

# Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Blackboys, on Tuesday, 2 November 2010 at 7.30 pm

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**Present** Rob Newton (Chairman) Myran Eade  
Selina Allen Ian Paisley  
Richard Brocklebank Fred Thurston

**In attendance** Ann Newton - Clerk Members of the Public – one.  
Members of the Press – none.

*Prior to the commencement of the meeting members of the public and County and District Representatives were invited to address the Parish Council.*

*(The minutes are detailed in the order in which they appeared on the agenda but not necessarily the order in which they were taken at the meeting. A copy of all the reports mentioned will be attached to the minutes for the minute book).*

**Mrs Sheila Walters**, representing Blackboys Cricket Club was in attendance. All members were in receipt of an email from Sheila detailing the Club's unanimously agreed proposal that the Parish Council should take over the Pavilion, subject to a suitable agreement/lease being agreed between both parties. This was also subject to the Club undertaking and paying for, updating the Pavilion to the standard required in the recent health and safety report which the PC commissioned. This work has started as a sign of their commitment to the project of refurbishment and the Club wishes to work together with the PC to progress the project. They are happy to help in any way possible, with grant applications, design and building works and have suggested that they might also be able to commit a considerable financial sum of money towards the refurbishment, given the appropriate safeguards. The discussion which ensued is detailed under item 7, bullet point three.

**Councillor Ann Newton (WDC)** reported that the Council was nearing the final hurdle in approving the Core Strategy prior to submission to the Secretary of State. A joint Planning Committee North and South was to be held next week to let planning members have their say. The Strategy then goes to Cabinet followed by Full Council. One debate was over the removal of development boundaries on the less sustainable villages enabling the bulk of the housing to be kept within the towns and larger settlements. Removing a development boundary from a village would give a presumption to less development, but retaining the opportunities for extensions, replacement dwellings, agricultural conversions etc, but would still leave the door open for rural exception sites for affordable housing and the possibilities on the still unclear community right to build.

**PCSO Simon French** had sent a report in his absence which the Clerk detailed to members as follows: there had been an attempted burglary in Beechy Road, no items were taken, and all households in the street have been updated regarding security and checking vehicles entering the lane. There has been a theft of heating oil in Gatehouse Lane – again advice was given to all members of the public in the area. Lastly Simon warned of the recent killing and dismemberment of a horse in a field in Alfriston. There are rumours of a cult but police are still making enquires. Police are updating all owners of horses via Farmwatch and Horsewatch.

## 1. Apologies for Absence

Felicity Groves, Peter Friend, John Mordaunt and Maria Naylor. Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC) and PCSO Simon French.

## 2. Declarations of Interest

*Councillors to give notice of declarations of personal and prejudicial interests in respect of items on the agenda.* Myran Eade declared a personal interest in the item on the Blackboys Pavilion Project as he is associated with Blackboys Cricket Club. On decision-making matters if the meeting thought appropriate, Myran would leave the room. Rob Newton stated that he would not take an active part or vote, on any decision-making discussions involving the Pavilion, as an adjacent neighbour to the recreation ground. Rob Newton declared a prejudicial interest in the items under the Finance section of the agenda relating to the Clerk, the Clerk being his wife.

### 3. Minutes of the Last Meeting for Approval

The Clerk stated that she had omitted a note on David Andrews' resignation under 'AOB'. The meeting agreed that this should be added and it was subsequently initialled by the Chairman. It was then agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2010 having been circulated, be approved, adopted and signed as a correct record. (SA/ME).

### 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Clerk followed up a few points from the last meeting as follows.

- Co-option of the eleventh Councillor. The Clerk reported that the Council is free to co-opt as the notices have been advertised for the statutory period.
- Website – the Clerk reported that Barry Richardson has started on the production on the website and the suggestion had been made to have a meeting with Barry to progress the site – Richard Brocklebank, Selina Allen and the Clerk to meet with Barry.

### 5. Correspondence received since the last meeting

Letters for noting/discussion – most items were from pending matters and dealt with under separate headings.

- Wealden CAB – AGM.
- 3VA Newsletter.
- ESCC – What will we do with waste?

### 6. Finance and General Purposes:

- Proposal to change to an online bank account. The Clerk reported that following on from the agreement at the last meeting for staff to be paid electronically, the best way of achieving this was to enable the PC bank account online for which agreement by the Council is required. Selina Allen, seconded by Richard Brocklebank, proposed that the changes be made. This was agreed by all present.
- Proposal to change name of both the Hall accounts to Trust accounts. The Clerk explained that as both Trusts were using the Hall accounts, it would be appropriate to change the names to reflect each Trust. The suggestion was made to rename them 'Blackboys Trust' (plus charity number) and 'Framfield Trust' (plus charity number). This was proposed for adoption by Ian Paisley, seconded by Selina Allen and agreed by all present.
- Schedule of expenditure as at 30 September 2010 – this was adopted as read. (FT/IP). Fred Thurston asked that the RFO be requested to provide the spreadsheets in time to be sent out with the agenda so that members could study them and then address any comments to the RFO prior to the meeting.
- Formal agreement of the October 2010 payments/disbursements – itemised below. This was agreed for payment by Richard Brocklebank, seconded by Ian Paisley and agreed by all present. The Clerk suggested that the FGP Committee might wish to breakdown the invoice from the handyman to allocate different sections to the different Trusts/Halls.

	£
<u>Cheques already paid</u>	
Office Test Ltd (H&S risk assessment on Pavilion)	346.63
Blackboys Village Hall ('donation' of allotment rents and charity dividends to Trust account)	819.93
Framfield Memorial Hall ('donation' to Trust account)	100.00
<u>Sub-Total:</u>	<u>£1,266.56</u>
 <u>Cheques to pay</u>	
East Sussex County Council (streetlight repairs)	1,889.61
WDC (dog bin emptying – July/September 2010)	271.90
Arbor Management (grounds maintenance of all recs/allotments (October))	940.52
D&J Greengrow (bi-annual invoice for handyman duties)	831.52
Framfield Memorial Hall (Hall hire)	37.50
Jan Riddle, RFO:	
October (gross salary £54.16); 5 hours overtime (£62.50)	93.26
Ann Newton, Clerk:	
October (gross salary £1,147.47); room allowance (£40.00); mileage (£20.43); sundries (printer cartridges - £110.23 – shared with EHWH PC)	1,013.90
HMRC : October tax and NI payments for Clerk/RFO	414.71
<u>Sub Total:</u>	<u>£5,492.92</u>
<u>Grand Total:</u>	<u>£6,759.00</u>

## Bank Balances as at 30 September 2010

Current Account £27,839.20

Deposit Account £107.59

## Any Other Business

There was none.

## **7. Reports from Committees**

- **Planning:** the Planning Committee minutes for the meetings held on 22 September and 13 October 2010 have already been circulated. The meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 3 November 2010 has been cancelled.
- **Environment:** the minutes for the meeting held on Wednesday, 13 October 2010 have already been circulated.
  - Streetlighting – update if available. Fred Thurston had circulated a report as detailed at the recent EC meeting proposing that with the increased cost of completely removing lights, instead all lamps are swapped over to the low energy fluorescent variety currently on trial which will meet the EU requirements to replace all Mercury fittings by 2012. In detail (taken directly from Fred's report):
    - Give immediate instructions to ESCC to replace 22 lamps at £45 each (£990). By virtue of the increase in this year's allowance there is just enough money in the EC budget to pay for this, the supply costs, the maintenance contract and still absorb the £1,700 already spent on the recent expensive repair.
    - Then in April 2011 request ESCC to similarly replace the remaining 50 lamps in the Parish (£2,250). With an unchanged budgetary allowance this will still leave £1,000 for energy supply, £1,800 for the maintenance contract and £700.00 for ad hoc repairs.
    - Lastly, repairs to any installation in excess of £500.00 should be declined and the equipment disconnected and removed.

Following brief discussion, the members thanked Fred for his efforts and patience on a seemingly ever-changing scenario. They then voted unanimously to adopt Fred's three proposals. Fred stated that he would draft a letter to ESCC to progress the works.

- **Pavilion Review**

Fred Thurston reported that he has asked 3VA and AIRS for the best avenues for current funding in specific areas. He believes that a small fundraising team needs to be set up with all three parties – Cricket, Football and PC – so that there is no overlap in applications ('the left knows what the right hand is doing'). Graham Pope was suggested for the Football, Sheila Walters for the Cricket and Fred for the PC – although a stand-in would be required for the duration of his holiday. The meeting agreed that the 'Review' element of the heading should be dispensed with a progressed to 'Pavilion Project'.

- Framfield. Fred further reported that he has sent all the relevant paperwork to Graham Pope on the WDC Community Grant Scheme for which Fred would act as a reference.
- Blackboys. Discussion ensued following on from Sheila's request and email. Selina Allen subsequently proposed that the PC take over the Pavilion subject to the two caveats detailed at the start of the meeting. This was seconded by Richard Brocklebank and agreed by the other members present. (Myran Eade and Rob Newton did not take part in this decision-making discussion and neither of them voted). The general feeling of members was relief that this decision has at last been made and they looked forward to working with the Cricket Club to progress the project.

## **8. Reports from Representatives**

### **Schools:**

- Framfield – Selina Allen reported that the Pre-school building is finished. They have cleared out most of the storage cupboards in the Memorial Hall – any items which are left are under the stage until further storage is sorted out. Janet Wilde has requested use of the cupboard near to the gents WC to temporarily store PE equipment. Rob Newton said he didn't see this as a problem and would investigate. Ian Paisley is working with Selina and the School to plant four trees on the recreation ground to symbolise the fact that a new house system has been set up – four houses/four different trees – as detailed at the last meeting. Selina has written to the Woodland Trust to enquire whether they would be prepared to donate the saplings. Janet has also been advised that the trees overhanging the playground from the recreation ground need pruning. The Clerk recommended that the same tree surgeon is used by the School as used by the Council. She agreed to pass his details to Selina and Janet.
- Blackboys – Fred Thurston commented that residents of The Green were wondering what was happening with regard to the broadband mast. The Clerk reported that the School had received

assurance from ESCC that new technology meant that the reception could be enhanced via cable optics meaning that the mast could be removed. The Clerk offered to ask the School/ESCC for an update especially as the School were waiting for this work to be completed prior to them submitting a further application was to refurbish the pavilion at the rear of the School.

**SALC/WDALC:** Nothing to report.

**9. Any Other Business at the Discretion of the Chairman**

- Dates for next year's meetings. The Clerk explained that due to the Parish elections on 5 May 2011, the AGM of the Council needs to be within a required timescale. Tuesday, 17 May 2011 was suggested and agreed. It was then further agreed to hold the Annual Parish Assembly in April so that the 'retiring Council' have an opportunity to host the meeting.
- Richard Brocklebank commented that one of the lights on the front of the Blackboys Village Hall appears to stay on for long periods at night. Fred Thurston stated that there were various problems with the external lighting and he would put it to the AGM next week to propose that someone looks at the issues.
- Selina Allen announced that the service for the Tree of Light will be on 5 December 2010 at 5 pm.
- Selina asked if the sign could be fixed properly to the gate on Framfield recreation ground and on a different note if the grit bin behind the Memorial Hall would be filled prior to the winter. Rob Newton stated that both items would be looked at.
- Myran Eade reported that there were once again two untaxed cars in the small car park at the front of the recreation ground in Framfield. The Clerk stated that she would ask PCSO French for details of the owners and perhaps the first port of call would be for the Council to send the owners a letter asking them to remove them. Members felt that stronger action should be taken, but the Clerk advised that this would have to be done via the proper channels.
- Ian Paisley reported on a recent Tree Forum which he attended. He said it was a very good event and there were hedgerow grants available.

*The meeting closed at 9.55 pm.*

**Chairman..... Date .....**

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:  
Tuesday, 30 November 2010, at the Memorial Hall, Framfield,  
commencing at 7.30 pm.  
This will be preceded by a meeting of the Trustees  
of the Framfield Trust at 7 pm.**