



**Minutes of the Framdsen
Annual Parish Meeting
held on
Thursday 18th April 2024 at 7.30pm
at Framdsen Village Hall**

12 in attendance, including 6 Parish Councillors.

1. Welcome

Councillor Claire Macaulay welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

2. Receive apologies for absence

Matthew Hicks (County Councillor), Andy Chattell (Framdsen Fundraisers), Charlotte Bell (Village Hall Team), Christine Schofield (St Mary's Church), Brian Cox (Community Benefits Society), Jeannie Buckingham (Parish Tree Warden)

3. Agreement of Minutes of the Previous Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 20th April 2023

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2023 as a true and accurate record, were proposed by Councillor Dominic Vaughan, seconded by Councillor Nicola Whitmore, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED.** The Minutes were signed by the Chair and the Clerk

4. Matters arising from the previous Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 20th April 2023

None

5. To receive report from Framdsen Parish Clerk

The Clerk presented the report, which is available in full on the village website. Councillor Ian Seager commented that something that had not been mentioned in the report was that the Parish Clerk manages the Council's finances in accordance with financial regulations, has to satisfy external auditors, advises the council on governance, policies and procedures as well as producing comprehensive meeting minutes and that the Clerk should be thanked for this service. Councillor Seager also commented that what he appreciates the most about the Parish Council is the openness of its operations – the meetings are open for anyone to attend and observe, it is governed by a set of published policies and codes of practice and is accountable to all of Framdsen's parishioners. Councillor Seager asked that all of Framdsen's organisations consider a similar principle of openness, transparency and accountability.

6. To receive report from the County Councillor, Cllr Matthew Hicks

The full Annual Report from the County Councillor is available on the Framdsen village website

7. To receive report from the District Councillor, Cllr Nick Hardingham

The most recent reports received from the District Councillor are available on the Framdsen village website.

8. To receive report from the Village Hall Management Committee

Councillor Neil Mellor presented the report, which is available in full on the village website. Especial thanks to given to Councillor Ian Seager for the work he puts in to keeping the Village Hall grounds in good condition. The income from hall hire is good, a small dip was experienced in the wake of Storm Babet, but it is now back to normal. Thanks were also expressed to Charlotte Bell as she steps down from her role of cleaning the hall, a new cleaner is in place and the Team look forward to working with her. Thanks were also expressed to Erin Blewitt for organising the Village Hall Cleaning Party, which twice a year does a 'deep clean' to help the general cleaning procedures. A question was asked about whether the hall has regular income from hirers, or just ad-hoc. Councillor Mellor confirmed that there are currently four regular hires using the hall. A question was also raised about whether hall hire covered the cost of running the building during the year. Although exact figures for the running of the hall were not immediately to hand, overall the income from hall hire for

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..... (Chair of meeting authorising minutes)

Signed .

.(Clerk)

Signatures redacted as recommended at Audit 2025

this financial year is £1705, whereas at a rough estimate the hall costs just over £2K to run. This is where the supplementary income from the recycling bins at Peats Corner is so important.

9. To receive reports from Local Area organisations:

The following offered reports on their activities in the past twelve months, those that offered short reports are included below, longer reports can all be viewed on the village website www.framesden.onesuffolk.net under Parish Council/Annual Parish Meeting tab.

- a. Framsden Fundraisers – The full report is available on the village website – presented by Margaret Samain.
- b. Framsden Community Benefits Society (incorporating Framsden Pub Group) – The full report is available on the village website – presented by Patricia Mason. A question was asked about getting the various groups in the village to work together in terms of planning and community and it is hoped that the CBS will see itself as part of this group going forward to include as many people in the community as possible. This was acknowledged, but an explanation given that whilst delicate negotiations relating to the purchase of the building had been ongoing with the previous owner, it had not been realistically possible to share all the information, now that the pub is in community ownership this will no longer be an issue.
- c. Woodland Group – The full report is available on the village website – presented by Councillor Claire Macaulay. The report was compiled from Charlotte's blog and Councillor Macaulay encouraged everyone to go and look at this blog on the website to keep up to date during the year. A query was raised about a tree that is partially across a ditch and how this may affect water flow, Councillor Glenn Buckingham confirmed that it is on his work list to be sorted out.
- d. Table Tennis Club – The full report is available on the village website - presented by Councillor Ian Seager. A question was raised about contingency of how the club's funds would be accessed should the sole person on the mandate become unable to manage the finances. It was confirmed that this potential situation has been recognised and there are plans to get a second person on the mandate.
- e. St Marys Church – The full report is available on the village website – presented by the Parish Clerk.
- f. Framsden Baptist Church – No report received
- g. Village Tree Warden – The full report is available on the village website – presented by Councillor Claire Macaulay, who is also a Parish Tree Warden.
- h. Sustainable Framsden CIC – The full report is available on the village website – presented by Councillor Claire Macaulay. A question was raised about the 'free' EV charging points and Councillor Macaulay confirmed that it was the installation of the charging points that was free, they would not be offering free charging of vehicles to residents!

Councillor Ian Seager asked the two directors of Sustainable Framsden CIC who were present to confirm who they are legally responsible to, Councillor Macaulay explained that Sustainable Framsden CIC abided by the legal obligations governed by the Community Interest Company Regulator. Councillor Seager asked whether there were any shareholders in the company. Councillor Buckingham confirmed that there were no shareholders, it is only the Directors of Sustainable Framsden CIC who are responsible for decision making. Councillor Seager asked that bearing in mind there was some controversy over the proposed site of the renewable energy infrastructure how do the Directors intend to communicate to the community where their next proposal will be sited. Councillor Buckingham confirmed that there will be a report circulated to the community as a result of the recent consultation event, the Directors will then form a plan and hold further community consultation events, as evidence of community involvement is part of the CIC Regulations, but that ultimately any site would also be subject to a planning application submitted to the District Council for evaluation.

- i. Garden Group – The full report is available on the village website – presented by Margaret Samain.
- j. Any other organisations not listed above:

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..... (Chair of meeting authorising minutes)

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- i. Creative Group – a new group that only started at the beginning of April, only two sessions had been held so far – the report was presented by Margaret Samain.

4. Open forum for questions and discussion

Councillor Seager raised a concern about the number of organisations in the village that are reliant upon, or currently require volunteers:

- The Parish Council
- The Village Hall Team to manage and maintain the building, grounds and garden
- The Village Hall Cleaning Party
- The Parochial Church Council who manage and maintain the church and churchyard
- The Church Cleaning Team
- Framsdén Fundraisers and all the various activities they organise
- The Woodland Group
- Sustainable Framsdén CIC
- The Community Benefits Society, who will be refurbishing, managing and maintaining the newly owned community pub
- The Garden Group, who have been asked to plant, manage and maintain the pub garden.

The concern raised is that with Framsdén only being a small village of around 147 properties and less than 400 residents (with some being too young, too old or with their own interests and responsibilities), that there is a risk that there may not be enough long-term volunteers willing to come forward to maintain all these ventures in a sustainable way.

Although those present acknowledged this concern, Councillor Vaughan noted that there were a considerable number of people who do help out in an unofficial capacity at various village events and that with the re-opening of the pub as a community venture it may well bring more people into the village anyway, who then may want to become involved. Councillor Macaulay commented that the groups within the village are all looking at ways to work collaboratively and there are indeed more groups than even those listed by Councillors Seager, but where there's a will there's a way.

Thanks were given to everyone for attending and the meeting was then closed at 8.25 pm

Signed

..... (Chair of meeting authorising minutes)

Signed

(Clerk)