

FROXFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2019 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL AT 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Cllr Pat Adams (Chair) Cllr Vanya Body (Vice Chair), Cllr Claire Wilson, Cllr Steve Heppenstall, Cllr Toby Till, Cllr Alex Montague-Smith, Cllr Sally Smith, Sarah Whatley (Clerk)

The Parish Meeting began at 7.30pm with a presentation and Q & A from ARK on the next stage of work on the Water Meadow which will be the planting of a staggered double hedge on Saturday 7th December.

1. **Apologies for absence:** None
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Smith, Cllr Adams (planning Green Farmhouse)
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2019:** Cllr Adams approved and signed.
4. **Matters Outstanding:** None
5. **Planning:**
19/08873/FUL & 19/09134 – Green Farmhouse, Froxfield – no objections
19/10091/FUL & 19/10317/LBC – Oakhill Cottage 150 Lower Oakhill Froxfield – no objections
19/07900/FUL & 19/08224/LBC Harrow Farm farm buildings – no objections although comment has been made regarding traffic concerns on A4
Proposed mobile mast Brewhouse Hill – no objection will be made when the application is submitted however a request will be made to screen the mast as much as possible. SH to reply to the agent as requested.
6. **Finance:** Councillors reviewed the invoices recently paid and raised no objections. Chairman Adams approved the bank reconciliation for both accounts. All Councillors agreed invoices for payment:

ARK – designs & materials for boardwalk - £5000.00
David Small solicitor – letter re fencing issue - £120
Cllr Heppenstall submitted an invoice for the Remembrance wreath and poppies - £28.00

The January Council meeting will include budgets for the coming year and the setting of the Precept.
7. **Cat G meeting –** Cllr Heppenstall reported a disappointing meeting in that despite being the number 1 priority on the CATG list for some months, the traffic calming works at the Western (OKA) end of the village are still not scheduled until at least March 2020. Concerns also remain that works to the Eastern end will then be sidelined in favour of other projects. County Councillor James Sheppard has been unable to persuade Steve Hind to bring forward the timetable.
8. **Community Speedwatch –** Clerk Whatley reported that she has had a very frustrating time trying to organise the Community Speedwatch training as the Wiltshire Police Co-ordinator was very hard to get hold of. A date had been arranged for 8th November, but was then cancelled at very short notice due to him being off sick. A new date is to be organised asap.

She also reported that she had been making some enquiries about speed indicator devices and the possibility of having our own or sharing one with another village. She has obtained some prices and although there are 2 or 3 local villages that may be interested, this could create problems such as the need for a rota and regular volunteers to install /remove/charge devices which could become onerous. It was agreed that it would be more appropriate to consider purchasing one device for Froxfield which could then be moved East / West bound on a monthly basis. Clerk Whatley agreed to make further enquiries regarding costs and on-going maintenance. **SW**

9. **Update on Water Meadow:** Cllr Adams was pleased to report the illegal fence had been taken down following the request by the Parish Council. Cllr Montague-Smith said he would fully measure and mark out the correct boundary. Cllr Adams stated the seed scattering had taken place and the hedge planting would be taking place on 7th December. She stated that as the Community Payback team had been unreliable and because of the need to have someone around to open the hall, it would be better to ask our village green contractor DGM to strim the nettles as needed during the summer months. He has quoted £30 per session which all agreed was reasonable.
10. **Church grass cutting:** Discussion was had about the FPC contribution to the church grass cutting which has not been requested this year. This is possibly because the Community Payback team are now doing the work. Consideration for 2020 budget. **SW**
11. **Play equipment:** The annual inspection has been done and unfortunately shown that the wooden steps and platform on the play tower is rotten. A quote from Wickstead was £648.00. Cllr Adams stated Dan, our village green maintenance contractor was going to obtain a price for carrying out the work himself.
12. **Village green sign request:** Clerk Whatley stated she had received a formal Highways Improvement Request form from Marilyn Mason and Dave Watson to erect a sign directing visitors to the village hall. Cllr Body stated she would make enquiries with Martin Cook as to the process and requirements for obtaining a sign. **VB**
13. **Any other business** – Cllr Adams stated she had received a letter from Wooley and Wallis land agents regarding 12 dogs barking constantly at Green Farm Lodge. Residents nearby are being disturbed as the dogs are barking for very long periods throughout the day. The farmer is aware and is doing all he can to resolve the issue. Residents reported that the barking had abated in recent weeks.
14. **Public Forum** – The farmer from Green Farm Lodge was concerned his stream is choked with vegetation. Anna Forbes from ARK agreed to visit to assess. Harry from Manor Park asked about the possibility of installing owl boxes on the water meadow. Anna Forbes suggested delaying this until the board walk was in place in the Spring to ensure they were not sited where they may fall onto someone.

The date of the next meeting is Monday 13th January 2020

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm.

Note: All initials in Bold Type require Action

Signed..... Chairman Date.....