

**Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017  
at The St John Westbury Centre Fairfield Road at 7.30pm**

➤ **Apologies:**

Rev Mark Sanders, Cllr Simon Garrett, Jenny Stockman (FBA and Fresh Inspirations), CCllr Stephen Burroughes and Mrs H Picton (SRHPS)

➤ **Present:**

Invitations had been sent to various organisations in the town and the event had been advertised on [www.framlingham.com](http://www.framlingham.com) and in the EADT, plus several posters displayed around the town.

31 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 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016 were circulated to all present. Cllr E Jones proposed these were an accurate record, which was seconded by Cllr L Clouting with a majority in favour.

➤ **Chairman's Welcome:**

Cllr Tanner welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that it had been a busy and productive year. He thanked all Councillors past and present as volunteers for their considerable efforts and contribution throughout the course of the past year. He also thanked the Town Clerk Eileen Coe and her Office Assistants Jane Parlone and Amanda Scott who have consistently supported the Town Council in the work it had undertaken, often above and beyond what was reasonably required.

Cllr Tanner gave a brief review of the year and noted that much of the day to day operation of Town Council business went mostly unnoticed – which was as it should be and a bit like a duck gliding smoothly and calmly on the surface whilst underneath legs paddling furiously!

**Chairman's Report:**

There is some stand out items in the year most notably the formal adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan. Framlingham is now one of only four adopted plans in the whole of Suffolk Coastal and looking wider there is only one adopted plan in Mid Suffolk and two in Babergh, so it is a noteworthy achievement.

The Plan gives us more income directly from the Community Infrastructure Levy raised on qualifying planning permissions granted within the town and importantly it gives some additional protection against unwanted development. The adoption of the Plan is the culmination of four years of effort and in particular I would like to thank all the former Chairpersons of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering team: David Greenacre, Liz Delany, Carolyn Youngs and of course most recently John Jones who was the right person at the right time and able to get us over the line!

2016/17 achievements are not limited to the NP:

Events such as the Gravity Go Cart Race (now re-named the Soap Box Race) and the Annual Firework Spectacular – successful and fun!

The Town Council has moved offices – we are now officially cohabitating with Framlingham Library in The Old Court House building in Bridge Street, which is a very complementary arrangement between the two organisations and is working well – so far.

We were also awarded first place in the Suffolk Association of Local Council's (SALC) Website of the Year 2016 larger council category for the [www.framlingham.com](http://www.framlingham.com) website

The NP is significant also as through the various consultation processes it has helped to identify the key infrastructure issues that are of most concern to residents of Framlingham, and through this identification we are able to deliver the Town Council's aspiration to be proactive through specific project planning.

If you recall it was also at this time last year we brought these topics into focus and started the process of identifying which of these areas are the most important for us to concentrate our resources on – and not surprisingly the results of the prioritisation were overwhelmingly in favour of addressing the issues of Parking, Footways & Cycle Paths and the provision of a new Community Hall.

Consequently, Working Groups comprising Councillors and members of the public have been established and have been beavering away to try and provide the right solutions to address these areas.

More information on the recommendations and proposals of each of these working groups is available on the display boards around the room. Rather than go into full details now please take some time to have a look at the end of the meeting and Councillors will be on hand to try and answer any questions. The projects and strategies are still being finalised and we will continue to work on this throughout the coming year and beyond.

Once again I would like to thank all the volunteers who have taken part in the working groups for their effort and input, it is greatly appreciated.

Clearly as a community we are facing some changes and there are still challenges ahead.

And as always it is up to us how we respond to that.

So the Town Council will continue the good work that we are already doing but we are always looking at ways to improve.

It is inevitable however that the additional housing being built will bring new residents to our bright and vibrant town and 2016 has also brought some surprising changes to our political landscape both domestically and internationally. However, I am sure that as always we will welcome all newcomers with open arms and promote a spirit of inclusivity towards all.

#### **Police Report:**

Sgt Mark Beresford reported that there were 112 crimes recorded for Framlingham in 2016/17.

The response times for Grade 1 incidents (within 20 minutes of CAD creation time) had recently improved to around 80%

In April 2016, due to the financial cuts, the service was restructured. Leiston Sector, which includes Framlingham faced a reduction of staff from 10 PCSO's and 4 PC's to 2 PCSO's and 2 PC's. The team currently based at Leiston would soon be moving to Saxmundham. The team was now part of Halesworth and Eye SNTs, with a joint staffing level of 4 PCs and 6 PCSO's. Although 3 teams, the group of SNTs is worked as one, so would assist each other when required.

PCSO Hassler was currently working from Framlingham on a number of days throughout his working week and had been targeting the parking issues in the town. His current project was to improve the traffic flow past the schools at key times, when children are being dropped off or collected.

A copy of the full Police Report was attached to the file copy of these minutes.

One person asked about mental health and its association with crimes. Sgt Beresford confirmed that mental health issues were a priority.

One person asked about CCTV in the town and if the Police would support this.

Sgt Beresford confirmed that there was a definite benefit to having a few well-placed cameras in the town, which could provide the evidence to detect any crimes. He noted Southwold's ANPR cameras as a good example, which had proven to be a huge benefit to the town. It was noted that the Town Council was discussing this matter with the Framlingham Business Association and the Police were also involved and options were being explored, which would be reported to Full Council in due course.

Cllr Tanner noted that the past year had been a challenging period for the Police and thanked Sgt Beresford and his team for all their help and support in the town.

#### ➤ **Guest Speaker – Charity Quin – Life in Framlingham:**

Cllr Tanner welcomed and introduced the Guest Speaker Charity Quin who gave a very enlightening, interesting and amusing talk on her life in Framlingham and her Christian faith. She ended with a lovely and emotional song.

#### ➤ **Public Forum:**

➤ One person commented on the loss of the 62 bus to Woodbridge.

It was noted that due to concerns raised Suffolk County Council was reconsidering and may provide a reduced service rather than no service. It was agreed to seek clarification

➤ One person asked what the Mills Charity's timescale was for the Old Police House site.

Mrs Booth (Chairman of the Mills Charity) confirmed that the intention was to finish the Alms House project in Vyces Road before commencing work on the Old Police House site.

➤ One person noted that it was great news that the Tour of Britain would be coming through the town but hoped something would be done about the road surface and pot holes, particularly in Well Close Square.

It was noted that Suffolk County Council had planned resurfacing for 14<sup>th</sup> June.

It was suggested that the road surfacing/pot holes issues should be raised at the SALC Area Meeting for a joint response to Suffolk County Council, as there was a problem all over the county.

It was agreed to refer this matter to the SALC representative.

- One person asked when CCTV in the town would be discussed by the Town Council.

It was noted that a report would be made to the next PR&Markets Committee meeting.

- One person asked if the Community Centre plans were available online.

It was noted that the draft plans would be presented to Full Council on 4<sup>th</sup> May and pre-application advice would be sought before the final proposals were made available for public consultation.

- One person suggested increasing the number of Councillors to help share the work load and responsibilities.

The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council had already agreed to increase from 11 to 13 but Suffolk Coastal District Council had advised that it would need to carry out a Community Governance Review before approving the request, and the increase would not be implemented until the next election in May 2019. She confirmed that over the last 10 years the Town Council had decreased from 15 to 13 and then 13 to 11. At the time it had been impossible to sustain 15 Councillors. She also noted that in order for the Town Council to qualify for the General Power of Competence it had to meet the eligibility of having two thirds of the total number of Councillors elected at the last ordinary election, or at a subsequent by-election, as well as a qualified Clerk.

- One person asked about parking in the town.

Cllr Tanner advised that the Parking Working Group was facing some challenges, but making progress.

Information was available on the display boards and members would be pleased to answer questions after the meeting.

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

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

- The Church of St Michael
- Framlingham Business Association
- Fresh Aspirations Forum
- Framlingham Residents Association
- Mills Charity and Mills Educational Foundation
- Framlingham Area Youth Action Partnership

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 and look at the boards displaying the Town Councils achievements and infrastructure projects over the last year

- **Meeting closed at 8.43pm**

Signed:

Date: