

FRAMINGHAM EARL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 4th March 2025 at 7.00pm at The
Methodist Church

Present:

Cllr Dave Todd – presiding (DT), Cllr Rodney Aldis (RA), Cllr Louise Bishop (LB), Cllr Libby Cook (LC), Cllr Trevor Spruce (TS), Cllr Jane Walker (JW), Lynn Thomas, Sandra Cornell and Jennifer Parker – Tree Wardens, County Cllr Vic Thomson (VT), District Cllr John Overton (JO), PC Tom Goodrum, Sgt James Butler and Yvonne Wonnacott – Parish Clerk (YW).

Apologies:

Cllr Steven Peet (SP), District Cllr Nicola Fowler (NF), Paul Stanley - Tree Warden.

Members of the Public:

None.

2024/066 Chair's welcome (to include any apologies for absence for approval)

Chair welcomed all attendees to meeting. Apologies received and approved from Cllr Peet and District Cllr Fowler. County Cllr Thomson would be arriving later due to prior meeting.

2024/067 To receive declarations of interest

None.

2024/068 To approve a time limit for the meeting

All agreed to aim for meeting to finish by 9.00pm.

2024/069 To agree minutes of the PC meeting held 3rd December 2024

Cllr Aldis proposed minutes of the PC meeting held 3rd December 2024 as previously circulated to be agreed as correct, seconded by Cllr Bishop, and unanimously agreed. Minutes signed by Chair.

2024/070 Matters arising from the minutes of the PC meeting held 3rd December 2024

Website – Google analytics

Chair confirmed can use Google analytics on new website.

The Dell

Throw rope and deep-water signage had been purchased and installed at The Dell.

2024/071 Adjournment for public participation

None.

2024/072 County/District Councillors report(s)

PC Goodrum provided brief report to meeting; key points summarised as follows.

- Spate of graffiti within village. Police worked with school and identified four individuals who were responsible. These individuals will be carrying out works around the village, giving back to the community. There have been no further instances.
- Neighbourhood Watch Scheme has been re-vamped, now online based.
- Few burglaries in area, looking at increasing number of patrols and unmarked cars.
- Any issues please contact PC Goodrum direct via email; Thomas.goodrum1@norfolk.police.uk or ring 101

County Cllr Thomson arrived 7.12pm. Attendee raised issue of drug dealing problem at bottom of Oaklands/Earlsmead Estate in the early hours. Further details to be provided and Police will investigate. Chair thanked Police for their attendance. Police left meeting 7.18pm.

District Cllr Overton provided report to meeting. Key points summarised as follows.

- South Norfolk Working Party has held several meetings looking at Local Government Reform.
- Land North of Caistor Lane, 2022/2148, application going before Development Management Committee on 12th March.
- Swimming pool at Diss has just been completed.
- Sports Centres have received investment from South Norfolk.

Chair asked if there was any progress with regards to proposal of an additional exit from Framingham Earl Sports Centre, to segregate entry/exit from that of school, to allow the community asset to be used throughout the day and not restricted to when school was not open. No progress to-date.

Meeting noted report from District Cllr Fowler as previously circulated.

County Cllr Thomson provided report to meeting; key points summarised as follows.

- Devolution proposals. Consultations have been launched in six areas, including Norfolk and Suffolk, on government proposals to establish mayoral combined authorities. These form part of the government's Devolution Priority Programme, which was launched earlier this month. Change to local authorities. Now we have a 2-tier system, 3 if you add Parish Councils. This will be changed to unitary authorities. The May 2025 County Elections have been postponed for a year. The May 2027 District elections are unlikely to go ahead.
- Household hazardous waste days to be held at Norfolk's recycling centres.
- Norfolk County Council (NCC) has agreed a balanced budget for the fiscal year 2025/26, despite facing significant financial pressures. NCC has a gross expenditure budget of £2.2 billion (£1.7 billion excluding schools).
- Request for traffic survey on Long Road will be approved on Monday 10th March.

Questions raised with regards to planning. County Cllr Thomson believes that Development Management Committee will no longer be in place. As a result of government changes to planning system, Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) and Local Plans are no longer valid. Believe Neighbourhood Plans will also no longer be valid.

District Cllr Overton and County Cllr Thomson left meeting 7.45pm.

2024/073 Finance matters

Finance and admin report

Finance and admin report with financial summaries unanimously approved.

Expenditure for approval/to be noted, as per Finance and admin report

Following items of expenditure were formally noted and/or approved.

- Parish Clerk gross pay, March & April @ £474.76 per month
- Parish Clerk pension, Norfolk Pension Fund, March & April @ £109.19 per month
- Reimbursement to Parish Clerk @ £33.64, includes £5.61 vat. Items for The Dell, signage & throw bag as previously agreed
- Parish Clerk expenses, December @ £28.96, includes £2.50 vat
- Parish Clerk expenses, January @ £20.11, includes £0.72 vat
- Parish Clerk expenses, February @ £23.74, includes £0.72 vat
- Framingham Earl Methodist Church @ £240.00. Hire of hall from 7th May 2024 to 3rd March 2026.
- Reimbursement to Cllr Aldis @ £17.90, lavender for flower bed, village green

SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) membership renewal

Agreed to renew annual subscription – YW.

Pride in place grant

Noted final close down report submitted, and acknowledgement of receipt obtained.

Membership renewals

Community Action Norfolk – Agreed renewal of bronze membership – YW.

NALC (National Association of Local Councils) and Norfolk Parish Training and Support (NPTS) – Taking into consideration costs and level of service, agreed PC would not renew NALC membership for 2025/26 but would subscribe to NPTS – YW.

Asset register

Updated asset register approved. Noted increased insurance value for village sign and laptop which has been written off. Insurance policy amended with updated value for village sign at no extra charge.

2024/074 Planning

Applications for consideration

2025/0435, 5 Pine Grove. PC to respond “no objections” – YW.

2025/0225, Burgate Barn, Burgate Lane. PC to respond “no objections” – YW.

2025/0256, 15 Long Road, application amended. Agreed no further comment.

Application responses submitted

2024/3841, Orchard Acre, Gull Lane. Proposal: Demolish existing conservatory, construct part-single part-two storey side and rear extensions, new front porch, dormer, and fenestration alterations. PC responded, “no comment.” Decision: Approval with Conditions (Delegated).

Proposed development, Land North of Caistor Lane

Agreed PC to submit document to planning portal advising that PC’s previous objection based on the danger of junction on Caistor Lane remains – DT/YW.

2024/075 Administrative updates

Review of internal controls

PC reviewed internal controls, including measures to prevent and detect fraud and corruptions. Agreed internal controls that are in place are effective and meet requirements.

2024/076 Environmental matters

Tree wardens

Chair welcomed Jennifer Parker and Paul Stanley who would be taking over from previous Tree wardens, Lynn Thomas, and Sandra Cornell. Hand-over had taken place. Thanks, expressed to former Tree wardens for their hard work, commitment, and contribution to the parish. Former Tree wardens left meeting. Agreed a gift would be purchased for former Tree Wardens and PC would plant bluebells in The Dell as a recognition of their contributions –

ALL.

The Dell

Tree works to be undertaken in April to remove/fell two dead Scots Pine trees and remove/fell dead Holly trees. Contractor had been engaged to carry out works. Agreed to engage The Fringe Project to carry out works in March, to include litter pick, and cut back brambles and vegetation along the path and concrete steps. The CIL and S106 Officer had confirmed that CIL monies could be used for these works, all agreed. Once works are completed proposed regular, quarterly working parties, to be added to May agenda –

YW.

Gull Lane

Drainage work undertaken including additional culvert and cutting out of new grips.

Drainage appears to have improved at bottom of Gull Lane, but top of Gull Lane, St Andrews Church remains wet. Agreed repairs to entrance of footpath off Gull Lane still outstanding, Chair to hasten –

DT.

Flower bed (village green)

Lavender has been planted. No further action at present time.

Roundabout

As previously discussed, proposed planters to be purchased using S106 money. Agreed as first stage planters to initially be located on railings at The Dell. Chair to provide costs of planters and materials for approval at May meeting – **DT.** Once costs obtained PC to approach Poringland Parish Council with proposal and request for approval of funding through S106 – **DT/YW.**

Footpaths

Footpaths walkable, muddy in places.

Meeting at Framingham Earl High School (FEHS)

Noted informal on-site meeting attended by Chair and Parish Clerk with the Chief Operating Officer of Sapientia Trust and Headteacher of FEHS to talk through the plans in relation to the new school pitches, ditch, and fencing. Initial works to be carried out over the summer holidays 2025, with the aim of the pitches being open for use in September 2026.

2024/077 Correspondence and consultations

Parishioner correspondence – parking situation at Oaklands/One Stop

Noted parishioner correspondence received. PC Tom Goodrum had advised that regarding parking and police enforcement, their powers were removed some years ago. Powers passed over to local (District) Councils to enforce. Highways may be able to add double yellow lines or restrictions to area, again these would be enforced by District Council. Parishioner had advised that they believe yellow lines on the corner opposite the One Stop entrance/exit on Oaklands would solve the issue of vehicles blocking the view around the bend from either direction. PC agreed no further action at present time.

Mini First Aid Norfolk

Noted, no further action.

Consultation on draft Custom and Self-Build Housing Supplementary Planning Document

Noted, no comment.

Royal Mail

Service levels dropped in January/February; District Cllr Overton had kindly taken up issue with Royal Mail direct. Service levels appear to be improving, PC to monitor.

The Big South Norfolk Litter Pick

Agreed PC to sign up to litter pick. Cllr Cook to organise, agree a date on a weekend and notify District Council and PC accordingly – **LC**.

VE Day Community grant

Noted grant, Parish Clerk to contact Poringland Parish Council to establish if they are planning to hold an event and if so, would they be interested in making this a joint event – **YW**.

CPRE – Opposition to proposal for a new town

Noted, no further action.

2024/078 Date of next meeting, Annual Parish Council meeting, 6th May 2025, and items to be considered for agenda

Noted. Councillors to notify Parish Clerk of any items for agenda – **ALL**.

2024/079 Chair's urgent business

Social barbecue

Proposed social barbecue to be held for PC members and family. Provisional date of 9th August at 12pm.

Meeting closed 8.31pm.

Minutes prepared by Yvonne Wonnacott, Parish Clerk, 05/03/25

Approved:

Date: