



FRATING PARISH COUNCIL

Memorial Hall, Main Road, Frating, CO7 7DJ.

Clerk to the Council: Jim Morris

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MINUTES of the FRATING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held at Memorial Hall on Monday 9th September 2024 at 1930hrs.

Present: Cllr Paula Bland (Vice-Chairperson)
Cllr Terry Cuthbert (Chairperson)
Cllr Jean Hynes
Cllr Terri Philp
Jim Morris, Clerk to the Council
Two members of the public

Absent: Cllr Carlo Guglielmi (Tendring Rural West Division)

09.24.58 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Veronica Morris and Cllr Lynda McWilliams (The Bentleys & Frating Ward).

09.24.59 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

It was RESOLVED: That members would raise relevant disclosures of interest at applicable Agenda items.

09.24.60 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A representative of the local Plymouth Brethren Christian Church offered the council help with work and activities in the local community. Globally, the Brethren's Rapid Relief Trust was adept at helping to mitigate human suffering when faced with emergencies. The local church would be happy to help the community with activities such as litter picking and event catering.

Response: Members thanked the parishioner for taking the time to approach the council with the offer of community involvement. It was noted that, thankfully, the parish had been fortunate to have not had any serious incidents requiring emergency response, and the Brethren's generous offer would be considered at a future date. The council held litter picking equipment, and a collection from the Memorial Hall could be arranged from Tendring District Council (TDC). The council's Insurance Policy would be checked, and a date set for a Saturday in order to attract further volunteers from the local community.

09.24.61 MINUTES

Members received and considered the draft Minutes of the Frating Parish Council (FPC) meetings held on Monday 1st July and Monday 5th August 2024. A misspelling of 'Great Horkesley' was noted.

It was RESOLVED: That the draft Minutes of the meetings held on Monday 1st July and Monday 5th August 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairperson.

09.24.62 CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBER

Members invited a local resident to introduce themselves to the meeting. Sally Potter had lived in the village for twelve years, having moved to Frating from elsewhere in the county. She was due to retire from her work in the coming weeks, and had taken an interest in helping with decision taking in the community. She would be able to represent an area of the parish that was without a parish councillor.

It was RESOLVED: That Sally Potter be co-opted as a member of Frating Parish Council. Cllr Potter signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which was counter-signed by the Clerk, and joined the meeting. Members welcomed Cllr Potter and offered to provide any help needed with settling in.

09.24.63 MATTERS PENDING

Members received and considered a list of the parish council's current outstanding actions (attached to record Minutes). Updated Policies were still being added to the council's website; site meetings regarding play areas and churchyard were yet to be scheduled; and contractor quotes for footpath maintenance would be sought at a later date. The Clerk had corresponded with the owner of Frating Pool (see Minute ref 09.24.67); dog fouling signage had been ordered; and the new model Financial Regulations had been assessed (see Minute ref 09.24.69). Cllr Cuthbert had liaised with Cllr Guglielmi regarding hedgerow maintenance; and had passed grant funding details on to the War Memorial Hall Committee.

It was RESOLVED: That the council's matters pending be noted.

09.24.64 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Cllr Cuthbert offered a report to the meeting. Information regarding a proposal for a nearby large-scale offshore windfarm had been garnered, and it was hoped that the government would provide adequate funding to ensure that the associated infrastructure would be sufficient. The proposal was due to progress to its next phase in early 2025. In the parish, the dog bin at the Old Forge footpath had gone missing, and liaison with TDC was taking place. The Chairperson noted that some footpath users could be a little more responsible about the disposal of dog waste.

It was RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

09.24.65 REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

- i. Cllr Lynda McWilliams had offered apologies.
- ii. Cllr Carlo Guglielmi, representative for the Tendring Rural West Division of Essex County Council (ECC) was not present at the meeting. A monthly report had been circulated with the Agenda (attached to record Minutes).
- iii. Cllr Bland gave a report to the meeting regarding the July meeting of Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC). An Ardleigh parishioner had provided comprehensive information on the proposed energy infrastructure project that would entail the construction of many miles of pylons across the landscape from Norfolk to Tilbury. The proposed project was being strongly contested, although opposition would cease if the government committed to routing the cables offshore. The Tendring Association of Local Councils was the best attended grouping of parishes in the county and was represented at the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC). EALC was recruiting a number of new tutors, having had a series of resignations following alterations to workers' contracts of employment. Parishes elsewhere had been proactively working for their residents: St Osyth had undertaken verge cuts and sent invoices to Essex County Council; Little Clacton had provided clear video evidence of fly-tipping to Tendring District Council so that it would be able to begin prosecutions. These had not been forthcoming, however, and the parish council was writing to its Member of Parliament over the matter.

A Highways Panel meeting was scheduled for late September. Members were encouraged to send any queries for the Panel through Cllr Guglielmi. TDALC had noted that parish councils used the same method for reporting Highways issues as the public system, and would request a separate fast-track system.

09.24.66 FINANCE

- i. The schedule of accounts received and paid for the period 01.05.24 – 31.08.24 was unavailable due to individual access to the council's bank.

It was RESOLVED: That backdated statements would be provided at a future meeting. The Clerk would liaise with the banking administrators in order to resolve the issue.

- ii. Members received and approved invoices presented for payment by the Parish Clerk.

It was RESOLVED: That the approved invoices be uploaded and paid.

iii. Review of Payroll Fees & Terms. Members received and considered information on increasing prices from the council's payroll provider (attached to record Minutes).

It was RESOLVED: That the new contract for payroll provision be approved.

09.24.67 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

Members received and considered current and ongoing planning issues and associated matters:

i. Planning Applications: none received.

ii. Planning Decisions:

a) 23/01699/OUT (attached to record Minutes).

b) 24/00850/ADV (attached to record Minutes).

It was RESOLVED: That the decisions be noted.

iii. Planning Appeals: none received.

iv. Lufkins Farm Concrete Batching Plant – expected Planning Application. Cllr Cuthbert noted that Brett Aggregates was due to enter a Planning Application for works at the Lufkins Farm Concrete Batching Plant. An increase in lorry movements from sixty to sixty-four per day would form part of the proposal, and the Applicant would offer to fund works that would upgrade the existing traffic lights. The council was likely to have concerns over noise, dust, and traffic, and would urge the County Council to place a Condition on an approval of the project to ensure that infrastructure would be removed rather than mothballed once the site had been exhausted.

It was RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

v. Lufkins Farm Concrete Batching Plant – correspondence re public footpath (attached to record Minutes). Members noted that a fifty-six-day lead time was in place on all PRoW issues in Essex.

It was RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

vi. Flooding – Essex Surface Water Management meetings. Cllr Cuthbert had attended online meetings with Anglian Water, Highways, Boxted, and Great Horkesley Parish Councils. A site visit would be followed up with a full survey of Frating's system, and it had been suggested that issues may have been experienced due to inadequate equipment at the pumping station. The infrastructure owners would seek to cease surface water from entering the system. An attenuation pond at a development site in the parish would also be assessed.

It was RESOLVED: That Cllr Cuthbert would attend the site meeting and continue to attend the meetings.

vii. Maintenance of hedgerows along A133 footways. Correspondence with ECC regarding hedgerow maintenance had been entered into, with seemingly little resolution.

It was RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

viii. Vehicle-Activated Sign reports 04.05.2024-21.06.2024 & 22.06.2024-28.06.2024 (attached to record Minutes). An apparent issue had prevented the Clerk from being able to download a complete and up to date data set. Cllr Bland noted apparent inconsistencies with the SID displays.

It was RESOLVED: That the Clerk would seek resolution and contact the equipment supplier if necessary.

ix. Bromley Road Speed Indicator Device (SID). Issues with the Bromley Road SID working only intermittently would need to be entered by phone as the item did not appear on ECC's 'Report It' mapping.

It was RESOLVED: That Cllr Cuthbert would report the issue.

x. Parking outside Frating Pool. The owner of the facility had corresponded with the Clerk, and had stated their agreement with a proposal to seek the addition of double red lines on the highway.

It was RESOLVED: To correspond with Highways over the addition of double red lines at Frating Pool.

xi. Public consultation launch: Essex Transport Strategy (attached to record Minutes).

It was RESOLVED: That the Consultation be noted.

09.24.68 LEISURE & FACILITIES

i. Refurbishment of King's Arms bus shelter. A quote of £650 for works to refurbish the bus shelter had been received from one of the council's ongoing contractors.

It was RESOLVED: That the quote be approved and the refurbishment works progressed.

ii. Grass cutting at Frating Park. Quotes for maintenance works from 2025 onwards would be sought and considered at a future meeting.

It was RESOLVED: That the item be considered at a future meeting.

09.24.69 COMMUNICATION & LIAISON

i. Policy review: new model Financial Regulations. Members received and considered the new model Financial Regulations, which had been suggested by the National Association of Local Councils. The Clerk had made some alterations in order to make the document specific to Frating. Although the document contained directions that could become onerous, the Financial Regulations could be suspended by resolution of the council.

It was RESOLVED: That the Financial Regulations be adopted.

ii. Local Government Boundary Commission final recommendations for Essex County Council (attached to record Minutes).

It was RESOLVED: That the item be noted.

iii. Dog Control and Dog Fouling Public Spaces Protection Order 2024 (attached to record Minutes). The Clerk had ordered signage regarding dog fouling from the team at TDC.

It was RESOLVED: That the Public Spaces Protection Order be noted.

iv. Correspondence: Careline Stakeholder Consultation (attached to record Minutes).

It was RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted.

v. Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy – Public Consultation (attached to record Minutes).

It was RESOLVED: That the Consultation be noted.

09.24.70 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA OF A FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

None suggested.

09.24.71 DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next parish council meeting was scheduled to take place on Monday 7th October 2024 at 1930hrs at Frating War Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 2035hrs.

Signed..... Date.....