

FRAMLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held at The St John Ambulance Westbury Centre,
Fairfield Road, Framlingham on Thursday 4th October 2018 at 7.30pm
The Chairman advised that the meeting was being recorded.**

1. APOLOGIES: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr J Jones

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs Eileen A Coe (Town Clerk/RFO), Mr James Overbury (Deputy Town Clerk), CCllr S Burroughes, DCllr D Hudson, one member of the press and twelve members of the public.

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

2141018 Cllr Collins proposed the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as an accurate record which was seconded by Cllr Kitching with all in favour. The Chairman then signed the minutes.

3 DISPENSATIONS:

None received.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr Simpson declared an interest in Payments.

Cllr Collins declared an interest in Payments.

Cllrs Bennell declared an interest in Grants.

Cllr Hopkins declared an interest in Grants.

All of whom signed the interest book.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

5141018 The Chairman proposed an adjournment for the following items which was approved.

5.1 Police Matters:

No report received.

5.2 Report by County Councillor:

Cllr Collins thanked CCllr Burroughes for his written report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. CCllr Burroughes began by congratulating Cllr Collins on his appointment as Chairman. He also thanked Cllr Kitching for his help and support during his term of office as Chairman. Cllr Burroughes reported that he was glad to see the Beccles relief road had opened on time, and this should ease the predicted increase in traffic from the imminent large housing development planned for the town. He hoped that the Town Councillors had seen the 'Suffolk Design Guide Survey', (which has been prepared in advance of the new 'Suffolk Design Guide'. At present, this was being focused on Lowestoft, but he felt it was very pertinent to Framlingham with the recent difficulties the town had experienced with developers not building to plan, and urged the Town Councillors to look at this, and respond. He said he had 'burst a blood vessel' in expressing his concern about some developments not being built to plan at the SCDC planning Committee. He suggested that his proposed six month or quarterly meetings with the Town Council be reinstated. Cllr Collins thanked him for the offer, and said he would look to secure some dates in the near future. Cllr Beal asked CCllr Burroughes if the design guide would 'have any teeth' and CCllr Burroughes referred the answer to DCllr Hudson who was to speak on the matter after him, but urged the Town Council to respond to the survey with its concerns about developers not building to plan in the town. Cllr Beal then asked if it was correct that there was no plan to extend the Primary School at present, and wondered if this was wise in the light of the impact of 500 new homes in the town. Cllr Burroughes replied that he believed the concept was 'on hold' rather than excluded permanently. Cllr Garrett requested that this matter be put on the next Planning Meeting Agenda.

5.3 Report by District Councillors:

DCllr Hudson began by supporting CCllr Burroughes on his approach to planning enforcement, and said he felt these situations make a mockery of the whole planning process, and felt that this approach by developers was insupportable. He wanted to back the Town Council and its local expertise. He said that

the response needs to be calibrated very carefully, and suggested that perhaps there should be a penalty clause, and for the town to benefit from more money from developers who did not build to plan. He felt it was a clear breach of contract and if this were a business situation it would be a completely different matter. He said if we have a rule book we must stick to it. If a District Councillor or member of the public flouted the rules there would be trouble. He has written to the Chair of SCDC planning simply saying that if we have a rule book, we must stick to the rules. He reported that he had recently spent time by the Churchill Memorial Garden by the Castle Pub, and was saddened to see that the plaque dedicated to Sir Winston Churchill was illegible. He was happy to support financially where he could, the restoration of the plaque. The Town Clerk reported that following DCllr Hudson's email offering funding support for the plaque, she had a met with the site manager at the Castle to discuss the litter bins and management responsibilities of English Heritage as well as the plaque, and had sought a quotation for the cleaning/refurbishment, and this matter would be reported to the next Lands Committee meeting. Cllr Hudson thanked Cllr Hopkins for his email regarding electrical goods recycling points, and he had written to Suffolk Coastal Norse again about this, and would pursue it further. Cllr Simpson asked if the District Council was prepared to go to law regarding the planning breaches in the town. CCllr Burroughes reported that there had been a site meeting to the Persimmon development by the District Planning Committee, and following this, he had asked them what they were prepared to do. He said that there was 'all to play for' and an enforcement process should happen. DCllr Hudson repeated that if a private individual did not build to plan, then the District Council would insist on the breaches being rectified. He said that 'just because we were dealing with 'big boys' we must not compromise on a principle, because if one does, then one compromises oneself'.

5.4 Report from Friends of Framlingham Library Group rep:

Cllr Bennell reported that for the Framlingham Sausage Festival, the Library would be providing a 'Fest Rest' space. Refreshments would be served all day, along with a Fairtrade Pop Up stall. There would also be activities for children and a Sausage Treasure Hunt. In addition, there was to be an artist in residence, who would be displaying some of her work, and running free sausage-based workshops for children throughout the day.

5.5 Report from Greener Fram/Community Garden rep

Cllr Bennell reported that Greener Fram's AGM would be held on Saturday 13th October at 10:00am in the Unitarian Meeting House. Three of the Greener Fram representatives would be attending a film in Woodbridge about the story of food waste, followed by a 'food for thought discussion panel' about food waste in our region.

5.6 Public Comment

The Chairman of the Framlingham Residents Association had prepared a speech which asked a number of questions about the proposed St Michael's Rooms redevelopment. Cllr Kitching assured the representative that these issues were to be considered and decided by the Town Council following recommendations from the Working Group. Cllr Garrett thanked him for the questions and requested a copy be sent to the Town Clerk by email in order that the questions could be addressed by the St Michael's Rooms Working Group.

One person asked if the local MP supported the town's position on planning breaches. CCllr Burroughes reported that he was not aware of his position, but hoped that if this was to be reported in the local press then it might prompt a response from him.

DCllr Hudson said that often the response from MPs was that it was not within their remit or competence to comment on planning issues. CCllr Burroughes said he felt that MPs ought to comment on all serious issues their constituents faced. Another person spoke about how unhappy they were with the proposed Elms Car Park extension, and also noted that whilst St Michael's Rooms had limited parking it was not far from the English Heritage Car Park which would be open at times when St Michael's Rooms would be used. The representative from the Hour Community reported on their activities. They had been very busy as usual and were planning on expanding their services by opening a 'Worry Tree' in the Library. The representative also asked for more befrienders. One person observed that a 'Stop Notice' could be

issued on the Persimmon Development, until they resolved these compliance and enforcement issues, and went on to ask if there was any decision on the CIL bid. Cllr Collins advised that this would be reported by Cllr Kitching under an agenda item later in the meeting. The resident added that they hoped that now members of the SCDC Planning Committee had made a site visit to the Mount Pleasant development by Persimmon Homes, the Town Council would be able to make a representation to SCDC. Cllr Collins said that the Town Council was not directly involved, but intended to exert what influence it could. Cllr Burroughes advised that the SCDC Planning Committee next met on the 18th October, and when the Agenda was published, the Town Council could see if it could make a representation. Another person thanked the Town Council for fixing the Churchill Garden bench, but felt the opportunity had been missed to clear the pond out when it had dried up over the summer. Cllr Collins reiterated that the pond was under English Heritage's control, but the Town Council would continue to encourage English Heritage to keep it in good order for the town. The person questioned what archaeological surveys would be necessary for the St Michael's Rooms project. Cllr Kitching advised that the Town Council had the benefit of previous archaeological surveys but that more were being planned.

6. Reconvene:

6141018 The Chairman proposed to reconvene the meeting, which was approved.

7. Correspondence:

None.

8. Training/ Conferences/Events:

None

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND BUSINESS:

9. Planning Committee:

No decisions had been received.

9.2 The following planning applications were considered:

DC/18/3591/LBC Mr C Plant – Hatherleigh Farmhouse, Saxmundham Road – to construct new stud wall in 1st floor bedroom to create new landing and smaller bedroom

9141018 The Town Council SUPPORTED the application.

To consider any Referral of Planning Applications received prior to the meeting:

None Received.

10. Public Relations and Markets Committee:

Cllr Clouting proposed to approve the committee's recommendation to accept the quotation of £364 from Leiston Press to reprint 2,000 Framlingham Town Trail leaflets, using budget 2105 which was seconded by Cllr Kitching, and with 9 in favour and 1 against, was approved by a majority. Cllr Beal queried the design content of The Town Trail and suggested a more professional and updated approach rather than reprinting the same format every time. Cllr Clouting noted that the current publication was very popular in its current format but would take the issue of the design and content back to the PR and Market Committee before the next print run was proposed.

Cllr Clouting proposed to approve the committee's recommendation to accept the cost of £415.73 incl vat for glo-products for the Firework Spectacular, which was seconded by Cllr Kitching with all in favour.

11. Rights of Way, Highways & Lighting Committee:

No business.

12. Finance and Strategic Planning:

12141018 Cllr Garrett confirmed that the BACS payments approved at the September meeting had been paid as agreed and the bank print out verified and signed by two Councillors.

12241018 The details of balances of all bank accounts was noted.

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.

12341018 Cllr Garrett proposed to approve the payment of current invoices, which was seconded by

Cllr Hopkins and with two abstentions due to interest all were in favour. A copy of the approved invoices would be appended to the file copy of the minutes.

Cllr Hopkins and Cllr Bennell declared an interest in the next item and left the meeting.

Cllr Garrett proposed to approve the committee's recommendation to award the following grants: (Budget £3,000)

12441018 Royal British Legion – Framlingham Branch - £750.00 towards activities for the 100th anniversary of WW1, which was seconded by Cllr Simpson with all in favour.

12441018 Framlingham Youth and Arts Centre - £509: funding for 2 new tyres and Road tax for the mobile youth club van which was seconded by Cllr Eastwood with all in favour.

12541018 Friends of St Michael's Church - £250 Towards the purchase of Christmas trees for the annual festival which was seconded by Cllr Clouting with all in favour.

12641018 Framlingham Business Association - £750 to cover the following items:

Late night shopping: £250 requested to cover printing of raffle tickets which will be used at all events, Funding will also go towards entertainment and activities at late night shopping, partial road closure, insurance and capital, if required, for Santa's grotto.

Christmas and Charity Market: £250 requested to go towards entertainment and staging plus PA costs. The music stage is used as a platform for young musicians to gain performance experience.

Installation of Christmas trees: £250 requested to go towards new lights as the plug-in versions are all replaced by battery operated ones to assist in installation and dismantling, up to 100 small trees and one large tree which was seconded by Cllr Garrett with all in favour.

In answer to a question from Cllr Beal it was noted that the estimated total cost of the FBA activities were in excess of £5000.00

Cllr Bennell and Cllr Hopkins returned to the meeting.

Strategic Planning – update:

Cllr Collins confirmed that the Strategic Planning Meeting for Councillors and Staff would be held in the Court Room at on Monday 12th November at 7:00pm. Details would be circulated beforehand.

St Michael's Rooms – update:

Cllr Kitching reported that the activity over the past month had looked at materials to be used, and site visits to other designs and halls. Cllr Kitching confirmed that the bid for CIL funds had been successful and thanked all those who had worked on the bid. He noted that there was still a great deal to be done, but at least there was now certainty of the funding.

13. Lands Committee:

Cllr Bennell reported that the Play Area fencing is falling down and the Lands Committee had looked at what could be done. Advice had been sought from the RoSPA inspector and their advice was that in its current state of repair the risk factor was 10 – medium risk. This would go down to 3 if a new fence was erected. However, if the fence was removed altogether the risk factor would only be 3-4 – virtually the same as a new fence but without the expense of replacing it. Cllr Bennell also reported that the RoSPA inspector had also recommended large signs advising that dogs should be kept on leads at all times and a second dog bin was suggested.

13141018 Cllr Bennell proposed to approve the committee's recommendation to accept the quotation from Kiwi Fencing Ltd, to remove and dispose of all the fencing around the Pageant Field play areas, subject to confirmation from the RoSPA inspector which had been received which was seconded by Cllr Simpson with all in favour. Cllr Bennell advised that the fence would not be removed until after the fireworks.

Cllr Collins proposed to exclude the press and public for the next item by virtue of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 s1 (2) because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, which was agreed.

Members of the public and the Town Clerk left the meeting.

13241018 Cllr Bennell proposed to accept the tender from 'K N Coe Grass and Hedge Cutting and General Garden Maintenance', for the Grounds and Property Contract for the period 1st November 2018-31st October 2023 which was seconded by Cllr Simpson with all in favour.

The Press and Public were invited back to the meeting, and the Town Clerk also returned to the meeting.

14. Matters of report or items for next agenda only:

Cllr Beal requested that the agenda for the SCDC Planning meeting on the 18th October be put onto the Planning Committee agenda.

Cllr Roberts noted that half the street lights on College Road were going off at around 21:30. The Town Clerk advised that she would investigate this matter.

15: Date of next Council meeting:

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

The Meeting closed at 8:43pm