC 23-09-04 Public Forum

DV expressed thanks to everyone for the work that had been done during and after the storms. Sympathising with those affected and thanking the wider community for all the individual acts of help.

1. A question was asked about whether there is there any provision for the stream in The Street to be dredged? Theory being that because the stream overflowed it caused the flooding.
GB explained that the Environment Agency (EA) do a regular walk through and trim the sides and remove any significant obstructions. The Parish Council could potentially ask them to do more (and individuals can also write and are encouraged to do so if there are specific concerns), but landowners with riparian responsibilities that have modified the banks may be held liable for any flooding that occurs as a result. Currently the EA is funded by local landowners who pay a drainage fee, the EA's responsibility is to the bridge at the school, after that responsibility falls to the individual landowners. Currently the issue of ditches and streams leaves the EA between a rock and a hard place, with environmentalists and ecologists want to see water in watercourses all year round, but landowners want it gone, it is a difficult balancing act. The recent Storm Babet was an extreme event beyond anything that simply dredging the stream would have been able to cope with. GB outlined that 100mm of rain had fallen in a 48 hour period, onto soil that was already at 75% moisture holding capacity (in other words it could only take in another 25mm of rain). 1 mm of rain equates to 10 tonnes of water falling on a single hectare, 100 mm of rain is therefore 1,000 tonnes, or 1 million litres of water. The catchment above Framsdén is approximately 2,000 hectares, meaning about 2 million tonnes of water flowed through the village (2 billion litres). The field drainage systems that were put in about 70 years ago are simply not designed for this sort of flow. It is not clear how anyone can plan for such an extreme event.
2. A query about mentioning that upstream from Framsdén it was the landowner's responsibility – should they be obliged to put measures into place to hold water back?
GB explained that Helmingham Estate has over 50 attenuation ponds, but these were all full prior to Storm Babet. The question is about how much mitigation is needed, the stream in The Street empties into the River Deben down below Valley Farm. In Debenham flood relief systems that were put in only a few years ago with attenuation ponds were completely overwhelmed. Essentially for the system to have worked it would have needed to be absolutely empty at the start of the rainfall, however, if this storm had come after the extended drought period in 2022 similar flooding issues may have occurred,

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although the attenuation ponds may have been lower the general soil would have been so hardpacked that the water would simply have run off the surface anyway.

3. One parishioner present stated that a family member was a Parish Clerk in Norfolk and their village had supplied sandbags to residents. Can Framsdén consider this?
The question must be how often does such a flooding event occur. Framsdén has not experienced flooding on this scale before, it is possible that this other village has more experience of this situation? There are a number of issues about supplying sandbags though, such as: Storage, Distribution and Disposal after the event. GB relayed a recommendation that pea shingle in bin bags was likely as effective as sandbags, a resource that individuals often have available on their own driveways and disposal of the bags after the event would be easy. IS suggested that perhaps a supply of bags only might help with the issue of storage. GB stated that if hessian is not stored correctly, it can deteriorate and wouldn't be of use, the advice from the County Council is that individual property owners need to consider having supplies on site ready to deploy at short notice.
4. A query was raised about whether adopting a no-till approach to managing the fields near the village would help reduce run-off from the fields
GB said that there are a lot of agronomic issues relating to no-till, but run-off is still likely to have occurred during an event of such enormity as the recent storms. The field drains are 2 ft below the surface and each 12" of soil can hold 2" of rainfall. Before Storm Babet the soils around Framsdén were already holding about 3" of water. The storm brought 4" of water in 48 hours. The very brown water that formed the flooding is essentially the leaching of the nutrients from the soil. Ploughed soil does get dislodged more easily and no-till would prevent the loss of soil, but it would not have affected the amount of water flowing through the village.
5. A query was raised about whether if the stream empties into the River Deben is it affected by tides?
GB confirmed that the tidal influence on the River Deben only reaches as far as Wickham Market and tides would have had no effect on the levels of flood water in Framsdén.
6. A parishioner asked about why there were not sufficient ditches between the edges of fields and the backs of residential properties?
GB explained that there are drainage systems under all the fields, but it they were overwhelmed. The water came at a time when the crops had only recently been drilled in the fields and therefore the fields were in quite a vulnerable state, once the crops start to grow through it helps to hold more water. Even if there were ditches at the bottom of the field, these ditches would need some way for the water to be released – perhaps through gullies or pipes that run under other properties, but where does it go then? Discharging water into The Street would not have helped. The current drainage systems take water away safely, but were simply overwhelmed by the volume.
7. A suggestion of a 'cheap' solution was put forward, can there not be a substantial amount of rough grown grass sown as a barrier at the edge of fields? A strip about 150m to 200m would have perhaps absorbed water, rather than having it just run through cultivated ground.
GB understood the idea and there are some schemes available and in place, but this would primarily prevent soil erosion, the water would still flow through. Proper field drainage is in place, the ditches were eliminated when it was put in 70 years ago, the outflows are in place, the pipes run under the road and do work. Basically, it was too much water in too short a time. The crops are planted across the slopes to also help.
8. A parishioner challenged whether the mole drains under the fields come in the direction of the houses. GB said he had copies of the field drainage plans and was happy to share them with anyone who was interested. The drainage is in a standard herringbone pattern, as recommended good practice. The mole drains had been re-done a couple of years ago and if they had not been there and in good condition then even more run-off of water would have taken place.
9. The state of the ditches and the debris that gathers in them was discussed, can more not be done to keep the ditches clear, so that drainage culverts do not get blocked?
GB explained that this was again a matter of riparian responsibilities. The blocking of ditches and streams was a concern, especially as the bridge in Framsdén had arches that can collect debris and silt, but the amount of water that came through the village was the real problem in this instance.
10. A question was raised about what householders can do about getting insurance after a flood – not just pricing, but the lack of insurers prepared to consider a property that has been affected in this way. GB directed this query to the County Councillor.

FPC 23-09-05 To Receive District Councillor's Report – District Councillor Nick Hardingham (NH)

The most recent report from the District Councillor was presented to the Council and is now posted on the village website www.framesden.onesuffolk.net

NH brought attention to the following:

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Flooding was of course on the top of the list for the report. A lot of the concerns have been covered in the public forum and by the County Councillor (who had presented his report first at the meeting) – but NH wanted to reiterate the importance of everyone that has been affected registering their flooding on the District Council online reporting tool, which will enable them to access emergency help and funding. If anyone feels that they are not getting satisfactory answers to their questions then please do make contact directly with NH.

Solar and low carbon energy – The District Council is very restricted about what can be achieved at the moment by Government policy. The total land area in the UK being used for solar energy is fairly small at the moment, but it can have a huge impact on local communities. Mid Suffolk District Council has produced a 'Position Statement' but this is essential a wish list at the moment. A further supplementary planning document is being worked on which will enable planning officers to take a more positive approach to solar farm developments. Each application has to be judged on its individual merits. There are currently three applications across the county and the District Council is working to ensure maximum mitigation for local communities.

Sustainable transport is a big area that the District Council are looking to improve, with better walking and cycling infrastructure and a working group has been formed which will engage with local communities to see what can be done.

The Cosy Homes initiative is being launched later this month. £2 million will come from MSDC reserves to help eligible houses implement energy efficiency measures. Information can be found on the District Council on website. CM asked what the criteria to be eligible for help was, NH said he was unsure, but the information would be on the website.

There are serious concerns about the state of Council Housing across the District. There is a big backlog of repairs, so a new contractor has been instructed, who will deal solely with the backlog whilst the inhouse District Council team focus on dealing with day-to-day repairs.

Locality awards are still open and NH is encouraging local groups to come forward with projects. He has until the end of March to spend about £7.5K across the villages in his patch. The money will not be rolled over it is just reset, so please consider what projects could be applied for. DV asked if there was an upper limit on an application. NH said not as far as he was aware.

A resident who had been flooded out of their property and is currently staying at the Stonham Barns holiday village asked whether the District Council would consider waiving the restriction on the site that nobody is allowed to stay there during January for those who have been affected by flooding, as they won't be able to be back in their property by the end of the year. NH said that he understood the predicament and there is work underway to see what can be done, but the Stonham Barns development is a very complicated situation.

CM asked about Tollgate Corner, NH confirmed that he had still had no further response to his enquiries.

FPC 23-09-06 To Receive County Councillor's Report – County Councillor Matthew Hicks



The most recent report from the County Councillor had been received, circulated to the Council and posted on the village website www.framsden.onesuffolk.net

MHi brought attention to the following:

There were nearly 600 properties affected by internal flooding in the county, predominantly in the Framsdan area. Again, MHi stressed how important it is to report the flooding on the reporting tool, so that those affected can access help. A joint announcement is due very soon between both the County & District Councils outlining how relief monies will be distributed. Council tax on flood hit properties will be suspended for three months, £500 emergency grants will be given for immediate help and grants of £2.5K will be available under the Property Flood Resilience Grant Scheme.

The logging of all flooded properties is also essential if five or more properties are affected within a specific area the County Council is then legally obliged to carry out flood mitigation surveys to see what could potentially be done in the future. Teams have already been round Debeham and Framlingham and have removed large amounts of silt from roads and gullies, that was deposited there by floodwater. It will take some time to work through all the flood hit areas.

On the Mid Suffolk Website there is advice on where to go for insurance. The Government have the Flood Re Scheme, which offers support to people who are struggling to get a fair price and proper cover after having been affected by flooding.

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A question was raised about the road drainage systems and whether they are fit for purpose, with one resident noting that the grated drain was blocked by debris before flooding occurred. MHi explained that there are about 149K drains that the County Council has to maintain across the county. Last year 111K were cleared. If it doesn't clear from the first manual work that is done then a jetting team can be sent out to clear the system. The resident said that they had witnessed workers apparently clearing a drain, but it had then filled up again straight after they had left. MHi asked that if there were concerns about a drain being blocked this was reported via the Suffolk Highways Online Reporting Tool initially. If there are repeated concerns then please contact him directly. Operatives have to be trusted to carry out their jobs and work is not routinely checked, but if residents have concerns, then they are always happy to double check. However, MHi has had the experience of arranging for a team to come out after a resident was particularly vocal about a drain not being cleared properly, only to find it was completely clear and the issue related to a privately owned pipe.

MHi went on to explain that with the cancellation of HS2 money the money has been reallocated, with some coming into the region, meaning good news for both the Ely and Haughley junctions. These upgrades will improve freight transit from Felixstowe into the Midlands and should ultimately reduce road freight on the A14.

Money has also been received from central Government to upgrade the road south of Ipswich up the A12 to Sizewell, along with an upgrade of the junction at the A1120 and A140 (although the design work for this junction is still to be done the money is allocated).

County Council Budgets are again being looked at with the usual squeeze of 75% of the £700 million being allocated to cover the statutory services of adult social care and children's services.

Suffolk libraries, considered the best library model in the country, has the contract up for renewal and a consultation is currently taking place for the new contract to run for the next six years – all are encouraged to say their part.

NW asked about whether there is likely to be any reconsideration of putting a speed limit on the B1077 in light of the two major accidents that have occurred in recent months. MHi said he could not promise anything.

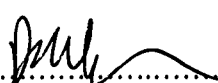
DV asked about why traffic lights had been put up for five days on Chapel Hill, but no work had taken place. MHi said he had looked into this and they had been put there at the request of BT OpenReach. The original booking had only been for five days, the work had not taken place and as a consequence BT will receive a fine. MHi understands that the work has now been done with another set of temporary traffic lights.

FPC 23-09-07 Minutes of previous meetings

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th September 2023 as a true and accurate record, were proposed by CM, seconded by IS and **WERE SO RESOLVED**. The Minutes were signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

FPC 23-09-08 Matters Arising and Action Points from Thursday 14th September minutes

1. Publish revised Village Hall hire charges. DISCHARGED
2. Send out email to village regarding the increase in dog fouling – reminding owners of the need to clear up after their pets. DISCHARGED
3. Apply for licence to install new dog bin and obtain price for consideration of purchase at the next meeting. To be discussed later in meeting.
4. Source information on how to set up a Community Speedwatch. To be discussed later in meeting.
5. Renew Council insurance policy as agreed. DISCHARGED
6. Publish re-adopted Standing Orders and Policies on website. DISCHARGED
7. Notify Royal British Legion about Council donation in lieu of ordering a remembrance wreath (old wreath to be reused). DISCHARGED
8. Publish External Audit papers on website. DISCHARGED

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9. To distribute payments as approved at the meeting. DISCHARGED

FPC 23-08-09 Planning

- a) To consider planning applications that had been submitted since the last meeting:
i. DC/23/04874 – Householder Application – Erection of single storey side and rear extensions, with pitched roofs over and glazed gable to side extension with new front door position. Hill Cottage, Ashfield Road, IP14 6LS

Councillors had all studied the application in advance of the meeting. After discussion it was decided to offer **SUPPORT** to the application.

GB proposed, DV seconded, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**

- b) To consider any planning applications which have been submitted since agenda published: None
c) Updates and outcomes on previous planning applications: None
d) To consider concerns raised about potential breaches of planning application conditions at Southwood Barns Development (DC/23/00002) – A parishioner had raised with the Council concerns that the original planning application had been to convert the barn on its original footprint, but now there was evidence that footings have been dug for an extension to be added. NW proposed that the Parish Council makes contact with the District Council asking that Enforcement Officers visit the site to check out these concerns, GB seconded, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**

FPC 23-09-10 Parish Council Activities & Projects

- a) To consider co-option to Council - Nobody came forward for co-option. The Clerk confirmed that the vacancy is published on the village website. NW explained that there is one vacancy and it would be good for the Parish Council to be up to full capacity. GB asked all present to consider whether they could volunteer their time.
b) VHMC Report to include:
i. Architect Report from Suffolk ProHelp – NM reported that a little while ago PC approached Suffolk ProHelp – a group of professionals who offer pro bono work to charities and community groups – asking for advice on how to develop the Village Hall. An architect has come out, measured up the hall and put together some proposals. There are essentially three options 1) do nothing and keep the current configuration, 2) reconfigure the hall within the existing footprint, 3) add an extension to the hall (subject to relevant permissions)

Drawings for options 2 & 3 have been received and considered by the Village Hall Team, who have sent some feedback. The option to reconfigure within the current footprint is relatively easy as none of the partition walls are structural. The aim is primarily to improve accessibility to the hall. Currently the Village Hall Team are awaiting the revised drawings, based on their feedback. Once these have been received the plan is to share them with the wider Parish Council and ultimately to have a local consultation with the village residents to ensure that what is being proposed is what is actually needed/wanted. Once the design is agreed costings will have to be done and funding will have to be sought.

IS said that the Village Hall Team is open to any ideas at any time during the process and asked that all present may like to think about what they would like to see at the hall. IS went on to explain that he had been in communication with Suffolk ProHelp seeking advice about what sort of token contribution towards the administration costs of the scheme would be appropriate from the Parish Council. Although the architect is not paid for the work themselves, there is an understanding that the scheme costs a little to administer and so charities and community groups are asked to consider donating what they can afford. Once IS has a guideline amount this will be put to the Parish Council for consideration.

GB opened the floor, asking the residents present if they had any comments, the general consensus was that this was a good project to move forward with. GB also asked that all consider joining the Village Hall Team, as currently they are very short of members and the more helpers that come forward the easier this sort of project is for everyone.

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- ii. Consideration of booking a scrap metal skip for Spring 2024 to raised funds for the Village Hall – Following the success of the skip earlier in 2023, CM proposed that a further skip be arranged, suggested that this could be done at the same time as the annual litter pick. Email will be sent round to remind everyone to keep their scrap metal ready for the Spring, it is hoped to combine the skip with the annual litter pick, so the date is yet to be set. Once a date is agreed CM will produce posters to go up in the village too.
 - iii. Painting Contract– IS confirmed that the external painting work had been completed with some extra works not originally included in the contract also completed with no extra costs, thanks to a very competent and caring contractor.
 - iv. Flooding at the Hall – there had been some concerns raised. The Hall had not been flooded inside, but there had been a strong damp earthy smell. Floorboards had been raised and there is a 2 ft void clear of the ground, the joist are dry and the Hall is structurally sound.
- c) To consider ways to provide a Community Emergency Response, with particular reference to the flooding in the wake of recent storms – GB opened the discussion, asking that although of course the recent flooding was the main topic at this meeting, an emergency response needs to be considered for all sort of events. It was felt that generally residents had helped each other out without any central organisation, but concerns were raised about how communications had proven very vulnerable, with internet and phone lines quickly not being operational. It was uncertain how best to reach those who are not on one of the email distribution lists, held either by Framsdens Fundraisers or the Parish Council.

There is a local Framsdens Resident's What's App group, which everyone present felt was likely to be the most use in an emergency situation, but some present were unaware of this group, so perhaps this needs to be publicised in some way. It is not administered by the Parish Council, so those that organise it would need to be asked to consider inviting new members.

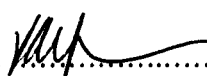

Another suggestion was that a hard copy of essential phone numbers and contacts could be drawn up, but this still raised the question that if the issue is the loss of internet and telephone systems then how could anyone ring numbers on such a list. The Clerk explained that in another village she Clerks for a 'Village Contacts Card' is produced as an A5 flier each year with phone numbers for various village organisations, a similar thing could be done in Framsdens, but there is of course an annual cost as it needs to be checked and reprinted on a regular basis. Every person on the card needs to be asked for permission to have their contact details published as well to comply with Data Protection, so it would need an approach to various village groups to see if they would be willing to be included. It could include various contacts for trades in the village (which might be useful in an emergency), but it would need to be very clear that the Parish Council is not endorsing any business and is only supplying the information.

A member of the public asked with the VETS (Volunteer Emergency Telephone System) run by Framsdens Fundraisers could be adopted more widely for emergency use. This is a possibility, but the question would have to be posed to Framsdens Fundraisers as they hold the data.

IS asked about whether a list of contacts (as held by a previous Parish Clerk) could be resurrected. IS felt that it would be necessary for someone to go and knock on the doors of everyone in the Parish to speak to them about whether they would be happy to go onto such a list as people are unlikely to respond to just a leaflet drop. GB expressed concern that the Parish Council needed to be clear what they would be asking people to sign up to – are they being asked to help in person for specific tasks, or would they just be a central contact to direct people onwards to agencies that can help them.

All Councillors were asked to consider what could potentially be done to create an early warning system and bring ideas to a future meeting for deliberation.

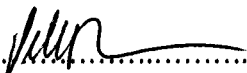

- d) Review of remedial works at the Play Area in wake of the flooding – The final snagging issues had been completed by Sutcliffe Play, with the remaining funds released, as agreed at the July Parish Council meeting. However, since the topsoil and grass seed had been put into place the recent storms had resulted in the Play Area being flooded. After inspection CM confirmed surprisingly that the topsoil and grass seed is still in place, so no further works were necessary at this point.
- e) Consideration of approaching Open Reach to explore options to re-site infrastructure to areas less prone to flooding – Following the recent flooding the village had experienced connectivity problems as the cabinet containing much of the Broadband infrastructure had been flooded as well. This lack of

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connectivity had hampered efforts to get in contact with insurers and essential services. NM suggested that the Parish Council requests that this infrastructure is relocated. The Clerk had obtained advice from SALC, who had said that a request could be made, but if this was not a repeat occurrence then it prove difficult to get OpenReach to move the cabinet, also Suffolk Highways would also have been involved in licensing the location. A suggestion was put forward that instead of relocating the box it could potentially be raised on a plinth to give it more protection from floodwater. The Clerk will make contact with MHI to find out who at OpenReach would be best to approach with this suggestion.

- f) Further consideration of adoption of a Roadside Nature Reserve in Framsdén – CM confirmed that there were three keys species that were critical for getting a Roadside Nature Reserve agreed. Unless one of these plants were present it would not be considered. The Village Hall Booking Clerk said that she had experience of wildlife surveying and offered to check the various verges in the Parish over the coming months to see if any showed signs of the important species. If a verge seems to have the required plants then the Parish Council could look at getting a designation agreed.
- g) To approve the purchase and installation of an additional dog bin in the parish - The Clerk confirmed that the location has been approved by the District Council. An application to the Pride in Your Place fund to cover the cost of the new dog bin had been successful with £150 being granted (the price of the bin without VAT, which will be claimed back by the Parish Council). The cost and design of the bin had been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting. DV proposed placing the order, GB seconded, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**. The Clerk will order the bin, which can be delivered directly to NM who has offered to carry out the installation.
- h) To consider setting up a Community Speedwatch Group – The Clerk had circulated information on how to set up a Community Speedwatch Group. In order to proceed at least six volunteers are needed (all over 18 years of age). All equipment and training is provided by the police, who also assess suitable locations. NW proposed that subject to getting six or more volunteers to come forward the Parish Council makes contact with the police to set up a group, GB seconded, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**. The Clerk will send an email out to the village asking for volunteers to come forward.
- i) Village Sign Refurbishment – GB has sourced the Danish Oil for the post and suitable paint for the sign itself, he proposed arranging a group of volunteers to carry out the refurbishment work as part of the village Litter Pick Day in the Spring.
- j) Reprinting of Framsdén Footpath Map – All present felt that the footpath map was well worth reprinting. GB suggested that an application could be made to the District Councillor's Locality Budget to obtain funding to cover the cost, but that there may need to be some amendments to get the map up to date. All Councillors were asked to look at the map and consider what amendments may be necessary, feeding this information back to GB as soon as possible, so that he can obtain a quote for reprinting to be considered at the next meeting.
- k) To consider any response to the Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places & Polling Stations – After discussion it was agreed that no response was required.
- l) To consider pledging support for the Climate & Ecology Bill – NW expressed concern that this bill, (reintroduced in Parliament for a second reading), as it currently stands would likely cost a lot of money to communities. It will need a lot of amendments before she felt it could be supported. GB suggested that all Councillors look again at the information, so proper consideration can be made at a future meeting.
- m) To consider putting a bid into the Suffolk Bus Service Improvement Plan & a response to Connecting Communities – After discussion it was agreed that Framsdén is in need of a regular and reliable connecting bus into Debenham. NW suggested that the Council also look again at linking cycle routes to bus services. The Clerk will send a response on behalf of the Council.
- n) To consider correspondence received from the PCC – Councillors all agreed that the concerns relating to an issue between the Woodland Group and the PCC were not a Parish Council matter and therefore offered no comment.

Regarding the issues raised about the new Village Hall hire rates and the potential effect on charitable groups, it was agreed that this should be discussed by the VHMC to consider how to address the concerns, how any exemptions may be applied and whether any rewording of the hire fees is required in order to address any potential conflicts. The VHMC will then liaise with the Parish Council to communicate any changes if required.

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o) Policy Reviews – The Clerk had circulated the policies detailed below:

- i. Children & Vulnerable Adults
- ii. Travel & Expenses

CM proposed re-adoption for all three policies as circulated. DV seconded, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**. The Clerk will publish the adopted policies on the village website

FPC 23-09-11 Finance

a) To review the Financial Statement for the month, as supplied by the Clerk - The Clerk had previously circulated the Financial Statement for November. There were no queries. NM proposed acceptance, CM seconded and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**. The Chair signed the corresponding Bank Statements to confirm the figures.

b) To agree payments as detailed on Payment Schedule - CM proposed authorisation, NW seconded and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**. The Clerk will set up payments accordingly.

c) Budget Planning for 2024-2025 - A draft budget for 2024-2025 had been circulated by the Clerk. It was noted that a couple of items had gone up significantly, but no particular comments were made at this point. The Clerk will continue to monitor the budget and will produce a second version draft for consideration and adoption at the January meeting.

d) Consideration of a third person to be added to the bank mandate – The Clerk had recently heard about the experience of an account that required dual signatories to authorise changes and payments and the difficulties that had been faced when one of the only two people authorised on the account had passed away. As currently there are only two people authorised on the Framsdén account it may be good practice for the Council to consider adding an extra person, so that if one person out of the three becomes incapacitated the Council can still manage the account. CM offered to be added to the mandate to avoid this situation. DV proposed the mandate change, NW seconded, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**. The Clerk will contact the bank to find out how to enact this change.

e) Re-appointment of Internal Auditor for year 2023-2024 - The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor had advised that she wouldn't be able to carry out the work in 2024 due to ill health. The Clerk has sourced a new Internal Auditor based just outside Diss who is listed on the NALC Internal Auditors Forum. Working as Clerk to five Parish Councils, Tina Newby also offers Internal Audit services to other Councils in Norfolk & Suffolk. The schedule of fees shows that the Internal Audit for 23-24 will be around £130 based on Framsdén's income and expenditure. The Clerk will be recommending this Internal Auditor to the other two Councils for which she works and would therefore hope to share any mileage costs incurred in dropping off and collecting files across the three Councils. After discussion DV proposed appointing Tina Newby as the Internal Auditor for 2023-2024, CM seconded, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**.

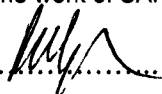

f) Funding Applications:

i. To consider request for funding from PCC towards churchyard maintenance – After discussion IS proposed that the Council fund half the cost of the fuel for the final end of year grasscutting in the churchyard, up to a total of £13, based on the estimated cost of £25 submitted and subject to sight of a receipt, NW seconded this proposal, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**.

The PCC had also requested funding for a set of metal stakes to help cordon off an area of the churchyard due to safety concerns. It is understood that the PCC has already purchased the stakes at a cost of £30. GB proposed that half of the cost, up to a total of £15, is contributed by the Parish Council, again upon sight of the receipt to confirm the amount, IS seconded the proposal, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**.

The funds for both these items can be released at the January meeting if receipts have been received. The Clerk will advise the outcome of the application to the PCC.

ii. To consider request from Suffolk Accident Rescue for a contribution towards their work – Following discussion it was agreed to defer a decision to the next meeting, as Councillors were unsure of how the work of SARS related to directly to Framsdén and would need to look again at the application.

Signed  (Chair of meeting authorising minutes) Signed  (Clerk)

FPC 23-09-12 Matters of urgency to be brought to the attention of the Council



- a) NW gave apologies in advance for January Meeting.
- b) Items for next agenda:
 - Precept Setting & Budget Adoption
 - Meeting Dates for 2024-2025
 - Consideration of rejoining the Wildlife Trust

FPC 23-09-13 Confidential Matters

None

Items for the January Agenda – please notify the Clerk of any further items for the agenda as soon as possible and by Monday 1st January 2024 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 9.53pm. The next Parish Council meeting is set for **Thursday 11th January 2024** at 7.30pm, in Framsdon Village Hall

Signed  (Chair of meeting authorising minutes) Signed  (Clerk)