

FROXFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10th AUGUST VIA ZOOM AT 7.30 pm

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

The Parish Meeting began at 7.30pm

- 1. Apologies for absence:** None
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Adams and Cllr Smith (Green Farmhouse)
- 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 15th June 2020:** Cllr Adams approved and subsequently signed after the meeting.
- 4. Matters Outstanding:** Emergency Plan - Cllr Till stated due to the lockdown, he has still not had time to update the Emergency Plan but will do it before the next meeting. **TT**
- 5. Resignation of Cllr Smith** – Cllr Smith has resigned for personal reasons with immediate effect. Clerk Sarah Whatley will advertise for x 2 new Councillors. **SW**
- 6. Planning:** Nothing new. Green Farmhouse work is still on going with various minor tweaks to original plans.
- 7. Finance:** Clerk Sarah Whatley reported on recent invoices paid and that she has submitted a VAT reclaim for £1444.15.
- 8. Update on CATG** - Cllr Body was very pleased to report that the white gates and traffic island had now been installed at the Eastern end of the village but the central white gate was completely smashed off by a passing vehicle less than a week later. CATG have agreed to install a new, smaller central gate, but this could take 6 -8 weeks. The invoice for the Parish Council's 25% contribution has yet to be received.
Plans for the Western end are in the pipeline but due to the Government drive to promote social distancing measures in bigger towns, CATG resources are currently being diverted elsewhere meaning our project has been put on hold.
- 9. Village Maintenance: grass, verges & hedges** Cllr Body suggested local residents might be persuaded to adopt one of the the village planters and take over the upkeep/watering to make it less onerous for the 2 people currently trying to do the lot. She will include it in her forthcoming newsletter. Clerk Sarah Whatley reports that the Jubilee Hedge is scheduled for it's annual haircut in late August / early September but suggested a bi-annual cut in future as it has become very overgrown and is currently blocking the footpath. Cllr Body also mentioned how overgrown the water meadow verge had got and suggested our groundsman Dan Martin is asked to trim more regularly to keep back the nettles and

weeds, particularly as they are choking the sapling hedge. Cllrs discussed the problem, and although Cllr Till suggested using weed killer as a one-off to get on top of the nettles, it was felt this would go against the ethos of creating a nature reserve and more regular strimming would be a more eco-friendly solution. **SW to contact Dan Martin**

10. **Update on water meadow and fences:** Cllr Adams reported that she had written to Mr Bailey thanking him for removing the fence on the part of the water meadow belonging to the Parish Council and asking him to contact her if he disagreed with the measurements we hold for his parcel of land. FPC intends to mark out their own boundary in the coming weeks. To date, he had not contacted her. Cllr Adams also reported that some wire and bird feeders had been put up on the FPC side of the stream by another resident and they have been asked to remove them as they were impeding the monitoring of the river by ARK volunteers.
11. **Any other business /correspondence received:** Cllr Adams reported she had received a letter of complaint from a resident unhappy that the verges on the roads to Ramsbury and Littlecote had been cut, thereby killing the wildflowers. Cllr Adams explained that the verges are cut by local landowners not the Parish Council as they have a duty to ensure the safety and visibility for cars and pedestrians but that they do plant specific sections of their fields with wildflowers which encourages bees and other wildlife. Cllr Adams has already replied to the letter.
12. **Chairmans report & resignation:** Cllr Adams gave her final report after 13 years on the Parish Council giving some of the many projects and achievements she has been involved in. On behalf of everyone, Cllr Body thanked her for all her hard work and dedication and said that, as a token of all our thanks, she would shortly be receiving an annual membership to the RHS and a bouquet of flowers, some chocolates and Presecco.
13. **Appointment of new Chairman and Vicechair:** Cllr Mercer Banks nominated Cllr Body as the new Chairman which was seconded by Cllr Wilson. Cllr Body proposed Cllr Heppenstall to become the new Vicechair and this was seconded by all.
14. **Public Forum:** Nothing received.

The date of the next meeting is Monday 14th September 2020 and may be via Zoom depending on Covid restrictions.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm

Note: All initials in Bold Type require Action

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