

FRAMLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Approved Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held at The St John Ambulance Westbury Centre, Fairfield Road, Framlingham on Thursday 4th January at 7.30pm

The Chairman advised that the meeting was being recorded.

1. APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received and accepted from CCllr Stephen Burroughes

PRESENT:

Cllrs: Mr D Beal, Ms S Bennell, Mrs L Clouting, Mr P Collins, Mr C Eastwood, Mr S Garrett, Mr S Hopkins, Mr J Jones, Mr G Kitching, Mr B Roberts and Mr J Simpson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs Eileen A Coe (Town Clerk/RFO), DCllr C Hudson, one member of the press and six members of the public

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

214118 Cllr Kitching proposed the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as an accurate record, which was seconded by Cllr Garrett and with two abstentions due to absence, all were in favour.

The Chairman then signed the minutes.

3. DISPENSATIONS:

No new applications.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

514118 The Chairman proposed an adjournment for the following items which was approved.

5.1 Police Matters:

No Report.

5.2 Report by County Councillor:

The Town Clerk reported that CCllr Burroughes would be sending a report via email next week, which would be circulated.

5.3 Report by District Councillors:

A report had been received from DCllr Hudson, which had been circulated and a copy attached to the file copy of these minutes.

DCllr Hudson commented on parking problems and concerns relating to surface water drainage.

Cllr Kitching advised that the next Parking Working Group meeting was scheduled for 15th January and invited DCllr Hudson to attend.

Cllr Jones noted that a meeting to discuss parking issues had been held with representatives of Suffolk Coastal District Council today, which would be reported to the next meeting of the Parking Working Group.

5.4 Report from Friends of Framlingham Library Group rep:

Cllr Bennell reported that the performance of Alice in the Cuckoo's Nest was a sell-out and a most successful evening. Despite increasing reading on Kindles, last year's figures of books issued plus renewals at Framlingham had exceeded the 2016 totals.

5.5 Report from Greener Fram/Community Garden rep:

Cllr Bennell reported that the monthly Swap and Mend would continue through 2018 starting with Saturday 13th January in the Unitarian Meeting House.

5.6 Public Comment:

One person commented that the town had already received its fair share of housing and wondered about the relationship with the Neighbourhood Plan and the Issues and Options Local Plan Review.

Cllr Jones advised that the Town Council had met with SCDC to discuss this matter and also to better understand the sites that had been nominated. Further information had been requested on what would be the next step. A target allocation was not yet known and there was still a lot of work to be done, but the Town Council is fully involved in the process.

Cllr Garrett reiterated that land nominated in the Review document would not necessarily be allocated and had no status and in some cases was not necessarily nominated by the land owner. One person commented on the surface water problem in Fairfield Road, particularly around the electrical sub-station area. It was noted that this had been reported, but would be investigated further.

6. RECONVENE:

614118 The Chairman proposed to reconvene the meeting, which was approved.

7. CORRESPONDENCE:

**** Greener Fram**

To consider letter received regarding a proposal for an Electrical Appliance Recycling facility to be placed at Fram DIY.

Cllr Hopkins advised of the background to this matter and noted that Suffolk Coastal District Council would extend the scheme to Framlingham if the Town Council was officially in agreement. Fram DIY had agreed to accommodate the facility. It was noted that there would be no cost involved for the Town Council.

714118 Cllr Hopkins proposed approval to support the proposal, which was seconded by Cllr Kitching with all in favour.

8. TRAINING/CONFERENCE/EVENTS:

No business.

9. PLANNING COMMITTEE:

The following planning decisions were noted:

- **DC/17/4578/FUL Mr & Mrs Gray – 33 The Mowbrays – Planning Permission**
- **DC/17/4152/VOC Mr & Mrs P Hall – Land at Walnut Cottage, New Street – Planning Permission**
- **DC/17/3752/FUL Christian Science Society, Fore Street – Withdrawn**
- **DC/17/4731/FUL Mr & Mrs C Newton – 4 Brook Lane – Planning Permission**

The following planning application was considered:

- **DC/17/5105/FUL Lady Laura Peacock-Bendelow – Brabling Green Farm, Badingham Road**
– Conversion of existing outbuildings to form annex to existing dwelling (revision of DC/17/3810/FUL Withdrawn)

914118 The Town Council SUPPORTED the application.

10. PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETS COMMITTEE:

- No business

11. LANDS COMMITTEE:

- No business.

12. RIGHTS OF WAY, HIGHWAYS & LIGHTING COMMITTEE:

1214118 Cllr Garrett proposed to approve the committee's recommendation to install 4 cycle racks in Well Close Square and 4 cycle racks in New Road under an SCC Licence agreement and to install 2 cycle racks outside the Pharmacy on Market Hill with the permission of the landowner. Costs for cycle racks at £416.00 from Broxap Ltd and installation by Kerway at £1440.00 including removal and disposal of old cycle rack on Market Hill. Funding from CIL Reserve A/c, which was seconded by Cllr Kitching with all in favour.

13. INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN COMMITTEE:

- No business.

14. FINANCE:

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 relevant committee chairman and were made available in the Payments Folder prior to the meeting.

1414118 Cllr Jones proposed to approve the payment of current invoices, which was seconded by Cllr Collins, with all in favour. A copy of the approved invoices would be appended to the file copy of the minutes.

1424118 Cllr Jones confirmed the BACS payments approved at the December meeting had been paid as agreed and the bank print out verified and signed by two Councillors, which was noted.

1434118 The details of the balances of all bank accounts were noted and had been available to view in the Town Council Office and prior to the meeting. A copy was filed with the invoices for reference.

Budget and Precept 2018/2019

Cllr Jones presented the draft budget proposal and annual precept request. He noted that by using the tax Base Contingency Reserves the precept request could be reduced to £132,000 versus the 2018 budget proposal of £135,670. By taking this action the Town Council could meet the requirement to hold the increase to 2% as the growth in equivalent Class D properties would generate an additional income of £4,774 during the 2018/19 fiscal year.

1444118 Cllr Jones proposed to approve the committee's recommendation to accept the budget figures for 2018/19 (copy of draft Budget circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting) which was seconded by Cllr Kitching with all in favour.

1454118 Cllr Jones proposed to approve the committee's recommendation to request a precept of £132,000 for 2018/19 (using £3,670 from the Tax Base Contingency Reserve account to make up the balance required), which was seconded by Cllr Garrett with all in favour.

1464118 Cllr Jones proposed to approve the committee's recommendation to reinvest the 6 month capital investment of £29,274.44 + interest £36.89 (Maturing on 17th January) for a further 6 months, which was seconded by Cllr Clouting with all in favour.

1474118 Cllr Jones proposed to approve the committee's recommendation to reinvest the 2 years fixed S106 investment of £40,000 + interest £681.86 (Maturing on 15th January) for a further 1 year period, which was seconded by Cllr Clouting with all in favour.

1484118 Cllr Jones proposed to approve the committee's recommendation to approve additions to Standing Orders relating to confidentiality, which was seconded by Cllr Collins with all in favour. Two items were deferred back to the committee for further review.

15. MATTERS OF REPORT OR ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA ONLY:

- Cllr Roberts reported on icy pavements in the town. The Town Clerk advised of the current grit bin and designated spreader regime.
- Cllr Roberts reported that he felt that there should be a clothing recycling facility in the town. Cllr Hopkins advised that there was one situated at the Fire Station in Saxmundham Road.
- Cllr Simpson reported his concerns that the Town Council has no better access to Suffolk County Council than members of the public, which he felt was unacceptable and undemocratic.

The Town Clerk reported that since the re-organisation of Suffolk County Council last year, contacting SCC individuals was almost impossible and was causing frustration and delays to progressing forward planning and the Town Council's developing Infrastructure Plan. She had spoken to other Town Clerks who all had similar issues. She had also raised the Town Council's concerns with Cllr Stephen Burroughes.

Following some further comments it was suggested by Cllr Simpson to get together with other Town and Parish Councils in order to challenge the Customer Service system, which it was felt was put in place mostly due to budget cuts.

16. Date of next Council meeting:

The next Town Council meeting would be held on **Thursday 1st February 2018 at 7.30pm** in The St John Ambulance Westbury Centre Fairfield Road Framlingham.

Meeting closed at 8.27pm.