

MINUTES OF A MEETING



Fradley Parish Council

Telephone: 01543 444233

Website: www.fradleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Email: clerk@fradleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Fradley Parish Council Meeting held at 7:00pm at Fradley Village Hall on 21 March 2024

Present:

Cllrs Mike Ashcroft, Phil Beswick, Glen Bown (Chair), Paul Deathridge, Matt Evans, Stuart Gilmour, Tracey Ham and David Leytham (Vice Chair).

In Attendance:

Claire Crompton (Clerk/RFO), Cllr Mike Wilcox, Cllr Sonia Wilcox and 5 Members of the Public.

23/106 – Apologies for Absence. Local Govt Act 1972 s85 (1)

No apologies were given.

23/107 - Declarations of Members' Interests. – (1 min)

There were no declarations of member's interests.

23/108 –Adjournment for Public Speaking. Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 s1 extended by the LG Act 1972 s100 – (20 mins)

Apologies were noted from Cllr Eagland.

Owen Pontin, a representative from the FYCC was present at the meeting. He gave us an insight into the works they are doing onsite. The FYCC are planning to improve hardstanding path at the side of the building. They have begun removal of the vegetation by the fence line. There will be a proposal in the future for a path at the rear to link with the existing tarmac path. There are plans for a more substantial fence along the boundary between the FYCC and the Village Hall, in keeping with the green fence along the car park by school. Funding for this project is still to be finalised using their own funds and possible grants in the future.

District Cllr Mike Wilcox was present at the meeting and gave his report as follows:

Work is continuing with the New Local Plan, this is now out to consultation for all bodies to feed into it. The main aim currently is to create communities including adequate infrastructure and not just housing estates. These will look to ensure developers be ecofriendly, use solar panels, provide cycle paths and eco car chargers. Cllr Wilcox is cabinet member for waste and recycling and is responsible for our bins and recycling. Their mission is to be carbon neutral by 2030. They are looking to hold a climate summit at the end of September in Lichfield Cathedral.

They are launching a new recycling campaign, aiming this at children, with the outcome that this filters back home, encouraging parents to join the recycling campaign. Currently no recycling goes to landfill, it

is all incinerated. Council tax has increased due to the decreased amount of money received from Central Government. Everyman Cinema are to put a 4 screen cinema into the old Debenhams site, along with 3-4 food and beverage establishments too. Also there is a possibility of a food and beverage operation on the roof top of the building. The old Tempest Ford site has been sold to developers for high end city living apartments. There are plans to refurbish the bus station site. The bus stops will be relocated across the road near to the railway station. Planning permission has now been granted to build the new leisure centre at Stychbrook Park. Cllr Wilcox holds the position of County Councillor for Health and Care where his main responsibility is for care homes and safe guarding of adults. As a Ward Councillor he and Cllr Sonia Wilcox are supporting a proposal from residents to improve the Canal Towpath – an HS2 grant may be sought.

23/109 – Variation to the Order of Business – (1 min)

RESOLVED: Items 23/112 and 23/118 from the agenda were brought forward for discussion. AGREED unanimously.

23/110 – A representative from Open Gardens will give an insight into the group. – (5 mins)

Sandy Carruthers gave an insight into the Open Gardens Group. The group started in 2018 as a not for profit group with 10 gardens and has now grown to 16 gardens. Their popularity was overwhelming to begin with. All surplus funds have been donated to various local clubs. They are responsible for planting the daffodils in the village. Instead of holding an Open Garden event this year they are looking at a seed exchange programme in October, looking to encourage everyone from the community to engage with each other by swapping their seeds from their own gardens. Open Gardens are looking for more members and are keen to collaborate with Fradley Parish Council. The Clerk is to liaise with Open Gardens.

23/111 – A representative from AFC Fradley, Darren Peck will give an insight into the group. – (5 mins)

Darren Peck gave an insight into AFC Fradley. AFC Fradley held their first soccer camp on May 7th 2022, with over 100 footballers, started an FA-approved Wildcats centre for girls only 5-11 years old in July 2022, since then they regularly have 20 girls playing each week. They had 7 teams in local leagues in 2022, increasing to 20 teams in 2023 and are aiming to have 30+ teams in 2024. They have Disability teams with an FA-approved Comets centre for footballers with SEN, and autism. They are leading a campaign to Get More Girls and Women into Football. They are starting Futsal (indoor 5-aside football). They have a currently playing Women professional footballer as their Director of Football and have the best input and real-life experience for their footballers. All of their coaches are FA-qualified and hold safeguarding first aid qualifications.

They are a Two Star-accredited Football Club with the Football Association. They have set up AFC Fradley Community charity - working to improve the community with 600+ people in the football community, most of whom want to help. They are working with the local schools, church, dementia home, village hall and community centre. With support from local authorities, they would like to hold open sessions in Fradley on the community pitches in the summer. AFC Fradley would like to see the MUGA resurfaced with an all-purpose surface and floodlit.

23/112 – Discuss contributions to the fire escape and fences along the boundary of the FYCC. – (5 mins)

RESOLVED: Item deferred. It was discussed that more information was required before an informed decision could be made. AGREED: unanimously.

23/113 – To confirm the minutes of the Fradley Parish Council meeting held on 15th February 2024 – (1 min)

RESOLVED: The draft minutes of the Fradley Parish Council meeting held on 15th February were approved and signed as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Cllr Ashcroft, Seconded: Cllr Gilmore. AGREED unanimously.

23/114 – Consider exploring the logistics, practicalities and cost of producing a Parish Council newsletter. – (2 mins)

RESOLVED: *The Council would like to explore the logistics and practicalities of producing a newsletter. This will be handed over to the Engagement Group if a decision to proceed is made. Proposed: Cllr Bown, Seconded: Cllr Deathridge. AGREED unanimously.*

23/115 – Consider the adoption of the proposed Biodiversity Policy and decide which actions need to be implemented from it through the coming year. – (5 mins)

RESOLVED: *The Council adopted the proposed Biodiversity Policy. The Environment Group are to carry out the proposed action plan and will report back in the October meeting. Proposed: Cllr Deathridge, Seconded: Cllr Leytham. AGREED unanimously.*

23/116 – Consider the adoption of the proposed Grants Policy and decide which actions need to be implemented from it through the coming year. – (3 mins)

RESOLVED: *The Council adopted the proposed Grants Policy. This will form part of the Engagement Group's responsibilities. Proposed: Cllr Bown, Seconded: Cllr Ham. AGREED: 6 Councillors for, 3 Councillors against.*

23/117 – Consider the key points from Councillors meeting with Barrett's and what actions should arise from the meeting. – (5 mins)

It was discussed that it was a positive meeting overall. The main concerns are around how community use will be organised and guaranteed once the Pavilion, and pitches are handed over to the Management Company.

23/118 – Consider the key points from Councillors meeting with Bellway and what actions should arise from the meeting. – (5 mins)

It was discussed that it was a positive meeting overall. It appears there are differing accounts referring to the backstory of the lake that is owned by Evans.

23/119 – Working Groups and External Representative Reports:

a. Projects Group: Meeting 04.03.24

Cllr Evans updated the Council with the announcement that the S106 funding from LDC has been given approval. Special thanks were noted to Cllr Wilcox who lobbied on behalf of Fradley Parish Council to achieve this. The Projects Group have identified the key locations for bins, flower tubs and floral displays. Cllrs Ashcroft, Evans and Ham have been in contact with companies obtaining quotes and forging connections. The group are now ready to progress to the next steps.

b. Environment Group: Meeting 22.02.24 To include a monthly update on the Grounds Maintenance Contract.

The Environment Group have successfully awarded the Grounds Maintenance Contract after their meeting on 12.03.24.

c. Engagement Group: Meeting 12.03.24, meeting cancelled due to Councillor Training Course. To include an update on the Police Surgery. Cllr Leytham advised that they are currently working on the 3rd draft proposal of the Engagement Policy and they are hoping this is ready for the next meeting. Cllr Gilmore advised that the initiative with the Florette 10K run did not take place this year but they will organise it in advance next year. Cllr Gilmore will report back next month after he has made contact with the organisers. Cllr Deathridge informed us that preparations and publicity for the upcoming Police Surgery are doing well.

d. HR Committee: Election of an additional member. RESOLVED: Cllr Ham has been elected to the HR Committee. AGREED: unanimously.

e. Representatives:

- **CEMEX: Next planned meeting is 15.07.24.** Nothing to report at present.
- **HS2: Meeting 26.02.24** The Clerk attended the Zoom meeting, there was nothing of interest to report. Funding opportunities are still available.
- **Alrewas Charities: Meeting 01.05.24.** Nothing to report at present.

23/120 – An update from the Environment Group regarding the Beavers wild flower and tree area, how it will be designed and where this will be. – (5 mins)

AGREED: Cllr Ashcroft, Bown and the Clerk are to mark out the proposed area ahead of the next meeting.

23/121 – Consider cleaning the War Memorial and a sponsorship offer from a local offer in connection with this. – (3 mins)

RESOLVED: Item deferred. It was discussed that more information was required before an informed decision could be made. AGREED: unanimously.

23/122 – Consider arranging a meeting with Open Gardens Group to explore how we might work in partnership with them. – (5mins)

RESOLVED: It was agreed that a meeting with the Open Gardens Group be organised by the Clerk. Cllrs Ashcroft and Ham will attend. Proposed: Cllr Bown, Seconded: Cllr Deathridge. AGREED unanimously.

23/123 – Consider including the provisions of bus shelters in the village as an item on our future consultations with residents. – (5 mins)

RESOLVED: It was agreed that the Engagement Group consider this item and add it to their agenda when consulting with residents in the coming months. Proposed: Cllr Bown, Seconded: Cllr Gilmour. AGREED unanimously.

23/124 – An update from Cllr Beswick on the speed activated signs and a request for delegated authority for Cllrs Beswick and Bown along with the Clerk to work on an implementation plan on this project. – (2 mins)

Cllr Beswick informed that the proposal would now be for the purchase of 1 speed activated sign that is battery operated and mobile so that it can be used in various locations to acquire evidence of where and when vehicles are speeding. Once this has been finalised, it can then be converted to solar energy and used in the same way as the remaining signs, should they be purchased using the S106 monies now graded. The Council will need to gain permission from SCC to install such equipment. Cllr Wilcox informed us that Cllr Eagland can help in arranging a speed survey within the village.

RESOLVED: The Clerk is to arrange a meeting with Cllr Eagland, Cllr Beswick and Cllr Bown.

23/125 – An update from Cllr Ashcroft on the Fradley Heritage Society. – (2 mins)

Item deferred. Cllr Ashcroft could not attend the last meeting.

23/126 – Finance – (5mins)

- To consider the following payments, any payments required after publication of the agenda will be advised at the meeting.

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	POWER
February 2024			
Salaries, TAX,NIC	February Payment	3219.81	LGA 1972 s112 - 119
Claire Crompton	Expenses February	28.91	LGA 1972 s112 - 119

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	POWER
March 2024			
SJL Landscapes	Ground Maintenance Contract	1720.31	Open Space Act 1906 s9,10
D Beaumont	Handyman Contract	378.00	Open Space Act 1906 s9,10
Fradley Village Hall	Room Hire	123.25	LGA 1972 s111
Salaries, TAX,NIC	March Payment	4160.57	LGA 1972 s112 - 119
SLCC	Subscription	303.00	LGA 1972 s111
Glen Bown	Expenses – (13 ID badges)	65.39	LGA 1972 s111
Glen Bown	Expenses – Signs for GMC	61.80	Open Space Act 1906 s9,10
Claire Crompton	Expenses	69.98	LGA 1972 s111
ICO (DD)	Data Protection	35.00	LGA 1972 s111
Focus Group (DD)	Telephone Line	16.84	LGA 1972 s111
Tonks	Tree Surgery	3696.00	Open Space Act 1906 s9,10
Austen Prince	Payroll Services	845.00	LGA 1972 s111
LDC	Waste Bin Emptying	340.00	LGA 1972 s111
SCC	Contribution to the clearing of Church Lane Flooding	3088.91	LGA 1972 s111
Zurich	Insurance	1387.60	LGA 1972 s111

b. To note the following income:

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
National Grid	Payment	4.70

c. To consider the unaudited accounts from 01.04.2023 to 29.02.2024, including all supporting documents provided by the Clerk.

29.02.2024

Current Account	£279,851.66
Unpresented Payments	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL	£279,851.66

Cllr Bown brought to the attention of Councillors the need for a bank card to make payments for essential items by both the Clerk and Councillors, eliminating the need for personal funds and subsequent reimbursement through expenses. It was AGREED a limit of £500. The Clerk is to commence the application process.

RESOLVED: The Council approved the above payments and for the Clerk to commence the application process with the agreed limit of £500. AGREED: unanimously.

23/127 – Planning Matters– (5 mins)

N.B - Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Sched. 1, para.8 - Right to be notified of planning applications if right has been requested. The Parish Council is a non-statutory consultee within the planning process.

Receive and consider report from the Planning Advisory Group:

- a. **To determine any additional action required on the planning application information, from information circulated via email by officers in advance of the meeting.**
- b. Any planning application received after publication of this agenda will be advised at the meeting.

Application No.	Location	Proposal	Comments by
24/00112/FUL	The Laughing Duck Cafe, Fradley Junction, Alrewas, Burton Upon Trent	Retention of side canopies	Application Rec 12.02.24 Comment by 04.03.24 Extension Granted until 22.03.24
24/00261/FUH	10 Milne Avenue, Fradley, Lichfield	Erection of single storey front extension	Application Rec 04.03.24 Comment by 25.03.24

- c. **To note the outcome of the following planning applications for which the Council has made full comment : None received this month.**

RESOLVED: There are no comments to be made.

23/128 – Clerk Reports – (6 mins)

- a. Discuss the outcome of the in person training course delivered by the SPCA and discuss the next course available. **All Councillors were pleased with the training course and are keen to participate again in the near future.**
- b. Discuss the proposed date of the Annual Parish meeting (1st March – 1st June) **RESOLVED: The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on 16th May, prior to the Parish Council meeting. Proposed: Cllr Bown, Seconded: Cllr Gilmour. AGREED: unanimously.**
- c. To note that the Clerk has emailed SCC regarding Church Lane flooding and a date has now been set for the works to commence on 21.03.24 – 22.03.24. **Noted.**
- d. To note that to date there is still no update regarding the S106 bid. Cllr Bown has asked Cllr Wilcox to make enquiries regarding progress. **Noted, since publishing the agenda, confirmation has been received that funding has been approved.**
- e. A reminder of D Day and consider the purchase of a commemorative flag. **RESOLVED: The Parish Council will purchase 2 Flags and apply for the free portrait of the King. Proposed: Cllr Bown, Seconded: Cllr Deathridge. AGREED: by 8 Cllrs, 1 abstained.**
- f. As per the Handyman report, the Clerk requests authorisation to purchase 3 additional bags of bark. **RESOLVED: Under the Clerk's delegated authority, 3 additional bags of bark will be purchased.**
- g. To note the resignation of George Petrou. **Noted.**

23/129 – Identify how Fradley Parish Council has made Fradley a better place to live since the last full meeting? – (5 mins)

Over the past month, our efforts to improve the village have been evident through several key initiatives. The Ground Maintenance Contract has been awarded by the Environment Group. Our current Ground Maintenance Contractors have started the additional work of weed clearing and edging, making the village appearance better. After correspondence with LDC and on a subsequent discussion with Barratt

Homes, there has been some road sweeping in the village. The Police Surgery has now been set up, advertised and organised for 8th April. The Council has been given permission to repurpose S106 grants for a range of new projects.

23/130 – Date and time of the next Parish Council Meetings to be confirmed as 18th April 2024 at Fradley Village Hall commencing at 7.00pm. – (1 min)

RESOLVED: The Council approved the next Parish Council Meeting as 18th April 2024, at 7pm at Fradley Village Hall.

23/131- To consider a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960) to exclude members of the Public. – (10 mins)

- a. To note that the provision for the Clerk's pension has now been set up and back payments to September 2023 have now been made. ***Noted.***
- b. To ratify the Clerk's salary payment, including the Nest pension payment from February as payroll had not been received ahead of publication of last month's agenda and additional expenses. ***RESOLVED: The Council noted the payments missing from February's agenda.***
- c. Discuss the Ground Maintenance Contract Tender. ***RESOLVED: The Ground Maintenance Contract has been awarded to SJL Landscapes Limited based on the tender submitted on 08.03.24. Noted: Well done to the Environment Group for their success in awarding the contract.***
- d. Revoke motion 23/74 to allow consideration of extending the new ground maintenance contract term to four years. ***RESOLVED: Following the decision made regarding 23/131 c This motion was withdrawn.***

Meeting closed at 21.31pm