



FERRING ROADS SCHEME ASSOCIATION - 2025 Annual General Meeting

10.00am on Saturday 29th March 2025 in Ferring Retirement Club Room, 201 Greystoke Road, Ferring.

1. **Chairman's Welcome:**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Chairman Jackie Ring, was not able to attend this meeting. Pauline Edwards, Secretary led the meeting in her absence. All attendees were welcomed to the meeting. It was clarified that the committee had made the decision to bring forward the timing for this and subsequent AGMs to ensure that the reporting was more current to the Association's year end, 31 December. It should be noted that there were seventeen members present for the meeting.

2. **Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Jackie Ring and Sue Samuels.

3. **Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st June 2024.**

The minutes were unanimously approved as a true and accurate record and signed accordingly by Pauline Edwards, in the absence of Jackie Ring, Chairman. They are available to view on our website www.frsa.uk.

4. **Reports**

Roads Manager – Graham Groom

The continuous building work throughout the village has resulted in ever increasing heavy lorry movements and the FRSA continue to monitor the affect that the various utility works have on our roads. Clive Butcher our Roads Liaison Officer has visited sites at short notice when we have been made aware of problems. In 2024 there has been a great deal of data gathering relating to drainage works, which has been extremely helpful when going out to tender for the works required to our ageing drainage system. The annual road sweeping took place over two days in January 2024. Once again a huge amount of 'debris' was collected. However, the contractors work was hampered by the considerable number of parked trades vehicles which resulted in return visits to certain roads.

As predicted no major resurfacing works were required in 2024. However, it became apparent that the management of the drainage system would be the FRSA priority. Hence during 2024 the FRSA launched 4 new initiatives ~

1. A complete survey of all roadside gullies that we have responsibility for and have now been located, photographed, and recorded with individual reference numbers: a total of 365. When combined with a mapping system which shows the position and general condition of each gully, enabling the FRSA to share this information with any contractor.
2. A programme of remedial works for Spring 2025 has been developed for the drains in most urgent need of repair
3. A complete survey of all 75 FRSA roads was carried out to determine their condition, against four main criteria of:- road lane markings(white lines), road surface condition, potholes/surface depressions and edge crumbling especially at road junctions. The committee will consider during 2025 how best to deal with the required work.
4. The heavy downfalls experienced in late 2023 and early 2024 highlighted areas that were not thought to be 'at risk' : the FRSA will seek expert technical advice in these areas.

QUESTIONS RAISED BY SCHEME MEMBERS

Ansisters Road – Road surface seems to have faint grey circles near to house numbers 1 and 10. Roads Sub Committee agreed to inspect them and report back to scheme member.

Mulberry Close – Praise was offered for resolving the long-standing flooding issues at start of Brook Lane. It was reported that a builder in the area, had poured liquid waste down the drain gullies. Scheme member reported it to Environmental Agency and Arun District Council, but neither party were interested in pursuing further. Committee clarified that should it happen again then report to FRSA (for FRSA roads only) for further possible action.

Garden Manager- Simon Thompson

Overall expenditure during 2024 was just under £2,600 – well within the allocated budget of £5,000. In part due to the continuation of savings made by moving away from bi-annual planting-up of bedding plants. Unfavourable weather over the first 4 months of the year limited activity on garden sites, mainly to just general maintenance and tidying.

Ocean Drive – This is a 2-3 year re-planting project with further plants added in Spring 2024. FRSA have been made aware that this site is not 'common' land but owned by the freeholders of adjacent property. Correspondence with freeholder is ongoing to ascertain an understanding for ongoing maintenance.

Langbury Lane - much of the old growth and dead wood was removed and thirty-six new perennial plants were put in in April 2024.

Highdown Way – several visits were made to tidy the site, particularly the area around the crazy paving. Some plants in the barrel were replaced due to being waterlogged in extensive rains.

Clover Lane - Several visits were made to the site to remove weeds from shale border and weeding in the centre. The shrubs were overdue a good prune and the central ground to be weeded/dug over. This was completed in February 2025.

The Grove – 6 perennial Geraniums were planted amongst the rockery surrounds.

Thanks was extended to the gardener, David Saunders, for all his hard work and help, both in keeping the garden sites maintained and for his input and suggestions regarding suitable plants to be added.

FRSA MINUTES OF MEETING – AGM 2025

QUESTIONS RAISED BY SCHEME MEMBERS

Clover Lane garden site – scheme member was disappointed in general upkeep of this site and particularly concerned re wooden edging being a hazard. Geraniums had been planted a few years back by scheme member and there was very little evidence of them now: dumped material covering this planting. Simon Thompson was able to clarify that further work has been planned for 2025 for this site, to follow on from recent large cutback of bushes/trees: the cherry blossom tree now pruned, and all dead work and cuttings have been removed from site. It was politely requested that scheme members resist from planting in the five garden sites maintained by FRSA.

Treasurer-Report read out by David Champ on behalf of Sue Samuel

Recognising increasing inflation costs and the cost of repairs, the committee decided to increase the 2025 annual road fee to £95. In 2024 £3509 was collected in arrears from 2023 membership fees along with £2800 in Solicitor fees for the work involved in completing the necessary forms when an owner sells a property in the village. Since start of 2025, a further £2200 has been received for arrears from 2023 and 2024. The biggest expenditure in 2024 was for work involved in maintaining, improving, and repairing our drainage and gullies and this will continue to be a priority in 2025. Money had been deliberately set aside from 2024 for planned drainage works in 2025. The FRSA endeavour to encourage members to move to email communication: currently over 715 email addresses are held with a target for 2025 of 750. The treasurer thanked everyone who paid their road fees as without this financial support roads and drains could not be kept in a high state of repair. The accounts for 2024 were formally accepted at the meeting and the Secretary was able to confirm that Martin Newman had been appointed as the Honorary Auditor for 2025. **(Points 5 and 8 on the agenda)**

Chairman's Report – read out by Pauline Edwards on behalf of Jackie Ring

The Chairman thanked those for attending this AGM. Having held the Chairman's post for just over a year, she recognised that it had brought its challenges but overall felt that great progress had been made throughout the year. With the roads, gardens and treasurer reports having been shared at the AGM, the Chairman wanted to thank all the committee members, who as volunteers, continued to provide a very valued service to the scheme members. In 2024, the FRSA wanted a clear view of what works were needed and as stated in the roads report, this was achieved by launching four new initiatives,

1. A complete survey of all the roadside gullies to compile a record of all gully locations.
2. A programme of remedial works where blocked and damaged gullies had been identified.
3. A complete survey of all FRSA roads to assess their condition and put together to form a programme of works.
4. Commission expert advice relating to flooding to establish which areas might fall within FRSA remit.

For 2025, works on the drainage system have been commissioned, and will be ongoing for the next couple of years with the funds available.

6. Election of member of Executive Committee 2025

Publicity Manager – Shirley Ellerbeck. No further nominations had been received by the Executive Committee. No objections to the appointments were heard from attendees at the meeting. So, the appointment was unanimously approved as elected. This post had been filled and approved in accordance with the FRSA constitution documents.

7. Re-election of members of Executive Committee for 2025

Roads Manager – Graham Groom, and Secretary – Pauline Edwards. These committee members were prepared to stand for a second term of office of three years. No further nominations had been received by the Executive Committee. No objections to the appointments were heard from attendees at the meeting. So, the appointments were unanimously approved as elected.

These posts had been filled and approved in accordance with the FRSA constitution documents.

9. Any Other Business

A query was raised as to why the annual insurance payment had been dramatically reduced. Did it fully cover the FRSA committee members from being personally pursued for any legal claims made by scheme members – common term known as Directors' and Officers' insurance? This would be clarified to members when full clarification had been sought.

Question of 20MPH speed limit was raised again. It was concluded that the FRSA had already made the decision not to pursue matter solely for the FRSA network of roads but only support a whole village approach with Parish Council taking the lead. From tests conducted in 2023/24 The Parish Council felt evidence did not show that it required further action. Going forward, scheme members would be advised to take up matter directly with Councillor Roger Elkins who served on parish, district, and county council and not approach the FRSA.

10. Close of meeting

Pauline Edwards outlined the main forms of communication used to inform scheme members of important updates: web site www.frsa.uk, FRSA facebook page, quarterly articles in All About Ferring, FRSA noticeboards along with any email/written correspondence when required. Attendees and the Committee were thanked for their time at this meeting. The meeting closed at 10.50am.