

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL - ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of an Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 28 January 2009, at 8 pm in the Memorial Hall, Framfield.

Present: David Andrews (Chairman), Myran Eade, Rob Newton, Ian Paisley and Eryl Thomas.

Also Present: Brian Hodge.

Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC)
Michael Oates (ESCC)
Michael Higgs (ESCC)

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

Michael Higgs and Michael Oates gave an update on the proposals to implement a 30 mph speed limit throughout the current 40 mph limit in Blackboys along the B2102 following on from the receipt of the new Government guidelines by ESCC and the Review of the Rural Speed Limits. The mean (average) speeds on the road are 44.4 mph in an easterly direction and 42.4 mph in a western directly. This means that some traffic calming measures will be required if the reduction in limit is to have a chance of working. Following discussion, in conjunction with the review of street lighting within the Parish, the Council asked that the two gentlemen return with two sets of drawings, the first an update on the discussions during the meeting and the second with the changes should a reduction in the number of street lighting columns be implemented. This they agreed to do for the next meeting on 1 April 2009. The plans also need to go through the ESCC safety audit. Once the Council is happy with the proposals they will go out for public consultation.

'Wish List'. Following the above discussions, it was thought by those present that many of the issues on the High Street, Blackboys, would be addressed by those proposals.

- Suggestions for improvements in School Lane, Blackboys, possibly a 20 mph limit and also outside Framfield School were not met enthusiastically as road humps would have to accompany any reduction. The general feeling of the meeting was that if the amount of traffic could be reduced through School Lane, particularly larger vehicles this would in itself improve the situation. This would only happen if the junction of the B2102 and B2102 were improved/realigned. The ESCC representatives stated that they would look at the feasibility of this suggestion.
- The suggestion of removing the arm stating 'Uckfield' from the same junction might stop through traffic from using the B2102. Alternatively, if a sign could be added indicating the better route for HGV's heading from Uckfield would be via the B2192. The suggestion of requesting that the B2102 be declassified to a C-road would also help. A petition could be presented to County Hall.
- When any of the main roads need resurfacing, a low-noise surface will be considered by ESCC.
- Lastly, the B2192 through Blackboys was discussed. This is considered a rural road through the AONB and there is not enough frontage development and the mean (average) speed is too high to reduce the limit to 40 mph without some other traffic calming measures.

The Chairman thanked Messrs Oates and Higgs for their attendance and looked forward to seeing them again in April.

1. Apologies

Maria Naylor and Fred Thurston.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none at this stage in the meeting.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting: 10 December 2008

It was agreed that the minutes of the last meeting held on 10 December 2008 having been circulated, be approved, adopted and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising

- **Community Speed Watch** – Brian Hodge confirmed that the training had taken place on the previous Sunday. Eight people plus Brian had been trained, however double that number would be preferable. It is intended to start on Tuesday, 24 February 2009 and generally cover Tuesdays and Saturdays at the current time with three people on each team. Brian stated that they will be drawing up a rota for the sessions. The positioning of the team in the Parish will be subject to safety evaluations once areas have been suggested. A list will then be given of the suitable sites. The Clerk was asked to investigate obtaining high visibility jackets.
- **Roads 'Wish List' for the Parish.** As detailed at the start of the meeting.
- **Street lighting –**
 - **Update on cessation of streetlight maintenance by EDF from 31 March 2009.** The Clerk informed the meeting that a huge amount of work had been done by Fred Thurston on the practicalities and costings of the ESCC quotation. However two more prices have just been received for consideration.
 - **Decision on which contractor should be given the contract.** Following discussion the meeting agreed to give the contract to Direct Technical Services who have quoted for exactly the same service that is currently received from EDF Energy. The quote was the lowest out of the three received. This was proposed by Rob Newton, seconded by Ian Paisley and agreed by all present. The Clerk was asked to write and accept the quotation asking for their contractual arrangements (including termination agreement), public liability insurance details and how it would effect the contract if the current number of street lights were reduced.
 - **Update on the suggestion for reducing the lit hours of streetlights.** Eryl Thomas reported that again Fred Thurston had spent a lot of time looking at the issue. It appears that as the Council pays for an unmetered supply of electricity even if the lit hours are reduced the cost would not be less and a special socket would have to be fitted to each light to enable this to happen at a minimum cost of £45.00 per light! However, once the new lighting maintenance contract has settled in, this will be kept under review.
- **Footpaths.**
 - **Parish Council Footpath Survey.** Great thanks were given to Fred and his wife for their hard work in walking every footpath in the Parish and producing a survey detailing the problems found. Following discussion, the Clerk was asked forward everyone a copy and to contact ESCC, Rights of Way, for their suggestions on how to take the results forward in the best way.

5. Any Other Business

- Myran Eade stated that some of the wooden boards had been kicked out on the bus shelter opposite Press and Banks. Also some shingles were missing from the roof. Myran said he would look at the slats but perhaps the handyman could be contacted for his advice as well.

6. Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 1 April 2009.

AEN/23 March 2011

Circulation – all Parish Councillors.