

Frankley Parish Council

Thursday 12 January 2023

St Leonard's Church Hall

MINUTES

Present: J Gwinnett (JG)
P Smith (PS)
P Morgan (PM)
K May (KM)

N Bailey (NB)
J Jarrard (JJ)

Simon Nock (SN) – Belbroughton & Fairfield PC

Apologies: M Sherrey

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed those present. KM introduced Simon Nock from Belbroughton & Fairfield PC.

2. Declarations of Interest

The Declaration of Interest form was signed off.

3. Public Session

No members of the public were in attendance.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The October 2022 Minutes were approved by JJ and PS.

5. Chairman's Report

5.1 Bus Shelters – still awaiting a second coat of paint. JG has spoken to the Lengthsman regarding this.

5.2 Drains – the new drains are keeping the lanes clear of water. Leaves are no longer blocking them. The one by the RSPCA gets blocked with debris and the field is still flooding. JG has spoken to the farmers who advise that the drainage work has stopped water creating water trenches and the field does not stay flood for half as long. KM to arrange for a camera to be inserted, to check for tree roots.

5.3 Grit bin – some grit has been used over the cold spell. There is enough grit in them and the Parish Council has not placed an order this year. Yew Tree Lane is not on a grit route and apparently does not meet the criteria. In May 2023 KM will purchase a grit bin for this location and keep it filled with grit for a period of two years. The Councillors thanked KM for this. KM to try to get bin filled as it is on a secondary route. NB to email KM in May 2023 if she is re-elected.

5.4 Fly tipping – since the removal of the old dust bin at Westminster Farm, less mess has been left in the area. We receive a good response from the BDC Clean Up team. JG has thanked them for their work.

KM advised that there are 15 prosecutions going through. There is a back log due to COVID. For legal reasons, updates cannot be provided to Parishes regarding prosecutions.

5.5 Speeding – since the road markings were installed along Frankley Hill / Ravenhays there have not been any accidents. The visibility splay was raised – KM to check. Richard Sensee is the new contact for Highways.

6. Finance

6.1 The bank statement and reconciliation spreadsheet were reviewed by all Councillors.

6.2 A small increase was agreed to the precept. The sum for 2022/23 will be £2224.62. Proposed by JG, seconded by all Cllrs. BDC are applying a 4.9% increase.

6.3 There is approximately £800 of Lengthsman monies to be spent by 31 March 2023. Signs need cleaning and tree lopping is required at three locations in Church Hill.

Noticeboard, bench and village gateways – KM offered a contribution of £1000 for a noticeboard. NB to email KM in May 2023 regarding this, if KM is re-elected.

A replacement bench with concrete base costs circa £740.00. Bourneheath have a bench made out of recycled tyres – NB to investigate.

7. Planning Matters

It is important that the Parish Council remain vigilant regarding what is being built in surrounding Parishes.

KM advised that Bellway are looking for land to build on in Frankley. Brown field sites must be utilised before green belt. BDC have a 3.84 year land supply, which has increased. There has been no call for sites selected. There is infrastructure already in place on the M42, J2 and 3.

KM made reference to the National Planning Policy Framework: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework>.

8. Outside Meetings

JG has made contact with the Safer Neighbourhood Team regarding the Parish Charter. Issues raised include speeding and unlicensed motor bikes.

JG and NB held a Zoom meeting for the purpose of paying the Lengthsman.

9. County Councillor Update

There is a budget gap for BDC – grants have been allocated from the Government to cover this. A 4.94% increase is applied to the precept this year – it includes a sum to cover the cost of adult social care. Hereford and Worcester will become in an Integrated Care System and there is a responsibility to deliver.

KM enquired whether the Parish Council would be interested in moving to Birmingham and made reference to a boundary review. The Parish Council are not interested in moving to Birmingham.

The sewer in Kettles Wood is a capital investment project. KM to chase for an update. The odour is unbearable May through to October due to the antiquated filtration system.

10. Correspondence

A dementia café has opened at Finstall Village Hall. Age UK has a “warm space” at Clent Parish Hall, with coffee and cake for sale.

11. Any Other Business

Car parking on The Green was discussed. NB had written to BDHT enquiring about “gifting” the land by the side of the noticeboard. Land sale was suggested, however it is not considered fair and equitable to residents within the Parish if land is purchased for residents on the Green to use. KM is to contact BDHT to meet with JG.

A newsletter is to be sent to all residents features to include dog poo in Frankley Green Lane, details of Callow Gas and proposals to celebrate the Coronation in May 2023.

Friends of Bartley Green have raised concerns re the boggiess of the footpath by the mound. JG in his capacity as Footpath Warden will inspect, weather permitting.

12. Items of Parochial Interest

The meeting closed at 21.05.

NOTE. Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime and Disorder, Health and Safety and Human Rights.

Distribution:

Karen May

John Gwinnett

Jane Jarrard

Phil Smith

(Chairman)

(Councillor)

(Councillor)

Margaret Sherrey

Nancy Bailey

Pamela Morgan

(Acting Clerk & Councillor)

(Councillor)

Dates for future meetings:

Thursday 13 April 2023

Thursday 13 July 2023

Thursday 11 May 2023

Thursday 12 October 2023