

FRAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the annual parish council meeting (AGM) held on the 27th May 2009

1. **Councillors present** were John Chappell (Chairman), Anne Wheatcroft, and Jill Vines.
Also present were John Peake MBE County Councillor, Mary Penfold MBE District Councillor, Simon Vines (clerk) and seven members of the public.
2. **Apologies** were received from Peter Barfoot and Cynthia Whyte.
3. **Co-option of new members**
 - 3.1. A motion to co-opt Stephen Hebb onto the parish council, proposed by John Chappell and seconded by Jill Vines, was passed nem con.
 - 3.2. Stephen Hebb signed the acceptance of office as a parish councillor.
4. **Election of Chairman**
 - 4.1. John Chappell, proposed by Jill Vines and seconded by Stephen Hebb, was elected chairman nem con.
 - 4.2. John Chappell signed the acceptance of office as chairman.
5. **Chairman's report**
 - 5.1. Parish Plan: The Parish Council (PC) has acted upon most of the issues raised in the plan but a couple still remain, in particular better communications. The PC would still like to set up an E-mail contact list to enable us to alert villagers of any urgent matters. However the response so far has been poor, and again I would urge villagers to supply the Clerk with their email address. The PC had intended to purchase a larger notice board solely for PC matters to be placed somewhere near the village centre but this has floundered because of siting problems. Likewise, provision of a bus shelter has also come up against the same problem.
 - 5.2. There were issues regarding radio and television reception in the Village but with the introduction of digital services this year these problems should be overcome, as everyone should be able to get good reception via FreeView, FreeSat or Sky. There is little prospect of an increase in Broadband speed in rural areas in the foreseeable future.
 - 5.3. Planning: We had thought that development at the Crockway pig unit had been dealt with but there are new issues regarding a replacement building and a slurry pit that are cause for concern. With the exception of this there has been no other contentious planning applications.
 - 5.4. A requirement of the PC's annual audit is to view deeds relating to its land ownership; this has caused some problems as finding them, even by the solicitors involved. To overcome this we have had all of our holdings registered with the Land registry
 - 5.5. Precept: We have not had to increase the precept for another year and again we have made a significant grant for Village hall improvements, however it may have to be increased next year.

- 5.6. Waste paper money: Money raised by the sale of waste paper continues to provide a substantial contribution to the fund for Village projects and the Parish Council is most thankful to John Watts efforts in undertaking this work.
- 5.7. A number of grants have been made from the fund in the past year including the Electronic Piano for the Frampton Footlights and Village Hall, the Barbecue and a grant for village hall improvements. However there is still a significant amount of paper etc put out in green recycling bags every other Monday that we could benefit from.
- 5.8. As some of you may know complaints were made to the Standards committee regarding the actions of two of your councillors. This set in motion a prolonged investigation by that committee, the outcome of which was that there were no breeches of the codes of conduct or of procedures as was believed at the time. However this is no consolation for the distress felt by those involved and by the rest of the council. I now understand why so few people are prepared to take up these tasks as anyone can make unfounded claims against them with impunity. All documents relating to this case are all marked 'Confidential' with dire consequences for divulging them, however they are freely available on the Dorset for You Website at: www.dorsetforyou.com/index.jsp?articleid=392129 From information about other such cases the cost to the taxpayer of this investigation is expected to be in the region of £10,000 to £15,000.
- 5.9. I was saddened that Councillor Everson decided to resign from the PC as his presence gave us a wider perspective on Village matters. However I respect his decision and take this opportunity to thank him for his work on the PC and all of the work he is doing for the benefit of the Village.
- 5.10. I also thank all of my fellow councillors, the Parish Clerk, Simon, and all others for the work and time they have put in to support the Parish Council.
- 5.11. A final thought is to remind the village that should the PC collapse for any reason its administration would be taken over by the District Council or possibly combined with other nearby villages. We would also lose control of the various funds such as the play area and waste paper money as well as other assets about the removal.
- 6. St Mary's School Charminster report by Joanne Holmes**
- 6.1. The school currently has 192 children on the school role in seven classes. The average class size is 28. 7% of the children are on the free school meal register.
- 6.2. There were a number of changes to the academic staff at the beginning of the academic year. Becky Riddell joined full-time to teach Oak class and Caroline Drysdale and Lynda Charles job share to teach in Beech class. Caroline has been teaching 2 mornings and every afternoon with Lyn the other 3 mornings. They have contributed well to the school this year and the job sharing in Beech class has worked extremely well. We also welcomed Jacqui Kirby and Belinda Bessant as teaching assistants, supporting various classes. Helen Timms has been working each morning in the school office. As the school has grown so has the amount of administrative support required and Helen has been able to take some of the strain off Jane this year. Suzanne Garner was awarded permanent deputy head teacher early in the Autumn term to replace Melanie Austin who is now head teacher at Broadmayne school.

- 6.3. In February the school had a very successful Ofsted inspection. The two inspectors were very impressed with all the children and staff and made many favourable comments about the school. The parents were each asked to complete an Ofsted questionnaire and the response rate was very high with many very positive reports on the school. The school was judged outstanding in every section. To be given this highest possible grading is a testimony to the dedication and hard work of the excellent staff in school and of course to the children. If anyone is interested the official report is available on line to read.
- 6.4. The breakfast club continues to go from strength to strength. In October a visit was made by a Local Authority monitoring officer who deemed it to be exemplary. In addition to the school Ofsted inspection, an extra Ofsted inspection was made to the breakfast club and it was awarded outstanding status. This is a tribute to both Helen Pegram and Sonia Newman who run it so successfully. Helen is now moving onto pastures new but Sonia will continue to run the club with two other popular teaching assistants.
- 6.5. A lot of work is done in school to help the children develop awareness and understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. St Mary's is now a Rights Respecting School, as identified by UNICEF and shows that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is at the heart of the core values of the school. The various aspects of the UNCRC are supported on a daily basis within the school but to further the children's understanding a Rights Respecting School day was held in the Autumn term. £150 was raised that day when the children paid to not wear school uniform. This money was sent to Children in Need.
- 6.6. The Christmas play was again an outstanding performance. Entitled jesus@bethlehemstable.com it was a modern take on the Christmas story. Again the school made use of the beautiful Herrison Hall at Charlton Down for one of the performances.
- 6.7. There have been various small building projects this year within the school. The first was a major change to the school library. A room was totally refurbished to allow the school to have a dedicated library. This has been painted by a number of parents and members of staff to make it a friendly and inviting place, particularly to the small children. All the school library books were replaced, as many of the old books were out of date and damaged. Finally a new hi-tech lending scheme was installed that allows the children to borrow books by simply stamping their thumb print on the computer screen. The other area to be developed is the small kitchen by the hall. This has been completely refitted to support the new school meals service, breakfast club and the food technology curriculum – not bad for such a small space. Hot school meals are due to start being served on Monday 11th May for the first time since the 1970's. We hope that they become popular with both the children and staff.
- 6.8. The children continue to partake in many activities within the school most too numerous to mention but a few examples include: Book week which raised over £600 for new books for the new library; Harvest assembly where the produce given by children is made into hampers and sold off to raise money for Water Aid; Operation Christmas child where over 100 shoe boxes were sent to Samaritans Purse; Various church services at St Mary's church including those at Christmas and Easter, DASP choral festival; After school clubs such as, computer, choir, French speaking, games, animation, country dancing and football.

7. Dates of meetings until May 2010

- 7.1. Parish Council meetings will be held on July 8th, September 9th, November 11th, January 13th, March 10th and May 12th. The Annual Parish Council meeting will be held on May 26th.

The meeting closed at 7:57pm

Open Forum

Peter Cox asked whether the council intended to hold a parish meeting. The chairman replied that, under the standing orders, the council was not obliged to hold a parish meeting and the clerk undertook to check this with the DAPTC and elsewhere.

Peter Cox also said that he thought that the agendas for the meetings on the village notice boards should be signed by the clerk and the clerk undertook to check this also.

Wendy Frampton reported that the play area was in good order and that the netting on the gates provided by Robin Eversden had stopped the dog fouling problems.

John Peake asked about speeding through the village and was informed that it was still a problem. The clerk undertook to ask the highway authority to raise the priority of the improvement of the Church Lane/A37/Long Ash garage junction in the light of the recent serious accident there.

John Peake stated that the county council now expected to recover at least 90% of the money invested in the Icelandic banks.

In response to a question from John Peake about flood wardens it was stated that the county council had refused to clear willow saplings from the ditch on the south side of the A356 at the eastern end of the village. Elsewhere they were, however, trimming hedges and cutting down during the nesting season.

Peter Cox said that the county council were clearing only the gullies on the main road, and that Church Lane and Southover were being neglected.

The open forum closed at approximately 8:13pm

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Sketch of the proposed Frampton bus shelter

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