

FROXFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 9th MARCH IN THE MEMORIAL HALL AT 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Cllr Pat Adams (Chair), Cllr Claire Wilson, Cllr Steve Heppenstall, Cllr Sally Smith, Cllr Mercer Banks, Sarah Whatley (Clerk)

The Parish Meeting began at 7.30pm with a brief presentation from Anne Swift on the renovations to the chapel at the Duchess of Somerset Hospital

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cllr Till did not attend, Cllr Body on holiday
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Mercer Banks (planning Duchess of Somerset Hospital)
- 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2020:** Cllr Adams approved and signed.
- 4. Matters Outstanding:** Election of Lis Mercer Banks as new Councillor in place of Alex Montague-Smith – Proposed by Cllr Adams, seconded by Cllrs Heppenstall & Smith
Play equipment has now been repaired and is operational again
Emergency Plan - Cllr Adams to email Cllr Till to request an update
- 5. Planning:**
20/01753/LBC & 20/01151/FUL – Chapel at Duchess of Somerset hospital – no concerns
20/00961/FUL – Telecommunications mast Brewhouse Hill – PC are happy with the shielding and have no other concerns
20/02074/TCA – Tree works at The Manor – no concerns raised
20/02103/TCA – Tree to be felled at 5 Forge Cottages – no concerns raised. Cllr Heppenstall to submit a comment for each of the above - **SH**
- 6. Finance:** Councillors reviewed the invoice recently paid and raised no objections. Chairman Adams approved & signed the bank reconciliation for both accounts.
- 7. Request for financial Contribution of £500 for upkeep of churchyard has been received from Mindy Milne** – In previous years the PC contribution has been higher but as the Community Payback Team are now doing the strimming and grass cutting, costs have lowered. All agreed to the payment.
- 8. Request from Dave Watson of the War Memorial Hall Committee for financial help for flooring repairs and heating upgrade** – The heating is very outdated and in need of an upgrade. The original parquet floor also needs refurbishment. Total repairs are estimated to be approx £6452 inc VAT. It was proposed that if the Hall Committee could contribute £2000, the Parish Council would pay the invoices as we are able to reclaim the VAT and therefore make a further saving of around £1076 which would bring the overall costs down to £5376 approx. The monies for this will be drawn from the Community Fund as the Hall is a Community asset. Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Heppenstall.

9. **Update on CATG** – Cllr Heppenstall expressed his frustration as he has been informed by Steve Hind and Martin Cook of WCC CATG that work to install the traffic island at the Western (OKA) end of the village had now been further delayed again because contractors Ringway have decided they want to avoid the Easter school holiday in April. Work is now not expected to take place until at least June but no firm date has been given.

It is hoped that work on the Eastern Gateway (Pelican) will still happen before we move over to Pewsey Vale East next year however Steve Hind has still not confirmed this and suggest we continue to attend every CATG meeting to keep up the pressure. Costs estimates have risen to £15,000 with FPC expected to contribute at least 25% (£3750). Steve Hind said he would be visiting Froxfield once the work on the Western gateway begins and would look to meet with the FPC to discuss plans for the Eastern end.

10. **Update on Community Speedwatch/Speed Indicator Devices** – Clerk Sarah Whatley reported that she has still had no response from Wiltshire Police CSW Co-ordinator Rodger Fooks. She was due to collect the speed device on 9th January but the meeting had been cancelled as Rodger Fooks had gone off sick. She chased last week by email but has still received no response.

With regards to a Speed Indicator Device for the village, two other local Parish Councils (Great Bedwyn and Ffyfield & West Overton) have expressed an interest in buying one each for their villages and therefore there might be a further discount on the price for a 'bulk' purchase. Prices would be around £2050 each unit for a battery powered one from Message Maker. Discussion was had around the possibility of using money from the Community fund although Cllr Heppenstall pointed out that should the Eastern Gateway work take place after all, some of the Community Fund may be needed. Further enquiries to made around easy of mounting/potential theft etc. **SW**

11. **Update on the Water Meadow** – Cllr Adams reported that Anna Forbes from ARK had been having some issues sourcing a supplier for the boardwalk as two she had previously contacted have not responded. She has now found another supplier and is awaiting a quote. Due to the amount of rain over the winter, the land is currently too water logged to do any more work at the moment.
12. **VE Day Celebrations** – Discussion was held around organising a small party on the village green to celebrate VE Day on Friday 8th May. It is believed that Cllr Till's wife might already be arranging something through the Church Committee. Raine Cully said she will find out and inform the Council.
13. **Village Green Parking** – Cllr Smith said that residents in the cottages along Church Road are bumping up the kerb and parking partially on the green which is causing damage to the grass and making it very muddy. Cllr Adams said several residents had reported significant damage to their cars from passing lorries and tractors so it would be unfair to expect them not to park out of the way. Cllr Heppenstall suggested the use of plastic matting to preserve the grass. Cllr Smith agreed to look into costs and any other solutions. **SS**

14. Village hall sign – Clerk Sarah Whatley said she had found an on-line sign company (Road Signs Direct) which gave a price of £33.90 +VAT for a white arrowed sign with a rail and clips for mounting. There is potential to install two signs back to back on the existing road sign post opposite the Church Road turning. Cllr Adams said there was a post near her house on which a further sign could be put. Cllr Adams therefore proposed that FPC purchase 3 signs. This was seconded by Cllr Mercer Banks. **SW**

15. Any other business – Cllr Heppenstall raised the current crisis with the Coronavirus and said it needed to be added to the Emergency Plan. **TT**

Sewage leaks at the water treatment plant – Cllr Heppenstall said the problem appears to be continuing. Cllr Adams said she had reported it to ARK and Thames Water who have tested and confirmed no sewage is leaking into the stream but will continue to monitor.

16. Public Forum – Nothing raised

**The date of the next meeting (AGM) is:
Monday 11th May 2020**

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

Note: All initials in Bold Type require Action

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