

FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

1st April 2023

to

31st March 2024



LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
QUALITY

Our Councillors



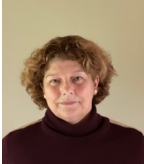
Richard Watts,
Chairman
01362 681917



Russell James,
Vice Chairman
01362 687148



Gerry Taylor
07711 082373



Emma Spratt
01362 687791



Andrew Lake
01362 687537



James Sheringham
01760 722159



Katharine Robinson
07760 669169

We are pleased to say that all seven councillors stood for re-election in May 2023 and were duly elected as Parish Councillors for Fransham.

Our Staff

Sheryl Irving, Parish Clerk & RFO

01362 667756

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



As usual I would like to thank the Vice-Chair and Clerk for their support and assistance through the last year. I would also like thank the council for voting me into the position.

I am pleased to say that we have a stable council with no changes to our members to report. Although all the places on our Parish Council are currently filled, I am still keen to find the prospective Parish Councillors of the future so if you are in any way interested, please get in touch through our Clerk.

The Clerk is doing a very good job administering the ongoing requirements to maintain the Local Council Quality Award, something the council are proud to hold.

The Fransham Facebook page is keeping residents up to date and is a useful tool to spread the word on relevant information, if there is anything you would like the wider community to be aware of then please contact the administrator who will be happy to post information for you. I would like to thank Councillor Robinson for her continued efforts in keeping the information up to date. Although she is doing a great job, I am sure she would welcome support so if you would like to assist her, please get in touch.

I am sure you will have noticed that the trod has been through improvement work. A thank you must be given to our County Councillor who has assisted with the funding. I am sure you will agree that the work has made a big difference, however we are still aware that there are a few issues with drainage, a resolution will be on the agenda.

We are still pushing National Highways on the possibility of installing a crossing and extensions to a pavement on the A47, something that we unanimously agreed would be of benefit to all the community and their safety.

After a few disappointments with the grass cutting services, I am pleased to report that we now have a contractor who is doing a good job in keeping the areas of responsibility nicely maintained and look forward to an ongoing service from them. We have also instructed cleaning of the bus shelters which suffer from traffic grime

off the A47, they look much better and should last a great deal longer. The other assets that the council have a responsibility for are regularly checked for their condition, any matter in need of attention is highlighted to the council for discussion. Normally any rectification is done by members of the council in their own time; on behalf of the community I would like to thank the councillors for their time and help to keep the parish assets in a good state.

The orchard trees planted on the Village Hall field unfortunately succumbed to a dry summer last year. Thanks to personal effort of members of the council and with funding secured by the Clerk in the form of a grant, we now have new trees. Thank you to all involved.

The website is still going strong, it is a great source of information regarding the Parish with lots of interesting reading. It is the council's portal to present information with agendas, minutes, notices, and articles about the parish so if you have a few spare minutes, it is worth a look. If you have an article you would like to share, please feel free to liaise with the Clerk who I am sure will be happy to post suitable material for you.

Planning, as always, has a regular spot on the agenda. This is our opportunity to discuss and agree any comment we have on applications and submit the view of the council before the application is decided on by Breckland Council. However, this isn't necessarily just our opinions. During each meeting we have time allocated for the views of the public on planning and any other subject to be considered prior to our Planning discussion. Remember it is your voice we will bring forward for discussion.

As chair I would like to thank the members of the council who freely give up their own time to act on the behalf of the community. Each member of the Council has gone beyond their obligations and put in extra effort to help the parish.

Finally, I would like to use the words I signed off with last year and to reinforce the point that we are representatives of the community. We all give freely our time to ensure the community has a voice. It is your views, comments, and questions that we are here to listen to and act upon.

Richard Watts
Chairman

What we did during the year

- We have engaged with National Highways to try to have a pedestrian crossing across the A47 and an extension of the pavement from Spicer's Corner. This was as a result of suggestions from parishioners to the village survey carried out in 2022.
- We continued to push Norfolk County Council to improve the quality of the tarmac on Station Road and this work has been completed.
- We dealt with fly-tipping and installed signage in the worst offending area in the village.
- We have arranged for new SLOW's to be painted on the road, to slow traffic and improve highway safety.
- We adopted a biodiversity policy to conserve and enhance biodiversity in the Franshams. We welcome any ideas from parishioners.
- We repaired the bench on the Station Road/Beeston Road junction.
- We have set up a contract to have the two bus shelters cleaned four times a year.

- We have engaged with Breckland and National Highways to have a litter bin installed in the A47 layby, near the Village sign.
- Many highway issues were reported to the relevant agencies and monitored to ensure they were completed. These included flooding, pothole repairs, pavement maintenance etc.
- We continued to push Norfolk County Council for a 30mph speed limit on Crown Lane which has limited refuge for pedestrians.
- We continue to engage with Vattenfall (now RWE) in respect of the Community Fund which may allow us to take forward some of the suggestions arising from the village survey.
- The dedication plate on the Village Sign will be replaced and the plinth repaired.
- We contribute to planning matters to ensure our village voice is heard at Breckland.
- We continue to serve our community as best we can and make a real difference in the lives of the people that live here. We always welcome their attendance at our Council meetings which are normally held at 7.00pm on the third Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November.

Looking Ahead—Our priorities for 2024/25

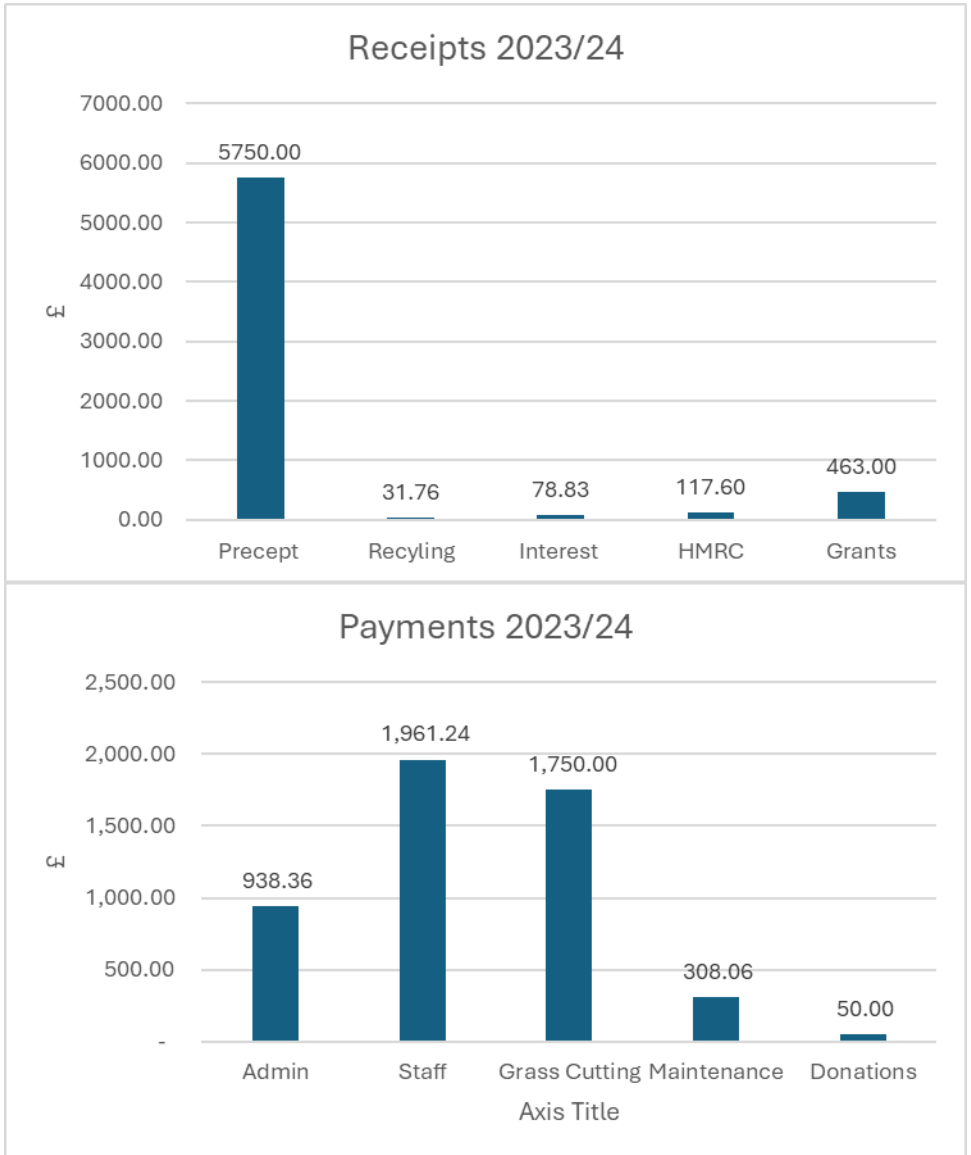
- To continue to engage and secure the best possible outcome for our community in respect of the Community Fund, taking forward many of the suggestions raised in the Village Survey.
- To continue to engage with National Highways to ensure a pedestrian crossing is installed on the A47 and the pavement from Spicer’s Corner is extended to meet up with the public footpath.
- To continue to ensure Fransham is well maintained, both by the Parish Council and other agencies where appropriate.
- To continue to push for a 30mph speed limit on Crown Lane.
- To continue to engage with the local community and encourage community connectivity.

**For all our up-to-date news please
visit our website:**

www.franshampc.info

Finance

Where our funds come from and what it is spent on.



Admin includes insurance, office supplies, subscriptions, website etc.