

FRAMLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Highways, Rights of Way and Parking (H.R.P) Committee meeting held on Monday 13th February 2023 at 7pm in the Town Council Meeting Room

1. Election of Chair

Following the resignation of Cllr. Eastwood at the last meeting, Cllr. Eastwood proposed Cllr. Bennett to be the Committee's new Chair. This was seconded by Cllr. Dean and carried unanimously. Cllr. Bennett then proceeded to chair the meeting.

2. Present

Cllrs. Bennett (Chair), Benbow, Culemann, Dean and Eastwood

In Attendance

Lydia Kirk (Deputy Town Clerk) 1 resident joined the meeting for items 7.7 – 10. James Overbury (Town Clerk) and Cllr. Claire Rowell tried to join remotely but the connection was very poor and the meeting cut out repeatedly.

3. Clerk's Report

The Deputy Town Clerk introduced herself to the Committee and was pleased to confirm that she will now be responsible for clerking this Committee. January's meeting was cancelled and as this is the first meeting of the year, it is a good time to remind Councillors to delete any unnecessary emails to help ensure compliance with GDPR. The bicycle rack has arrived and been fitted outside The Castle Inn.

4. Declarations of Interest

None.

5. Minutes of previous meeting

Cllr Eastwood proposed accepting the draft minutes as an accurate record. This was seconded by Cllr Bennett with all in favour. (Ref: HRP-2023-02-13 1)

The Chair adjourned the meeting

6. Public Comment

There were no members of public present at this point.

The Chair reconvened the meeting

7. Highways

7.1 Update on requests to ESC/SCC

- 20mph zone- Cllr. Bennett referred to an email he sent recently to the committee, regarding road markings which give the illusion of the road narrowing as used in the Netherlands. This is a simple and cost-effective traffic calming method and he urged Councillors to consider this further.
Cllr. Dean remarked that the disabled bays on the Market Hill have faded and need re-painting.
ACTION DTC to report this to SCC Highways
- The requested Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras are due to visit the town in March.
- Taylor Wimpey Transport Strategy – there was no news to report on this.
ACTION DTC to contact ESC/SCC to ascertain where the bond funds are being held currently.

- Fairfield Road Traffic Lights – Works to repair the pavement should start on 24th February and last for 5 days. The traffic lights will then be removed which will be very-much welcomed by the town.

The DTC is in contact with County Cllr. Burroughes regarding a meeting with the new Community Liaison Engineer to discuss the above items and a date is awaited upon Cllr. Burroughes' return to work later this week.

7.2 Speed Indicator Device Reports

The two most recent sets of data was considered. Cllr Bennett commented on how pleasing it was that so few cars were driving in excess of the speed limit.

The DTC advised that a resident has reported a lorry repeatedly speeding at 2am in the morning, and this can be seen on the SID data. The resident will try to get the vehicle registration so this can be passed to the police for further action.

7.3 Water ingress at Pigs Meadow The lighting contractor has dug out the channels at the top of Pigs Meadow to help reduce the water ingress. This will be monitored again after heavy rainfall.

7.4 Market Hill parking lines The Town Clerk, Cllr. Eastwood and Cllr. Bennett are meeting with an East Suffolk Parking Officer tomorrow to discuss the new blue lines delineating parking spaces that must be paid for on the Market Hill, and establish a likely date for the works.

7.5 Quiet Lanes There was some discussion on the Quiet Lanes Project.

ACTION DTC to contact local councils who already have QLs in place for their feedback. This will be considered again next month when Councillors will have examined the proposed roads in more detail.

7.6 Report on Gritting

Four new volunteer gritters have signed up after a campaign on social media. Current gritters have been contacted and the database has been updated.

Some overstock salt for is kept at the cemetery and Town Council office in case of emergency.

7.7 Cllr. Dean raised concerns about the diversion during the recent road closure at Station Road for the bridge repairs. The official diversion route was very long so many vehicles including HGVs used Fairfield Road. He asked if SCC Highways could communicate with the Town Council prior to diversions, in order that local parking suspensions could be put in place in future. It was agreed to raise this with Cllr. Burroughes and the Highways Engineer at the upcoming site meeting.

The Chair asked Councillors if item 7.5 could be re-visited as the member of public who requested the Quiet Lanes was now at the meeting. This was agreed and the resident provided more information on his suggested sites for Quiet Lanes in and around Framlingham. Whilst he acknowledged that the success of the scheme in lowering speeds was limited due to the signs not being enforceable, he outlined several other positive outcomes from the scheme. He also produced a map showing the location of his proposed QLs, and explained how several linked up with existing QLs to provide networks of safer travel ways for pedestrians and cyclists.

7.8 At the recent residents' forum, concerns over pedestrian safety at the junction of Victoria Mill Road and Station Road were raised. Cars often make U-turns and the resident is worried that this is endangering pedestrians crossing this road here. Cllr. Eastwood commented that this has been looked at before under the Walkways Project when the Neighbourhood Plan was being produced. It was agreed to raise this issue with Cllr. Burroughes and the Highways Engineer at the upcoming site meeting.

8. Report from Cllr. Eastwood on January's Rights of Way Walk

The walk went well and despite it being cold, the rain held off. There were two new participants and most of the walkers returned to the Town Council offices for refreshments afterwards. Cllr Eastwood has suggested two dates for the next walk. The date will be confirmed by the walk leader and then publicised.

9. **Parking**

9.1 On Street Parking- A request for extra yellow lines on Double Street and Fore Street was raised again at the Residents' Forum. This has already been agreed with East Suffolk Council and they should provide a date when these works will be done by April.

Cllr. Cullemann asked if CIL money could be used to fund these yellow lines. The DTC will ask ESC, although it was noted that ESC has funds set aside for the Traffic Regulation Order.

9.2 Off Street Parking -Nothing to report

9.2.1 Parking revenue from Market Hill – two invoices totalling £4,081 have been raised and should be paid by East Suffolk Council shortly.

10. **Pedestrian Safety Initiatives**

10.1 Pembroke Road – These works commenced on 13th February and should be completed within 10 working days. Both the High School and College have been notified and it has been advertised in our newsletter and via social media. The first week of the works is during the half-term break which should minimise disruption.

10.2 Saxtead Road Correspondence from Saxtead Parish Council regarding resident support for pavement extension on Saxtead Road was considered. It was noted that 19 pupils from Saxtead attend the High School. Whilst the Council sees the merit in the scheme, it is likely to cost over £150,000 and the Town Council does not have the funding for this. The initial traffic survey would be £1,500 and CIL funds cannot be used for this.

ACTION Cllr. Eastwood will draft a response to Saxtead Parish Council advising as such.

11. **Lighting**

11.1 Progress of dark spots in the town

The Contractor hopes to get the domes added to the low-level lighting at Pigs Meadow and the light at The Fens installed by the end of the month. Cllr. Bennett proposed choosing the Contractor's first lighting option for The Fens due to its height and it looking the most robust. This was seconded by Cllr. Eastwood and carried unanimously. (Ref: HRP-2023-02-13 2)

11.2 Castle Car Park- The Town Clerk is meeting with the Manager of Framlingham Castle later this week to discuss lighting options and logistics. Discussions with Historic England, who also needs to give consent, can then continue.

11.3 FTC owned street lights – The SCC contractor has visited lamp 502 at Danforth Drive but it was working when he attended it. However, Cllr. Williamson has reported a problem with it since then. The DTC will raise it with the company who installed the lighting originally. The DTC is continuing to chase the Council's insurance company regarding the lamp damaged by a car in Brook Lane at the beginning of the year.

11.3.1 Street Lighting Maintenance Contract The Town Clerk has been in contact with Electric Avenue regarding this and they provide as pay-as-you-go contract.

ACTION DTC to ask Clerk for more details on this, including the costs, and whether a quotation from the company who installed the lights is available. Also to look to obtaining a third quotation.

11.3.2 Street lighting electricity contract from April 2023 onwards. Cllr. Williamson is in liaison with a company who bulk buys power for many other Councils locally. He is getting our MPANs from UK Power Networks. Then the estimated power usage can be used to obtain a quotation. Cllr Dean recalled that the TC had previously committed to purchasing electricity from green providers where possible. Cllr. Bennett wondered if the street lamps could have solar panels installed to remove the need to pay for any electricity moving forwards.

ACTION DTC to liaise with Clerk to see if any other quotations have been received. Also to ascertain how urgent this is- will the contract continue on a month-by-month basis after March or will the lighting be disconnected? Due to the tight timeframe, this will need agreeing at the next FTC meeting at the beginning of March.

Cllr. Cullemann had to leave the meeting at this point.

11.3.3 The quotation for two flood lights at the Church was considered. Cllr. Bennett proposed accepting the quotation, with a 3,000kelvin specification in order to make the lighting as warm as possible. This was seconded by Cllr. Eastwood and carried unanimously (Ref: HRP-2023-02-13 3).

12. Correspondence received

Framlingham College has written expressing safeguarding concerns for pupils using the pedestrian crossing at College Road. Cars frequently do not give way to pedestrians and they would like the crossing to be upgraded to one with traffic lights to help ensure that vehicles stop.

ACTION DTC to contact SCC Highways and ask how this can be done.

A resident has requested more signage to slow traffic approaching Vyces Road from Brook Lane as visibility for vehicles at the Vyces Road junction is impaired.

ACTION This will be added to the list of items to discuss with the Highways Engineer at the site visit.

A resident living at the narrowed section of College Road, south of the Mount Pleasant junction, was recently severely endangered when they left their house and a vehicle had mounted the pavement here.

ACTION DTC to contact SCC Highways to see if safety railings can be installed here.

13. Action Plan 2022-2023 There was no progress to report on this.

ACTION The chair and the DTC will discuss this before the next meeting and it will be placed higher up the next agenda.

14. Councillors Reports or Items to be Raised at the Next Meeting

Cllr. Bennett reported that he will be writing a paper on alternative traffic calming schemes, such as that referred to at item 7.1. Cllr. Benbow offered to take photographs of the painted traffic calming measures on his next trip to the Netherlands and enquire about their efficiency. This can then be raised with SCC Highways, the local MP and the EADT for their comments.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed as Monday 6th March. There being no further items of business, the chair closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

Signed

Chair of Committee

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Date