

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL - ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of an Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 3 June 2009, at 8 pm in the Memorial Hall, Framfield.

Present: David Andrews (Chairman), Brian Hodge, Mark Moore, Maria Naylor, Rob Newton, Fred Thurston and Eryl Thomas.

In attendance: Ann Newton (Clerk) Public: None.

1. Apologies

Myran Eade. Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC).

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none at this stage in the meeting.

3. Election of a Chairman

Maria Naylor proposed that David Andrews be re-elected as Chairman. This was seconded by Brian Hodge and agreed by all present. There were no other nominations.

4. Election of a Vice-Chairman

Rob Newton proposed that Fred Thurston be re-elected as Vice Chairman. This was seconded by Brian Hodge and agreed by all present. There were no other nominations.

5. Minutes of the last Meeting: 1 April 2009

It was agreed that the minutes of the last meeting held on 1 April 2009 having been circulated, be approved, adopted and signed as a correct record.

6. Matters Arising

- **Update - Community Speed Watch** – Brian Hodge reported that the scheme has now been running for a while and he is keeping a database of the number of ‘offenders’ at each location. When he has compiled three month’s information this could be sent to ESCC for their comments and hopefully actions. It is believed that the Police have already contacted ESCC regarding the information gathered in Blackboys Road, Framfield.
A request was made to the Police for their occasional attendance at a session, particularly at Blackboys Road so that once in a while vehicles could be pulled over and given the appropriate fine. However, as there seemed to be no pull-off point at this location the Police will not attend.
The Committee was asked to note that once the 30mph has been implemented through Blackboys, Speedwatch cannot take place for a year as there is a year’s ‘grace’ for driver’s following the implementation of a new limit!
The Clerk reported on a copy letter received from a Blackboys resident to ESCC detailing an accident that happened during the previous few days when a car travelling at very high speeds skidded and took out a petrol pump at the garage in Blackboys. This is the second time the garage has sustained serious damage in two years. The meeting felt that the matter should be discussed with Chris Dowling.
- **Roads ‘Wish List’ for the Parish.** In the absence of Messrs Higgs and Oates (ESCC) with the update on the situation, the meeting thought it appropriate to wait until they could attend before any further discussion. The Clerk was asked to contact them for news on their availability.
- **Street lighting –**
 - **Discussion on report provided by Fred Thurston** – *all in receipt of a copy. Fred was congratulated on his concise report and for all the efforts that he is expending on the issue.* Following lengthy discussion, the meeting agreed that further investigation was required. Due to the vast cost of disconnecting all the lights the Committee felt it correct to try balancing the removal of some lights

versus the revenue saved over a longer period. Nonetheless it has to be agreed which lights and how many. The meeting agreed that Fred should report on his findings at full Parish Council and that as the scope for change had been reduced further investigations should be carried out on the remaining possibilities. The Clerk was asked to pass a copy of her list of street light locations to Fred and groups of councillors would assess different areas prior to any proposals being forthcoming. It was thought the two School Governor Representatives could discuss the issue with the relevant Schools as they would both be effected if for instance all the bracketed lights were removed.

- The Clerk informed the meeting that the first fault had come through for the new maintenance contractor. It was also thought sensible to contact them at some point for their views and potential costings on the reduction in street lighting.

- **Footpaths.**

- **Update on ESCC Survey.** The Clerk reported that the Council was to be kept informed of the progress of the works carried out to paths via an online programme. The meeting queried if the County Council had the budget for all or some of the works.

The Clerk was asked to contact ESCC regarding the Church Path at the rear of Becketts Way and problems with overgrown vegetation on a path in Blackboys.

7. Any Other Business

- Brian Hodge commented on the appalling road repairs between Blackboys and Framfield.
- Fred Thurston asked if the meeting would support the possibility of extending the pavement/footway from the top of Gun Road, Blackboys, past the butchers to the bus stop, thereby enabling residents to have a safe passage to the bus stop from further along the village.
- Brian Hodge queried if anything was happening with the Community Cohesion Group in Blackboys. The Clerk stated that the next move was down to the headteacher.

8. Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 5 August 2009.

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Circulation – all Parish Councillors.