

FRAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on the 13th May 2009

1. **Councillors present** were John Chappell (Chairman), Cynthia Whyte and Jill Vines.
Also present were PCSO Jacqui Allen, Simon Vines (clerk) and five members of the public.
2. **Apologies** were received from Cllrs Peter Barfoot and Anne Wheatcroft, and WDDC Cllr Mary Penfold.
3. In response to a question from a member of the public the chairman stated that according to the standing orders three councillors constituted a quorum.
4. **The minutes** of the parish council meeting on the 11th March 2009 were approved.
5. **Matters arising not covered elsewhere**
 - 5.1. The chairman expressed the thanks of the parish council to Robin Eversden for his input while he was on the council and regretted that he felt that he had to resign.
 - 5.2. The grant of £3800 to the Village Hall extension voted at the last meeting has been paid.
 - 5.3. The two large beech trees in the rectory garden adjacent to Church Lane that were said at the last meeting to be in a dangerous condition have been reported to the highway authority. The trees have been inspected by the authority and the tree nearest the church was found to be sound. The authority has corresponded with the landowner about the condition of the other tree which was, apparently, inspected in 2007 or 2008. The authority has requested a copy of the report.

6. Financial report

6.1. Balances:	Main a/c	£3353
	Paper a/c	£959
	Paper reserve a/c	£4291
	Play area a/c	£397
	Play area reserve a/c	£3583
	Clock a/c	£819

6.2. Receipts since 11th March 2009:

3/4/09	Allotment rents	Main a/c	77.70
6/4/09	VAT reclaim	Main a/c	246.92
16/4/09	Paper money	Paper a/c	374.35
24/4/09	Precept	Main a/c	2250.00

6.3. Expenditure since the 11th March 2009:

26/3/09	Grant to VH extension	Main a/c	3800.00
9/4/09	Clerks salary	Main a/c	285.26
9/4/09	Admin expenses	Main a/c	18.45
10/4/09	Clock fund	Main a/c	50.00
6/5/09	Frampton VN for 08/09	Main a/c	100.00
6/5/09	Grass cutting	Main a/c	94.00
12/5/09	Frampton VH rent for 08/09	Main a/c	48.50

7. Correspondence

- 7.1. A letter has been received from the DCC western highways office requesting parish councils to assist with the problem of overgrown hedges and trees obstructing footways and roadways. The highways office would like parish councils to approach the owners of offending hedges and trees to remind them of their obligations to keep paths and roads clear. It is hoped that this will reduce the number of complaints requiring formal action by the highways office. The clerk undertook to obtain a copy of the leaflet offered by the highways office.

8. Approval of expenditure

- 8.1. A proposal to pay Allianz £886.48 for the parish council insurance, proposed by Cllr Whyte and seconded by Cllr Vines, was passed nem con.
- 8.2. A proposal to pay the DAPTC subscription for 2009/10 of £150.58, proposed by Cllr Vines and seconded by Cllr Whyte, was passed nem con.
- 8.3. Proposals to pay the annual grants to the village news and the church clock fund were deferred because Cllr Whyte declared an interest in the village news and Cllr Vines in St Mary's PCC and the council was therefore inquorate.

9. Planning and tree applications

- 9.1. The clerk had contacted the planning authority about a rumoured closure of the bridleway at Townhill Farm. The closure was associated with an expansion of the caravan storage area which is currently the subject of a planning application. The authority was not aware of any plans to close the bridleway, and any diversion would be temporary while building works were in progress. There were no comments on the application itself.

10. Highways

- 10.1. The various drains in Church Lane and Southover Road have still not been cleared despite repeated requests to the highways authority. The pile of rubbish, left on the road for some months after the authority had cleared a drain at the bottom of Church Lane, has been removed by a local resident.
- 10.2. It was reported that there were holes in Tibbs Lane near Tibbs Hollow, and that the road sign for Sheridan Close needed repair or replacement. The clerk undertook to contact the highways authority.

11. Play area

- 11.1. Wendy Frampton said that the play area was popular at the moment and that she had even seen a supervised play group using it.
- 11.2. The 'dog-proofing' of the gates seemed to have been successful.
- 11.3. With the resignation of Robin Eversden another parish councillor will need to be appointed to the Play Area Committee. The play area account signatories will also need updating.

12. Allotments

- 12.1. The clerk reported that all the rents from the allotments had been received by the deadline at the end of March. For this year only the letting period is from the 1st April to the 31st October, thereafter the letting period will be for 12 months from the 1st November. There had been significant activity on the allotments and most of them were looking much better.
- 12.2. A meeting had been held by some of the allotment holders at which they decided to form a Frampton Allotment Society with a view to taking over the management of the allotments from the parish council. The society had suggested some changes to the allotment rules to the effect that dogs should be kept on short leads and bonfires should be allowed at any time of year. The society also reported that one of the allotments was

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not being cultivated. When contacted by the clerk the tenant of the allotment said that it was proving difficult to find time for the allotment and that if there was no improvement the allotment would be relinquished.

13. Village Green

13.1. The clerk undertook to find out whether there had been any progress on the registration and 'stopping-up' of the village green. The village green is the area of grass in front of the alms houses by the church which used to be, and legally still is, road.

14. Grass cutting

14.1. Wendy Frampton reported that the grass cutting by Jess Carver was satisfactory.

15. Parish Council vacancies

- 15.1. The parish council is now two short of its full complement of seven and the clerk reported that there had been no response to the advertisements of the vacancies in the village news, on the notice boards and on the Frampton website. There has been a vacancy since the election in 2007 because there were only six candidates, and another vacancy was created by the resignation of Robin Eversden. The parish council is obliged to fill the vacancy created by the resignation as soon as practicable.
- 15.2. The parish council quorum is three, and should the number of councillors fall below the quorum, a district councillor will be appointed temporarily to the council so that it can continue to function. If the situation continues and no new councillors come forward then the council will be dissolved and its assets distributed to the neighbouring parishes.
- 15.3. According to the returning officer at WDDC many parish councils have vacancies and advertisements are not effective, the parish council needs to identify likely candidates and persuade them to stand.

There being no other business meeting closed at 8:22pm

Open Forum

Several members of the public expressed dissatisfaction with the quality of the recent road works between Frampton and Maiden Newton, in particular, it seemed that some of the through-hedge drains ran uphill.

It was reported that the grass beyond the cemetery lay-by needs cutting and the clerk undertook to contact Jess Carver.

The council are cutting down trees in the bird nesting season and grass in the orchid season.

It was noted that Kevin Merritt had planted a fine display of daffodils along the verge by the rose nursery in Southover, and it was suggested that in the autumn the parish council should provide some daffodil bulbs for planting in Church Lane and elsewhere.

Peter Cox said that the cemetery was filling up and that the council should consider finding more land for the allotments.

The open forum closed at 8:33pm

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