

Framlingham Town Council



Minutes of Meeting of Highways, Rights of Way and Parking (H.R.P) Committee held on Monday 21st August 2023 at 7pm in the Town Council Meeting Room

1. **Cllr. Bennett welcomed everyone to the meeting.** There were no apologies for absence.
2. **Present**
Cllrs. Bennett (Chair), Culemann, Dean, Eastwood and Wraight.
In attendance
Lydia Kirk (Deputy Town Clerk)
3. **There were no declarations of interest.**
4. **Cllr. Culemann proposed accepting the draft Minutes of the meeting of 12th June 2023 as an accurate record of the meeting.** This was seconded by Cllr. Eastwood with one abstention. **(Ref: HRP-2023-08-21 1).**
Public Forum There were no members of public in attendance or online.
5. **Highways**
 - 5.1 Councillors considered the need for additional brackets for the SID and solar panels, to make moving the machine between the 5 different locations easier and quicker. Four additional SID and solar panel brackets would cost £804.
The Clerk has visited each location with the local Highways Liaison Engineer and 3 out of the 5 poles are sufficiently high, but two will need 4.5 metre poles to give the clear distance that is required between the base of the SID and the pavement.
Confirmation from the SID manufacturer of the required pole diameter is awaited. When this is received, the Council will know if all 5 poles will need replacing and will know the total cost of the poles. For each location that requires a new pole, a fresh application must be made to Suffolk County Council for a licence. It was noted that there is £2,160 remaining in the Ear Marked Reserve for the SID project. Cllr. Eastwood proposed deferring a decision on this until the full costs were known, with a view to any recommendation then going to the full Council in October. This was seconded by Cllr. Bennett and carried unanimously. **(Ref: HRP-2023-08-21 2)**
 - 5.2 The Town Clerk, the DTC and Cllr. Eastwood met with an ESC Parking Services Officer on 16th June. The change to East Suffolk's Council in May has resulted in delays in the progression of the town's TRO consultation. The Officer advised gaining the support of the new District Councillors for the proposals. He will then meet with them to see how this can be progressed. The District Councillors have seen the proposals and D.Cllr Langdon-Morris has chased the ESC Officer for progress.
 - 5.3 At the quarterly meeting with Cllr. Burroughes and the Highways Engineer it was confirmed that sadly, SCC will not be able to proceed with the visual chicane project in Framlingham. They thanked the Town Council for their work to date and for ascertaining the specifications of the Dutch road paint. However, this paint is not up to the UK's skid resistance requirements.
ACTION DTC to respond to SCC that red road markings are used at Gatwick successfully despite heavy use and seek their response to this.
 - 5.4 A request for a dropped kerb at Station Road near the bridge was considered. Cllr. Eastwood proposed the Committee support the request. This was seconded by Cllr. Bennett and carried with one abstention **(Ref: HRP-2023-08-21 3).**
ACTION DTC to seek County Councillors support for the scheme and report back to the resident.
 - 5.5 **The problem of vegetation encroaching pavements and footpaths across the town was discussed.** Cllr. Wraight expressed concern about the upkeep of several areas across the town and stressed the need for a sustainable maintenance plan moving for the future. The DTC has

applied for help clearing these areas under the Community Payback Service but at a site meeting today, it was confirmed that the scheme cannot be used for any tasks on, or near, a highway. It was noted that Framlingham College will be clearing overgrowth at The Elms car park on 22nd September. A group of residents has begun weekly clear-up sessions to remove vegetation, soil and litter from the pavements and road edges around the centre of the town. The Town Council can only get involved with pavement clearing if it receives a licence under the Community Self-Help scheme, carries out a risk assessment and has the trained, scheme-registered volunteer on site. The Town Council could also consider employing someone to tidy the town and sweep the roads etc. The Lands Committee will discuss the upkeep of the town and how to ensure it is kept tidy when considering the G& P contract in the autumn.

Cllr. Wraight suggested that Town Councils should work together to tackle the issue and to find out how other Councils are keeping their towns tidy. A group of Councils could join together to confront the County Council who should be responsible for highways weeding and cleaning but is not doing enough.

ACTION DTC to look into how frequently drains are flushed across the town and how much it costs each time for a road sweeper.

5.6 A request, raised by two residents, for a concealed entrance sign to be placed on the Dennington side of College Road before the bend near Seagrave Place was considered. It was noted that Cllr. Burroughes has given his approval to the scheme but does not have the budget to finance it. **ACTION** DTC to establish costs of the sign and see if the Town Council would be able to fund it, and also to see if this could be funded by Cllr. Burroughes in the next financial year.

6. Lighting

6.1 The quotation for adding an extra lamp to two posts at Fairfield Crescent was re-considered in light of Cllr. Eastwood's night-time visit to the site. Cllr. Eastwood did not deem any additional lighting necessary and did not think the current lighting posed any safety risks. As such, Cllr. Bennett proposed the Committee does not support this request. This was seconded by Cllr. Eastwood and carried unanimously (**Ref: HRP-2023-08-21 4**).

ACTION DTC to report back to the resident who requested the extra light

6.2 Various replacement lighting domes for Pigs Meadow were considered.

ACTION Cllr. Eastwood will look into alternative flat covers ahead of the next meeting.

6.3 Quotations for lighting at the Fairfield Road entrance to The Fens were considered. Cllr. Bennett proposed asking Sunlite to carry out an on-site survey. This was seconded by Cllr. Cullemann and carried unanimously (**Ref: HRP-2023-08-21 5**).

7. Correspondence received was considered.

The possible reintroduction of the 482 bus service between Framlingham and Diss has been advertised on our website and the Facebook Community Page. The DTC has fed the responses back to Suffolk County Council, in advance of their tight deadline.

An email from PJA offering Transport Management Plans as recently conducted at East Bergholt was noted.

Suffolk County Council's response to the report regarding the hazardous raised step at Fore Street was noted. They are considering what action to take, which could include monitoring the location or requiring the property owner to remove the step.

An email of concern regarding the parking up Mount Pleasant was noted.

ACTION DTC to reply stating that the Town Council is not authorised to place no-parking cones here, but our concerns regarding the verge erosion and loose cables will be reported to SCC.

A request from a resident for a hedgehog warning sign to be placed at Brooke Lane following two hedgehogs being run over here in the past week was considered. The sign would require the support of Cllr. Burroughes and to be funded by him.

ACTION DTC to contact Cllr. Burroughes in this regard and report back to the owner.

A notification of suspended parking on five roads across the town for The Tour of Britain cycle race's visit from 11.30am-1.30pm on Thursday 7th September was today received and will be shared with residents shortly.

Three separate residents have complained about a very noisy loose grate on Pembroke Road that is causing distress to residents, including one who has a learning disability and another who is a shift-worker who is struggling to sleep during the day. This has been reported to SCC, the local Highways Engineer and Cllr. Burroughes but, after a site visit, SCC has confirmed that it will not be carrying out any further action as it is not dangerous.

ACTION Cllr. Dean will investigate disability discrimination legislation and draft a response with the DTC.

A resident has asked what can be done to improve pedestrian safety at the junction of Mount Pleasant and College Road amid concerns that it is very dangerous for children crossing this road to and from school. The DTC has met with the Highways Liaison Engineer to discuss options. He suggested a traffic survey was carried out, which would be the initial step required to get a pedestrian crossing here. However, Cllr. Eastwood confirmed that the Town Council has tried several times for a crossing and been told this site is not suitable. The most recent attempt was within the past two years.

Correspondence from SCC asking Town Councils to check their grit bins are in good condition, accessible and clear of weeds ahead of the October re-fill was noted.

ACTION Councillors will check grit bins that are near their houses and weed them as necessary, then report to the DTC who will check the remaining bins.

A resident has asked how the Town Council will support the volunteers who are conducting the Monday evening clean ups. This was discussed at length. Suggestions on whether refreshments could be offered or whether the Town Council could dispose of collected rubbish were considered. However, it was agreed that it is difficult for the Town Council to get involved in any manner when these individuals are working on the road with no insurance, risk assessments or approval from Suffolk County Council.

ACTION Cllr. Dean and the DTC to form a response to the resident advising them of such.

After a complaint about the overgrown hedge across the path between The Elms car park and Bridge Street, the DTC wrote to the two closest residents, but it does not belong to them. Cllr. Eastwood advised that he thought Flagship Housing was responsible for it. **ACTION** DTC to contact them asking them to cut the hedge off the path.

8. Items to be raised at the next meeting:

- Covers for Pig's Meadow lights
- Outcome of Fens light site survey
- Total price for SID buckets and posts for consideration

9. The Chair will write his meeting notes with a view to sharing with Councillors before the weekend for comments.

10. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 11th September. There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.47pm.

Signed

Chair

Date