

FRAMLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held Via Zoom on Thursday 2nd July 2020 at 7.30pm.
The Chairman advised that the meeting was being recorded.

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received and accepted from CCllr Burroughes

Present: Cllr D Beal, Cllr P Collins – Chair, Cllr S Garrett – Vice Chair, Cllr D Carter – Finance Chair, Cllr C Eastwood, Cllr M Hine, Cllr J Jones, Cllr G Kitching, and Cllr P Wraight

In Attendance: Mrs Eileen A Coe (Town Clerk/RFO), Mr James Overbury (Deputy Clerk), DCllr Cook, and 10 members of the public.

2. Minutes of Previous meeting

The Chair proposed that minutes of the previous meeting be approved as an accurate record, which was seconded by Cllr Eastwood and with one abstention due to absence, all were in favour.

3. Dispensation requests received.

None.

4. Declarations of interest.

Cllr Eastwood declared a Personal interest in Agenda item 14.3 and the Chair asked the Town Clerk to initial the interest book.

Cllr Jones declared a Pecuniary interest in Payments and the Chair asked the Town Clerk to initial the interest book.

5. To note the resignation of John Simpson and Amanda Fisher and advertising of the casual-vacancy

The Chair reported on the resignation of two Councillors and advised that as 10 or more electors had called for an election then one must be held. Under the current situation the earliest an election could be held is May 2021 but it was understood that the legislation may be changing and it might be possible to hold an election sooner.

6. Adjournment

512720 The Chair proposed to adjourn the meeting to consider the following agenda items which was agreed.

6.1 Police Matters

None.

6.2 Report by County Councillor

CCllr Burroughes would be distributing his report on his return from holiday.

6.3 Report by District Councillor

DCllr Cook began by acknowledging the outstanding local voluntary efforts on behalf of the Framlingham Community in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. He noted that the easing of lockdown measures the coming weekend would be a significant step. He continued by describing his main concern at a District level was the financial effect of the pandemic. The deficit to the District Council were estimated to be £8.6M already but he reported that central government had allocated the district more emergency funds. Part of the savings already achieved was the significant reduction in roadside verge cutting. He noted that the majority of people preferred to see the wild flowers grow and as long as there were no highway safety issues, he hoped it would continue. He concluded by noting that the issue if Sizewell C would be high on everyone's agenda for the medium term.

The called for questions to DCllr Cook but there were none.

6.4 Report by Fairtrade Representative – Cllr M Hine

No report.

6.5 Report from PCC on the St Michael's Rooms project

The representative from the PCC noted that there was little to report. The PCC were grateful for the opportunity to discuss the issues with the Town Council and the District Councillor to discuss a way forward. He reported that the architect was making more efforts to reduce the cost of the development and the PCC was researching any further funding streams for the project.

6.6 Public Comment

The representative from Hour Community reported that following an approach by Flagship housing the Hour Community were considering the purchase of the garages and car parking at Fairfield Crescent. He noted that if Hour community were not to purchase the site then Flagship would likely to auction the site off. In response to the local residents' concerns about the loss of parking Hour Community had called a meeting and made an offer of £1 a day parking for those residents who would lose the spaces where they currently park. This has yet to be concluded. As the representative from the Mills Charity, he continued by moving to the St Michael's Rooms project and he reported that due to the escalating costs of the project that as things stood the Mills Charity would be withdrawing its offer of £25,000 towards the project. The Chair of the Resident's Association spoke in agreement with both the Hour community and the Mills Charity about the disappointing news on the St Michael's Rooms project. However, he felt that it could be turned into an opportunity and he urged the town Council to lobby the District Council to remove the restrictions of funds and open the project up to other organisations. A resident spoke about the Sizewell C proposals. She urged the Town Council to consider two actions: Firstly, apply to EDF to get Framlingham included as one of its venues. Failing that, request that copies of the information available in EDF's mobile library are provided to the town, e.g. the Library, so that it is locally and publicly available. Secondly, to participate in the process by registering with the Planning Inspectorate to become an Interested Party by making a Relevant Representation. A Relevant Representation is a summary of views on an application, made in writing. A resident spoke about the man who had been camping on Bunny Meadow but following eviction from there was now camped in a meadow further along Badingham Road. A final resident noted that the purchase of four self-watering planters was on the agenda. She queried the expenditure and wondered why the painted bicycles were not used again this year. She turned to the issue of road sweeping and was disappointed with the efforts of Norse again this year. As a result, she had swept Double Street herself. The Chair responded by asking the DTC to investigate when Double Street had been swept and when it was due to be swept again.

7. Reconvene

712720 The Chair proposed to reconvene the meeting, which was agreed.

8. Correspondence

None.

9. COVID-19 Response team Update – Cllr Kitching

Cllr Kitching reported that the Covid-19 Team were balancing the stepping down of lock down and preparing for the future. He felt confident that the Team could step up again in the future should the need arise. ~He noted that the British Army were in position at the College Sports Centre operating a test centre for Covid-19.

10 Discussion of Sizewell C.

The Town Council has been asked on several occasions to subscribe to joint letters about Sizewell C, generally to oppose the development. In addition, there have been some contacts from Framlingham Residents asking about Framlingham Town Council's position on the matter. Up to now the Town Council had written to ESC and SCC opposing progress on the planning process while COVID-19 restricts public involvement, but have taken no other position on the matter. It is suggested that the Town Council should consider whether it is in favour / against / takes no stance / some other more nuanced position.

It was agreed to allow an additional half an hour at the forthcoming Strategic Planning Workshop on the 6th July to discuss this issue.

Committee recommendations and business:

11. Planning Committee:

Planning decisions received prior to the meeting:

None received.

Planning Applications and any others received prior to the meeting:

None Received.

Matters of report/items of information only

Cllr Garrett reported on the letter that many residents had received from Leaper Land Developments about a proposed self-build scheme for 50 dwellings on land off Victoria Mill Road. It was agreed that he would redraft a response that could be used to inform the public on the Town Council's position.

12. Public Relations and Markets Committee:

1212720 Following discussion, as there were no financial implications to date, Cllr Garrett proposed that this be deferred to the August Full Council meeting which was seconded by Cllr Eastwood with all in favour.

1222720 To approve the committee's recommendation approval to extend the current website contract for a further one-year period from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022, when the website contract would then go out to Tender as part of the normal five yearly process. It was agreed to defer this decision until September.

1232720 To discuss a Communication Policy and Councillors areas of interest in Community Engagement It was agreed to discuss this issue at the forthcoming Strategic Planning Workshop.

1242720 Cllr Kitching proposed to approve the committee's recommendation that due to the results of the Town Survey approval be sought to proceed with a presentation paper for the CCTV project for the town centre, which was seconded by Cllr Jones and with one abstention all were in favour.

1252720 Cllr Garrett proposed to approve the committee's recommendation to accept the cost of 4 x new self-watering planters from Amberol at £403 including delivery + vat from Budget 2114, to replace two of the old ones on Market Hill and at the Cemetery gates, which was seconded by Cllr Collins with all in favour.

1262720 Website Private Page and standardising file names for all documents – Cllr Wraight
This was noted and it was agreed to follow through the recommendations.

Matters of report/items of information only

Town Survey: the PR and Markets Committee would be publishing the raw data on the website. As more analysis was completed that too would be published on the website.

Cllr Garrett reported that he was only the acting Chair of the PR&M Committee and following resignations of Councillors the Committee needed more members.

Cllr Hine reported that she had circulated information about changes to the website and it would be useful if other Councillors commented on them.

Cllr Hine reported on a successful virtual meeting of the Inclusivity Working Group and further meetings are planned.

Cllr Garrett reported that the office was completed and that Cllr Kitching would be undertaking a risk assessment to allow it to open to the public in due course.

13.Rights of Way, Highways and Lighting Committee:

Matters of report/items of information only

Cllr Eastwood reported that the two footpaths had been completed and the Town Council had received some positive comments.

Cllr Eastwood reported that the following a meeting with ESC that it was hoped that the off-street parking measures would be introduced before winter.

14.Lands Committee:

1412720 Cllr Collins proposed to approve the committee's recommendation to accept the quotation from the G&P Contractor at £900 (same cost since 2011) for the annual summer cut and rake of the wildflower area in the Cemetery, to be undertaken during August, which was seconded by Cllr Kitching with all in favour.

1422720 Cllr Collins proposed to approve the committee's recommendation to accept the cost of £3,270.56 + vat for a new motorbike see-saw on the Pageant Field Play Area (cost includes removal and disposal of old and repair of surfacing) from Kompan using Funds from Budget 1503 £1,000 and Budget 1504 £1,000 with the remainder from EMR 328, which was seconded by Cllr Eastwood with all in favour.

1432720 Cllr Collins proposed to approve the committee's recommendation for agreement in principle to proceed with the project to install a Boules pitch on the Pageant Field, which was seconded by Cllr Carter and with one abstention due to Interest all were in favour.

Matters of report/items of information only:

Cllr Collins reported that the upcoming Lands Committee Meeting would take the decision on opening the play areas and the Pageant Field toilets.

Cllr Collins reported that FAYAP had been given permission to use the Pavilion as a base (but not allowing any of the young people into the building)

15. Strategic Planning Committee:

St Michaels Rooms update.

Cllr Kitching reported on a meeting held between FTC, the PCC and ~DCllr M Cook ESC, via Zoom, to consider the implications of the revised costing for the replacement SMR. He also reported that in subsequent correspondence ESC had reiterated that there were no further district CI~~L monies available for the project, suggesting instead that, contrary to advice from solicitors, FTC use local CIL to bridge the shortfall in funding quoting the CIL regulations 2019.

1512720 Cllr Kitching proposed to consider a proposal that Framlingham Town Council supports the expenditure of £395 + VAT on legal advice to clarify the implications for local CIL expenditure contained in the CIL Regulations 2019, which was seconded by Cllr Carter with all in favour.

Matters of report/items of information only:

Cllr Jones reported that there was to be a Strategic Planning Workshop on Monday 6th July 7-9pm.

16. Finance Committee:

A copy of the list of current invoices was provided to each Councillor. Current invoices put forward at the meeting had been checked and verified by the Town Council Chair and Finance Chair prior to the meeting.

1612720 Cllr Carter confirmed the BACS payments approved at the June meeting have been paid as agreed and the bank print out verified and signed by two Councillors.

1622720 To note the details of all Bank Accounts

The Town Clerk/RFO had circulated a copy of the balances of all bank accounts, to all Councillors prior to the meeting and the details were noted. A copy if the list of current invoices had been circulated to all Councillors and would be published on the website when approved.

1632720 Cllr Carter proposed to approve the payment of current invoices, which was seconded by Cllr Garrett and with one abstention due to interest all were in favour.

1642720 Cllr Carter proposed to approve the committee's recommendation that HOUR Community returns £2,000 of the £3,000 grant in order that this money may support local organisations in this financial year, which was seconded by Cllr Collins with all in favour.

Matters of report/items of information only

Cllr Carter reported that the Finance Committee were working through the recommendations following the audit.

17. Matters of Report or Items for the next Agenda only:

Cllr Jones reported that a branch on an Oak tree at Castle Brooks had been reported to him that was in a dangerous condition. The town Clerk would investigate.

18. Date of next Full Council Meeting

Thursday 6th August at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9:38pm