

FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Fransham Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st July 2026 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Richard Watts (Chair)
Cllr James Sheringham
Cllr Jessica Jones
Cllr Gerry Taylor

District Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received from Cllrs Howells and Spratt were approved.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none declared.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19th May 2026.

Cllr Watts proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Taylor and unanimously agreed by Council. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

4. To receive County/District Councillor reports.

District Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported that food waste bins will be delivered in August to all households, with weekly collections commencing in September.

The Local Plan consultation will start on 31st July and run until 16th September 2026. A national scheme of delegation will commence in October and most applications will then be dealt with by a delegated officer.

Electrical items can once again be taken to the recycling centres but cannot be left out with the bins.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Kiddle-Morris for his input.

5. Open Forum for Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present.

6. Highway Matters.

a) To receive updates in respect of issues previously reported.

Council noted the following updates.

- Loose drain covers on A47 – reported to National Highways. Cllr Watts will check how many remain loose.
- SLOWS (x4) – awaiting works – Highways have been chased up.
- Hedgerow opposite trod on Station Road – reported to Highways and now cut back but the signs remain obscured and will be reported.
- Dereham Lane – large potholes reported to Highways and programmed for repair.
- Spicers Corner – a pothole reported to Highways and works programmed.
- Village Hall layby – potholes reported to Highways and now repaired.
- Installation of H-Bars at locations on Station Road and Spicers Corner – awaiting works – Highways have been chased up.
- Installation of 5 x 'Caution Horse' signs – awaiting works – Highways have been chased up.

b) To receive an update on request to National Highways for a pedestrian crossing on the A47.

Council noted that a brief for the study bus stop improvement study was due to be issued and a programme developed to see if there is a need for a crossing in Little Fransham. An update will be requested.

c) To receive an update regarding the extension works to the trod.

Council noted that the works should be carried out in the current financial year.

7. Planning Matters.

a) New Applications.

There were no new applications to consider.

b) Decisions Due.

Council noted that no decisions had been made on the following applications.

- PL/2025/0998/FMAJ – land at Dykewood Farm, Beeston - proposed construction of ground mounted solar panel arrays and associated infrastructure (Scoping opinion application withdrawn).
- PL/2025/1763/OMIN – land at Kirkhams Meadow, Lt Fransham - outline application with all matters reserved except for access for 3 no. dwellings with associated garages and garden amenity space.

c) To receive an update regarding the Breckland Local Plan.

This item had been dealt with at item 4 above.

8. To receive an update regarding the proposed local solar farms and any update from the George Freeman, MP, solar farm steering group.

D/Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported that The Drovers is currently with the Planning Inspectorate. Breckland has asked that the cumulative impact of this application, together with High Grove, be considered. The MOD has objected on the grounds of glare and radar interference.

In response to a question in respect of the water supply required for these sites, given we are a dry region, the D/Cllr said that Anglian Water has objected and will not allow industrial access to water.

In response to a question regarding landscape mitigation at Necton, the D/Cllr said that they have an obligation to replace any trees which die within five years of being planted.

9. To receive a report regarding Statkraft grant funding for Fransham.

In the absence of Cllr Howells, there was no update other than Cllr Sheringham reported the closing date for applications is in August.

10. To receive a report and to consider any issues arising from the regular inspections of council assets.

The Chairman reported that all was in good order, other than the two benches which may require some maintenance. Cllr Taylor will inspect both benches and advise.

11. To receive an update regarding the plaque on the Village Sign and to consider new plaques for the bus shelters.

Cllr Taylor reported that work on the Village Sign is now complete. He had an example of 'traffic light plates' for possible use at the bus shelters and will obtain a quote for consideration at the next meeting.

12. To receive an update regarding the installation of a second defibrillator in the village.

The Chairman said that the Noon Gun was due to open shortly and, once the owners have had a chance to settle in, he will then approach them.

13. To receive an update regarding improvements to the appearance of the village.

Cllr Taylor suggested planting some lavender bushes around the Village Sign, which would be good for both the appearance and the bees. National Highways will be approached for permission.

14. To consider how to achieve a greater use of the parish magazine.

In the absence of Cllr Howells, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

15. Finance & Governance Matters.

a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2027.

The financial report (attached) was noted.

b) To consider approval of the following payments and note any receipts.

Cllr Watts proposed approval of the following payments, this was seconded by Cllr Taylor and unanimously agreed by Council. The receipt was noted.

PAYMENTS

P7	Clerk – Salary & Allowance (June)	£157.92 (SO)
P7	HMRC – PAYE	£37.00
P8	Bus Shelter/Sign Cleaning	£150.00
P9	Clerk - Salary & Allowance (July)	£157.92 (SO)
P9	HMRC – PAYE	£37.00

RECEIPTS

Bank Interest	£22.34
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16. Correspondence for circulation.

There was no correspondence for consideration.

17. To receive any new items for the next meeting.

There were no new items received.

18. To note the next meeting of Fransham Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 15th September 2026, at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Council noted the date of the next meeting and the Chairman then closed the meeting at 7.41pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL - YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2027
FINANCIAL REPORT - JULY 2026

BUDGET UPDATE	Actual	Budget	To	%		
	2024/25	2025/26	Date	Spend		
PAYMENTS*					Bank Balance at 01.04.2026	9,401.98
Admin	1,432	1,597	749.45	47%	Plus Receipts at 29.06.2026	3,356.01
Salary	2,164	2,310	739.68	32%	Less Expenditure at 29.06.2026	2,881.97
Maintenance	-	150	-	0%		9,876.02
Grass Cutting	1,372	1,764	-	0%	Balance at 29.06.2026	
Bus Shelters/Signs	600	525	150.00	29%	Community Current Account	2,048.96
Donations	50	50	-	0%	Business Savings Account	7,864.06
TOTAL	5,619	6,396	1,639.13			9,913.02
RECEIPTS				Received	Plus any outstanding receipts	-
Precept	5,750	6,500	3,250.00	50%	Less any outstanding payments	37.00
Bank Interest	130	30	22.34	74%		9,876.02
Recycling		20	-	0%	including:	
TOTAL	5,880	6,550	3,272.34		Highway Reserves	438.24
					GENERAL RESERVE	9,437.78
SURPLUS/DEFICIT		154.00	1,633.21			

*includes payments awaiting authorisation at this meeting as listed on the agenda.