

Chair of the Council:
 Cllr Karon Willis
 39 Beech Close
 Brasside
 Durham
 DH1 5YB



Clerk:
 Richard Ormerod
 The Pavilion Building, Front Street
 Framwellgate Moor
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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Framwellgate Moor Parish Council held on Wednesday 3 January 2024 at 6pm at The Pavilion Building, Front Street, Framwellgate Moor, Durham, DH1 5BL.

1	Apologies for absence Apologies were received from Cllrs Charlton and Wilkes.
2	Declarations of interest and dispensation requests Cllr Moderate declared an interest in item concerning Front Street.
	<i>Standing Orders were suspended to receive a presentation from Mr Stephen Reed, Planning Development Manager at Durham County Council, on the Section 106 funding process</i>
3	Public participation (please notify the Chairman or Clerk in advance) Two members of the public from Bridgemere Drive addressed the council. Whilst welcoming the new traffic calming on Front Street, their concern was that the new speed bumps installed were creating excessive noise early in the morning, causing houses to shake and negatively affecting the health and wellbeing of residents. One resident had contacted Durham County Council in August 2023 but had had no response. <i>Resolved: That Cllr Hopgood take up the concerns as County Councillor and report back to residents and the parish council. The residents agreed to forward relevant emails to Cllr Hopgood.</i>
4	Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Council on 6 December 2023 <i>Resolved: To approve the minutes as a correct record, subject to the addition of the following text at item 6k: "It was noted that when Cllr Willis took over the preparation of council accounts during the period when the parish council operated without a Clerk, she received no training and followed the procedures set by the outgoing Clerk."</i>
5	Clerk's report on progress since previous meeting on any subject not on the agenda The Clerk reported that his illness during December 2023 had resulted in a backlog of work but that this was now being addressed. It was noted that the Scribe accounts system had a facility to create invoices. The view of the council was that this should be used for all invoices from 1 April 2024. <i>Resolved: To receive the report.</i> <i>Resolved: That the council use the Scribe system for creating all invoices from 1 April 2024.</i>
6	Parish matters and ongoing items (see below)
a	Planning applications Cllr Hopgood informed the meeting that the 4G sport pitches at New College Durham

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	would be going to the County Planning Committee at DCC for determination.
b	<p>County Councillors' reports</p> <p>Cllr Hopgood reported on Durham County Council's budget for 2024-25. There would be difficult choices needed in order to make the necessary savings.</p> <p>Cllr Hopgood was working with New College Durham to deal with issues around the 4G pitch and addressing concerns about traffic if it gains approval.</p> <p>Resolved: To receive the report.</p>
c	<p>Members' reports</p> <p>Cllr Wheeler wished to know how many household bins a property could have at one time.</p> <p>Cllr Moderate had concerns about possible illegal trading in the parish. The view of the council was that any possible illegal activity should be reported to the police or Trading Standards.</p> <p>Cllr Blenkiron said that traders on Front Street would appreciate an update regarding the bollards. A discussion took place on the "bus gate" by the Co-op. It was noted that the income received from fines does go to Durham County Council but is ringfenced for highway improvements. A discussion took place on the possibility of having a crossing installed on the nearby corner. Cllr Hopgood said that because people cross at different points it is difficult to make the case for a crossing at present.</p> <p>A discussion took place on possible renovations to the Pavilion building.</p> <p>Resolved: To receive the reports.</p>
d	<p>Groundsman's report</p> <p>Mr Thubron had previously circulated a written report.</p> <p>It was noted that the battery on the groundsman's vehicle had gone flat recently. It was thought that the management of the vehicle might need to change.</p> <p>Resolved: To receive the report.</p> <p>Resolved: That the Clerk organise a performance review for the Groundsman during the week of 15-19 January.</p>
e	<p>Memorial Garden</p> <p>The Chair informed members that funding had been received but things had not moved any further. The parish council had requested information from Durham County Council on up-to-date electricity costs.</p> <p>Resolved: That the Clerk follow-up the matter with Durham County Council.</p>
f	<p>Policy review</p> <p>Councillor Simmons had reviewed the council's policies on Effectiveness of Internal Audit, Conflict of Interest, Anti-fraud and Corruption Policy and the Social Media Policy.</p> <p>Resolved: To accept the policies as reviewed by Cllr Simmons.</p>
g	<p>Training</p> <p>The Clerk had circulated details of training available to members from CDALC in the early part of 2024.</p> <p>Resolved: That the Clerk continue to circulate to members information about available training. Members should contact the Clerk if they wish to attend any.</p>
h	Correspondence

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	There was none.
i	Urgent matters (Clerk to use delegated powers) and items for the next meeting of the council There were none.
j	Accounts <i>Resolved: That the accounts be signed.</i>
7	Financial matters <i>The following payments were approved:</i> BACS a) That the sum of £TBC be paid to Mr. Tim Thubron (Groundsman) b) That the sum of £TBC be paid to Mr. Richard Ormerod (Clerk) c) That the sum of £7.00 be paid to Lloyds Bank (service charge) d) That the sum of £TBC be paid to HMRC DIRECT DEBITS Regular Monthly Payments a) That the sum of £23.92 to be paid to EE b) That the sum of £50.00 to be paid to Durham City Youth c) That the sum of £313.88 to be paid to Alphabet Van Hire d) That the sum of £314.52 To be paid to Octopus Electric e) That the sum of £10.00 to be paid to O2 (CCTV sim) The following have been paid during December 2023: a) That the sum of £1,709.02 was paid to T Thubron (Groundsman) b) That the sum of £933.70 was paid to R Ormerod (Clerk) c) That the sum of £10.00 was paid to G Blenkiron (light bulbs) Receipts – that the following amounts be noted for December 2023: a) That the sum of £42.00 was received from WI (room hire) c) That the sum of £753.89 was received from HMRC (VAT)
8	Police Precept Consultation 2024/25 A discussion took place on the Durham Police precept for 2024-25. <i>Resolved: That the council make a submission as discussed. Members are free to make individual submissions as well.</i>
9	Draft council budget and precept for 2024-25 The Clerk had prepared a set of figures relating to different scenarios and different levels of precept, based on a zero increase in precept, a 5% increase, a 6% increase and an increase which would be needed to cover a 5% increase in budgets across the board compared with 2023-24. A discussion took place. <i>Resolved: That the council set a precept of £70,465 for the 2024-25 financial year (6% increase).</i>
10	Motions on notice. There were none.

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11	Date and time of next meeting. <i>Resolved: That the next meeting of Framwellgate Moor Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 7 February 2024 at The Pavilion Building.</i>
	The meeting ended at 19:50

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