

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 28th April 2016
at The St John Westbury Centre Fairfield Road at 7.30pm**

It was noted that the meeting was being recorded

➤ **Apologies:**

Rev Mathew Smith, Don & Alison Robinson, Liz Delany, Martin Kelleway and DCllr Paul Rous

➤ **Present:**

Invitations had been sent to various organisations in the town and the event had been advertised on www.framlingham.com and in the EADT, plus several posters displayed around the town. 48 residents signed the attendance sheet, which was attached to the file copy of these minutes.

➤ **Minutes of last APM:**

The minutes of the APM held on Thursday 19th March 2015 were circulated to all present. Christopher Sharpe proposed these were an accurate record which was seconded by David Drummond with a majority in favour.

➤ **Chairman's Welcome:**

Cllr Tanner welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that 2015/16 had been a somewhat turbulent year with some Councillors resigning. He welcomed new Councillors Spadge Hopkins, Lesley Barrett and Lesley Clouting. He recorded a vote of thanks to all council members past and present, as volunteers, for their considerable efforts and contribution through the course of the past year, also to the Town Clerk Eileen and Office Assistants Jane and Amanda who have consistently supported the council in the work it has undertaken – often above and beyond what is reasonably required. Cllr Tanner gave a brief overview of the year and noted that much of the day to day operation of council business goes largely unnoticed – which he felt was as it should be and hopefully meant the good ship of Framlingham was sailing fairly smoothly. He noted that some of the stand-out items were: ongoing development of the Neighbourhood Plan, Skatepark refurbishment, Consultation work of various Traffic Regulation Orders and the Firework Event – successful and fun! He noted that in 2016/17 it was clear that as a community we would be facing some changes and there would be challenges ahead. It would be up to us all how to respond to that. He noted that the Town Council would continue the good work that it was already doing, but also had been looking at ways to improve including: Transparency, Communication and Community Involvement. The last was very important as we look at infrastructure issues including parking, footpaths and community centre etc. The Town Council would be forming working groups where community involvement was a necessity and residents were being invited to be part of those groups as well as Town Councillors. The aim would be to tap into the skills, knowledge and determination of all residents and organisations that are driven to make Framlingham the best possible place to live – Cllr Tanner encouraged anyone to get involved! The Town Council was also looking to develop fun and social aspects and one of the first events would be the return of the Gravity Go Cart Race to the town centre.

➤ **Police Report:**

A Police Report had been provided and copies were made available at the meeting.

➤ **Guest Speaker – Jonathan Sullivan – Community Spirit and How to Manage Change:**

Cllr Tanner welcomed and introduced the Guest Speaker Mr Jonathan Sullivan who it was noted had a wide experience in the provision of large scale affordable housing for local communities and change management. Mr Sullivan continued to lobby both local and national government on the need for better affordable housing provision for people on lower incomes. Mr Sullivan was a very local person, but admitted that he had travelled as far as Ipswich but still preferred Saxtead and Framlingham.

Mr Sullivan gave a very informative and amusing power-point presentation with a very serious side to it as well. A copy of the presentation was attached to the file copy of these minutes.

➤ **Update- Framlingham Neighbourhood Plan – John Jones**

Cllr John Jones (Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Team) gave an informative power-point presentation on the background information and progress of the Neighbourhood Plan, a copy of which was attached to the file copy of these minutes.

➤ **Summary of One Year Plan:**

Cllr John Jones gave an explanation of the process of the 2016/17 Actions Plans, which would become part of the three year Action Plan.

➤ **Priorities for Framlingham – suggestions on post it notes:**

Cllr Kitching gave an explanation of the list of infrastructure issues arising from the Neighbourhood Plan a copy of which was provided for each attendee. A display of priorities was displayed on boards around the room. Attendees were requested to identify their three top level priorities and write these on a post it note to be secured to the relevant display board. The results would be collated and the top three priorities would then be identified for action by the Town Council.

➤ **Public Forum:**

One person noted the absolute necessity to get CIL money for the town and has no mechanism in place for Community Infrastructure Levy monies. Cllr Tanner noted that no further information was forthcoming at this time but it was understood that it would follow the Waveney example. The Town Council was actively pursuing this matter along with help from our County and District Councillors.

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There was some further discussion on CIL and Cllr Burroughs noted that SCDC would be willing to come to talk to the Town Council on this subject.

One person noted the County Council report on the devolution deal announced for East Anglia. Cllr Burroughs noted that he was elected to serve the people of Framlingham and Suffolk and was keen on keeping it local.

One person noted the average age of people in the room was over 50 and young people were not represented. Cllr Tanner noted that all means would be sought to engage as many generations as possible.

One person asked for the latest update on the Vyces Road site for the Mills Charity. Nick Corke advised that it had been a long hard battle with SCDC to secure the planning for 14 Alms houses for the town but the situation had now been resolved and building would start in a few months. Plans were being drawn up for six more Alms houses on the old Police House site. There would be specific criteria and units would only be available for people living or strongly connected to Framlingham and the Mills Charity was very keen to help keep young people and families in the town.

One person asked how CIL money would be spent to develop employment opportunities. Cllr Jones advised that the CIL money may help to fund relevant expertise to facilitate opportunities. One person noted that a lot of young people are keen to start their own businesses, so helping to provide those opportunities is important.

One person asked why there are no affordable homes on the Station Road site. It was noted that an application had been approved for economic non-viability, strongly opposed by the Town Council and others albeit unsuccessfully.

One person was pleased that the presentation by Jonathan Sullivan mentioned the spiritual side and wondered how this could evolve in the town. Mr Sullivan noted that the Baptist Church could facilitate involving other groups.

One person asked if the Town Council would insist that Fairfield Road is widened before Taylor Wimpey builds 163 new homes which would cause chaos on the road. Cllr Tanner advised that the Town Council had no powers to insist, but if this is identified as one of the priorities then CIL funds could be accessed to help alleviate the problems.

Cllr Jones noted that the Fairfield Road site is not in the Neighbourhood Plan and he was waiting for a response from senior highway officers on the issues.

➤ **Reports from other organisations in the town:**

Other organisations in the town had been invited to attend and give a report, which had been copied and were available for attendees to pick up from:

- Police Report
- The Pryke Trust
- CCllr Stephen Burroughs (SCC Report)
- DCllr Christopher Hudson (SCDC Report)
- Framlingham Business Association
- Fresh Aspirations Forum
- Framlingham & District History & Preservation Society
- Framlingham Residents Association
- Mills Charity and Mills Educational Foundation
- Greener Fram

Cllr Tanner thanked everyone for attending and invited those present to join him over a cup of tea, coffee and home-made cake, when there would also be an opportunity to ask any further questions of Town Council members and members of other organisations present.

➤ **Meeting closed at 9.00pm**

Signed:

Date: