



FRATING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Mrs. Jennifer Spear

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Website: www.fratingparishcouncil.org.uk

Minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held at the Memorial Hall, Main Road, Frating CO7 7DJ on Monday 02nd October 2023 at 7:30pm.

Present: Cllr T. Cuthbert (Chair) Cllr P. Bland (Vice Chair) Cllr R. Mogg
Cllr T. Philp Cllr J. Hynes Cllr V. Morris

In Attendance: Mrs J Spear (Clerk), Tendring District Councillor Lynda McWilliams, and 2 members of the public.

Minutes

10.23.90 To receive and approve any Apologies for Absence

None Received

10.23.91 To receive any Declarations of Interest

None Declared

10.23.92 Minutes of the 04th September 2023 meeting to be approved and signed

Resolved - Cllr. T. Cuthbert proposed that the minutes of the 04th September 2023 were a true record of the meeting, all in agreement and these were signed by the Chair.

10.23.93 Public Participation session relating to items on the Agenda

A MOP advised that Highways have objected strongly to the planning application for the Kings Arms and also, that the Palletplus application details have been published and what does it all mean.

The Chair advised that yes in regards to the Palletplus decision the planning conditions have been confirmed, which includes the hours of operation, number of vehicles but not restricting any working days.

The Chair also advised that in regards to the Kings Arms application the chances are very slim that TDC will approve an application that Highways have objected too based on the location of the bus stop and advising that there isn't another suitable location for the bus stop to be moved too and the application doesn't make any provision for a movement of this in the application anyway.

A second MOP of the public further discussed Palletplus and the complicated ownership of the Palletplus land. Secondly about the bus stop that is the problem in the Kings Arms application, and asking the parish council to confirm who owns the bus stop and requesting if the parish council can make a timely comment to state "hands off our bus stop".

The Chair confirmed that the bus stop belongs to the parish council and that at the moment the parish council, do not need to make a comment about the bus stop as it is not under mentioned in the planning application so the parish council can only comment on what is presented before them in an application.



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10.23.94 Planning Updates

a) Palletplus

Discussed under Agenda Item 10.23.92.

b) Holly Farm

This discussion is deferred to later on in the agenda under item 10.23.102a

c) The Kings Arms

Discussed under Agenda Item 10.23.92.

10.23.95 Reports from the District and County Councils

Cllr L. McWilliams advised that there is a new consultation starting about tackling irresponsible dog owners in Tendring, including a public space protection order, in specific areas (PSPO), the consultation is live on the website.

Almost 1000 residents attended the recent job fair, held in Clacton.

As of the 20th September Frating now come under Clacton with the change of constituencies and we have new MP Giles Watling representing our area.

The nominations for the Pride of Tendring Awards are being accepted.

Cllr McWilliams also discussed with the planning officer and the head of planning about her concerns with the lack of signage that didn't go up with the Kings Arms application.

The Chair advised that the fly tipping at the roundabout is still there after being advised by environmental services that it was not TDC's responsibility because the land was owned by Highways and needed to be collected by Highways, but Highways have now stated it is TDC as they deal with all the fly tipping in Tendring regardless of where it has been dumped, so the Chair asked Cllr. McWilliams to confirm which it is. She advised that she will now go back to environmental services and find out what's going on.

Cllr. T. Philp, asked about the traffic light sequence as it seems that the queueing is now taking much longer to come through Bromley Road. The Chair stated that we need to monitor this for the next month to see if the lights sequence need checking.

10.23.96 Reports from other committees and representatives

a) EALC AGM

Cllr. Cuthbert and the clerk attended the EALC AGM, there was a lot of discussion about the problems of speeding in our district and that the police are fully supportive of reducing speed



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limits where possible. The EALC have spent a lot of money to update their IT software systems to increase their online training facilities, and due to the ir large bank balance they are launching a Cllr training bursary which helps support the burden of training costs off small councils.

b) TDALC

The clerk and Cllr. P. Bland both attended this meeting which was attended by Mark Stevenson the new chair of TDC and Gary Guiver the head of planning. The clerk asked him about the settlement boundary's laid out in the 10 year plan and how strict are these as planning applications are being put in that are outside of this. He advised that each application will be treated on its own merit and there may be the odd one of house that may be built but not anything more than that and there are strict restrictions on this. He also conformed that TDCs policy is the first policy that is referred too for all planning applications and secondary to that is the National Planning Policy Framework.

The new PSPOs will also be able to prosecute people for fly tipping, with the ultimate aim of publishing these fines to outline that flytipping is not acceptable.

Another member asked about s106 money that is often restricted to play equipment only, Gary Guiver confirmed that parish councils can go back to the developer and request a deed of variance on the original application which means that it can be used for something else within the community.

Cllr. P. Bland advised that in January the planning department will ne able to offer planning training to parish councils, so we need to keep an eye out for this.

Cllr. P. Bland also advised that in the meeting there was another speaker, Christopher Blomeley who attended the meeting who is an expert on energy saving techniques for the home and for community groups and helping parish councils get grants to install EV charging points for example. He is looking at holding a drop in day at one of our parishes to help spread the word on this to as many people as possible with the winter coming.

c) House of Lords

The clerk also advised that herself and the chair were invited to a tour of the Houses of Parliament with Cllr. L. McWilliams and MP Giles Watling, it was an amazing day and wonderful to see where democracy takes place in our capital city.

10.23.97 To discuss the cost of the installation of the posts for the VAS signs and the installation of the VAS signs

The clerk advised that the cost for the installation for the posts and signs to be installed is £700 (net).

Resolved Cllr. T. Cuthbert proposed accepting this price to get these installed as soon as possible, all in favour.

Action – Clerk



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10.23.98 To discuss the quotes received from Utility Aid for a new energy supplier

The clerk advised that the best prices for energy going forward is from SSE, she advised that the problem at the moment is the standing charge is increasing rather than the cost of electricity which is going down. Our current spend is £721.29 per annum (annual spend) which is going to increase as we are out of contract to £2000 estimated cost with the increase, if we switch to SSE that will be approx. £1300 a year on their 2 year protect scheme based on our annual usage.

After much discussion by the council **resolved** to switch energy supplier to SSE for the 2 years using Utility Aid.

Action – Clerk

10.23.99 To discuss the purchase of a historical footpath Sign

Robert Butcher advised that the cost to install one of these signs is £349 plus installation for £120.

Resolved Cllr. P. Bland proposed going ahead with the project for one noticeboard and that it needs to be placed by the noticeboard (which is the nearest area to the footpaths), seconded by Cllr. T. Cuthbert, all in favour.

Action – Clerk

10.23.100 To note and discuss the 30mph speed limit being imposed on the whole length of Chapel Lane

Cllr. T. Cuthbert advised that this is already within the 30mph limit anyway and in Great Bromley so it isn't relevant to us.

10.23.101 To consider the following planning applications:

23/01283/FULHH, Three Bells 1 Church Road Frating Colchester

Proposed demolition of existing flat roof garage and construction of new single storey side and rear storey extension, new detached garage and alterations to highway access. (Re submission of 23/00710/FULHH)

This is a resubmission of the previous application, highways have objected as they are trying to use highways land to gain access to their new entrance, the parish council had no objection to the previous application as it would be safer for the owners.

10.23.102 Planning Decisions

a) Holly Farm

Cllr. T. Cuthbert advised that the sale has been completed on the whole of the land not just the section concerned on the planning application. Part of the land does lie outside the settlement boundary.



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They have carried out a contamination report, but it does state that a full survey of contamination risks need to be carried out, and that there may also be asbestos on the site, but there has been no further action at this time.

b) [22/00007/CMTR](#)

Lufkins Farm, Great Bentley Road, Frating, CO7 7HN

Proposed construction of an agricultural reservoir involving the extraction, processing and exportation of approximately 1.068 million tonnes of sand and gravel

To be determined by another Authority 22.09.2023 Delegated Decision

This decision was noted by the council, but it was also discussed that this has a minimum of a 9 year life to build the second reservoir, with the original one still not being completed before the approval of this application which does mean that an extra 60 lorries will be coming through Frating from the quarry.

At this point Cllr. V. Morris left the meeting.

10.23.103 Chairs Report

The chair advised that the footpaths are in good condition so far this month, some have been cropped now, and should stay like this for the rest of the winter.

10.23.104 Clerks Report

The clerk reported that there are a couple of enforcement issues, one the installation of the TLMT illuminated sign that we are awaiting a response from enforcement for. The other is the installation of giant marketing boards from Taylor Wimpey for homes for sale in Great Bentley, at Moores Hall and Admirals Farm.

The other issue is the cars parking and causing obstructions outside of the private pool on Bromley road for swimming lessons, there have been numerous resident complaints and this has been escalated to the north Essex Parking Partnership to enforce this issue, but we will keep an eye on it.

The issues with Barclays are still ongoing and we have been locked out of our accounts again for another month, we are now back in after yesterday.

10.23.105 Finance

a) To review and receive monthly bank reconciliation figures for September. As of 26th September, there was a total of £20,650.97 in both bank accounts.

Resolved – that the September Bank Reconciliation is correct, and this was signed by the Chair.

b) To discuss adding a donation to Basics Essex in December at the councils usual donation time of year, in light of the clerks enquiries

Resolved that Basics Essex do not have a direct impact on Frating, so it was **resolved** not to add them to the S137 donations.

c) To discuss and agree the renewal of the RCCE membership at £44 (net) for the year.



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Resolved that the council agree to the renewal of the RCCE membership for the coming year.

Action – Clerk

d) To discuss and agree the renewal of the CVST membership at £25 (net) for the year

Resolved that the council agree to the renewal of the CVST membership for the coming year.

Action – Clerk

e) To approve new payments for October in accordance with the 2023/24 budget, payment list attached.

Resolved – Cllr. P. Bland proposed that the payments be made, seconded by Cllr. T. Philp

Action – Clerk

f) To consider moving the Parish Councils banking to Unity Bank Account due to the ongoing problems with Barclays.

After much discussion this item was **resolved** to be deferred until the next meeting while the clerk carries out research other bank accounts, as the Memorial Hall have an account with Santander, that is the starting point and the clerk will bring this back to the next meeting.

Action – Clerk

g) To review the current year actual expenditure verses budgeted expenditure for 2023/24

The clerk noted that as of the 26th September 2023 the council had received an income of £7,764.26 made up of VAT126 from the previous financial year, 50% of the precept, 50% of the LCTS grant, bank interest and a grant. There is still the other 50% of the precept and the LCTS grant to be received for the year.

Expenditure is total of £7137.15 excluding VAT, there has been an increase in the contract maintenance spend with cutting areas that normally would have been left to ECC that have not been carried out, with the further installation of a new bin and the extra cost to now empty it, which will need to be built into the budget for next year. The clerk completed her CiLca which meant a payrise of one pay scale which has increased that expenditure. But other areas are coming in under budget for the time of year also, subscriptions, chair allowance, insurance and are under 50% for all areas except for the contract maintenance.

With the current bank balance of £20,650.97 plus the projected income still due of £5750, further projected expenditure of another £7137.15 (doubling the current expenditure as its halfway through the year) this would leave an overspend from this years budgeted expenditure of £760.04 to be taken from the General Reserves. However this is unlikely to be double as some payments made are one off, for example the insurances and subscription payments. But the Parish Council have very healthy reserves of £18,352.19 (after removing earmarked reserves of £1270) on which to draw on if there is an overspend.



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h) To review earmarked reserves and the general reserve balance

A healthy general reserve is 50 – 75% of the precept which is £5700 - £8550, Frating Parish Council have earmarked reserves of £1270, £1000 for the emergency plan and £270 for the tree survey, and a general reserve of £19622.19.

The clerk has recommended to the parish council that some of these funds do need earmarking for the future projects that the Parish Council are considering.

i) To note the following Receipts –

£58.69 Bank Interest

This was noted by the Council.

10.23.106 Items from the councillors to be added to the next meeting

- Traffic Lights
- Budget
- Earmarked Reserves
- Appraisal
- Cemetery

10.23.107 To note the date and time of the next meeting.

The next meeting is to be held on Monday 06th November at 7:30pm

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 20:58.

.....signed.....date