

Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Blackboys, on Tuesday, 26 January 2010 at 7.30 pm

Present

Rob Newton (Chairman)	Brian Hodge
David Andrews	Maria Naylor (Vice Chair)
Myran Eade	Ian Paisley
Peter Friend	Fred Thurston

In attendance

Ann Newton - Clerk	Members of the Public – five.
	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.

Alan Greenslade, resident of Framfield voiced his disappointment at the lacking of gritting by ESCC during the recent cold weather. Alan had been in touch with ESCC and had been informed of their gritting policy with regard to the hierarchy of A and B roads. Chris Dowling commiserated with Alan and said that he had received similar complaints from other parish councils. ESCC had been caught short and had to purchase 400 tons of grit from West Sussex. Also a review of the gritting policies is underway by ESCC. Alan also commented on the lack of grit/salt bins. The Clerk commented that this is something that could be discussed at the next Environment Committee meeting – bins can be provided by ESCC and filled by the PC at their expense. However there are problems with people taking the grit and also the liability if the grit bin is empty when the weather changes. The Clerk would query with ESCC the disappearance of a bin from Preston Grove. Alan was thanked for his attendance.

Four residents were in attendance voicing their interest in becoming parish councillors. Rob Newton stated that with Eryl Thomas' resignation there were now three casual vacancies. The four briefly introduced themselves and stayed to listen to the meeting. The co-option would take place next time.

Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC) carried on further from the discussions regarding the snow as to how everyone was inconvenienced. He would see councillors at the meeting with Michael Higgs the following day in John Dann Close.

Councillor Ann Newton (WDC) reported on the following:

- LDF – WDC officers are currently working on refining and sifting out some of the options. No decisions have been made yet but the SHLAA information will be published in February.
- Transformation Programme – this has now reached implementation stage.
- Council Tax – WDC have confirmed that there will be an increase of 2.74%.
- Waste & Minerals Consultation – a public meeting was held the previous Saturday to which just short of 400 people attended.

PCSO Simon French – the Clerk reported that Simon had asked that she report on his behalf that it has been a quiet month having a few calls about suspect vehicles. Sussex Police want him to spend 80% of his time in the Parish and he was looking for a base during that time. The vicar has offered the Church Hall. Myran Eade reported that he has been informed that there are now two untaxed vehicles in the recreation ground car park and both owners have been asked to remove them.

(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).

1. Apologies for Absence

There were none.

2. To Elect a Chairman and receive Declaration of Office.

Brian Hodge proposed that Rob Newton be elected as Chairman. This was seconded by Ian Paisley and agreed by all present. There were no other nominations. Rob signed the declaration of office and thanked

everyone for their support and reminded those present that this appointment would only stand until May when the position of Chairman is automatically reviewed.

3. To Elect a Vice Chairman.

Peter Friend proposed that Maria Naylor be elected as Vice Chairman. This was seconded by Myran Eade and agreed by all present. There were no other nominations.

4. Declarations of Interest

Councillors to give notice of declarations of personal and prejudicial interests in respect of items on the agenda. Myran Eade and Rob Newton declared a personal interest in the item on the Pavilion, as they are associated with Blackboys Cricket Club. Rob Newton declared a prejudicial interest in the item on the Clerk's salary on the finance sheet, the Clerk being his wife.

5. Minutes of the Last Meeting, 24 November 2009 for Approval

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2009 having been circulated, be approved, adopted and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Ian Paisley and seconded by Myran Eade).

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- Casual Vacancy. The four candidates had introduced themselves and as stated above co-options would take place at the February meeting.

7. Correspondence received since the last meeting

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

- Selina Allen – thanking Rob Newton and Myran Eade with their assistance over the installation of the Christmas Tree at the Memorial Hall. She raised over £200 for McMillan Cancer Support.
- Lt Col Nigel Drew – advising the Council of his successful Poppy Collection in 2009 – some £4,000 – an increase of around £700 on the previous year.
- East Sussex County Council – questionnaire on their performance – retained by David Andrews.

8. Finance

- **Finance Committee Report** – all councillors were in receipt of a copy. The report was adopted as read.

As detailed in the report - formal resolutions to:

- **Set the Budget and Precept for 2010/11** – all members were in receipt of a spreadsheet explaining the differences. Fred Thurston reported that EDF have imposed a standing charge on each streetlighting controller of which the PC has three which equates to some £700 per year, which would change the budgeted figures for streetlighting. However a change in supplier could be investigated which could bring the energy charges down but the maintenance costs up. The meeting decided to pursue the matter at the next Environment Committee meeting but leave the figures the same, which might mean delaying any reduction in streetlighting to the following year. Following discussion Maria Naylor formally proposed that the budget be set at £44,853.32 as detailed in the spreadsheet. This was seconded by Ian Paisley and agreed by all present. Ian Paisley, seconded by Maria Naylor, then proposed that the precept be set at £43,500 making up the difference by deducting the annual income from the expenditure. This was agreed by all.
- **Change the remit of the Finance Committee to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to deal with all financial matters, staffing and general policies.** All members were in receipt of a draft revised terms and conditions for the committee. This was proposed for approval by Ian Paisley, seconded by Brian Hodge and agreed by all present.
- **Formal agreement of the December 2009/January 2010 expenditure – itemised below.** This was agreed for payment by Maria Naylor, seconded by Myran Eade and agreed by all present.

£

Payments already made

Gopak Ltd (table trolley for the Memorial Hall – cost reimbursed by Hall)	201.69
Stavertons (Christmas tree)	20.00
Mrs Ann Newton (reimbursement for postage stamps)	69.00
Direct Technical Services (replacement of 6 fuses after local lightning strike)	69.00

Beeney & Co (cleared drains in Memorial Hall car park – to be reimbursed by the Memorial Hall)	94.34	
Blackboys Village Hall (Hall hire)		16.00
East Hoathly with Halland PC (50% share of annual subscription to the Society of Local Council Clerks)	67.50	
EDF Energy DD Energy	191.39	
Mrs Jan Riddle, book-keeper	117.50	
Ann Newton, Clerk: Net salary (December) including expenses	851.61	
Framfield & Blackboys Book Fund (cheque in lieu of one written to the PC for the sale of two books)	20.00	
HMRC (final balance of payment)	550.00	
	<u>Sub-total:</u>	<u>£2,581.50</u>
<u>Payments to make</u>		
Viking Direct (bin bags, envelopes)	79.14	
Mr J Horn (reimbursement of hedging cutting, BB allotments)	50.00	
Framfield Memorial Hall (Hall hire)	52.50	
Blackboys Village Hall (Hall hire)		8.00
EDF Energy DD Energy	257.15	
Ann Newton, Clerk: Net salary (January) including expenses	926.01	
	<u>Grand total:</u>	<u>£4,233.18</u>
<u>Cheques received</u>		
Cheque from Memorial Hall in payment of the invoice from Beeney & Co (cleared drains in Memorial Hall car park)	£82.30	
Dividend cheques received from BlackRock.	£344.64	

- **Formal ratification of the balance of payment to HMRC of £550.00.** This was proposed by David Andrews, seconded by Maria Naylor and agreed by all present.

9. Committees

- **Planning:** the Planning Committee minutes for the meetings held on 18 November, 9 December and 13 January had already been circulated. The next meeting is scheduled for 3 February 2010 at 8 pm–agenda to follow. There was nothing else to report.
- **Recreation Grounds: (Parish Councillors as Trustees):** the Committee minutes of the meetings held on 18 November, 9 December and 13 January had already been circulated. The Clerk reported that a request has been made by a resident of Framfield to reinstate a gate from the rear of their property to the recreation ground. The meeting decided this should be acknowledged and discussed at the next Committee meeting.
- **Pavilion Project:**
 - **Update/Project Review.** Everyone was in receipt of a report from Fred Thurston on the conclusions of the Review. Fred expanded on the work behind the report and recommendations and there was lengthy debate. *Rob Newton and Myran Eade left the meeting room prior to the final deliberation on the recommendations and vote.* Following some minor amendments from the floor, the recommendations were proposed for adoption by Peter Friend, seconded by Ian Paisley and agreed by all present. The recommendations were agreed as follows:-
 - RECOMMENDATION 1. The community at large should be informed of the changed circumstances at the next Annual Assembly and via the Parish Magazine.
 - RECOMMENDATION 2. The project group be restructured to report directly to the Parish Council and must contain adequate Fund raising expertise appropriate to the options decided upon by the Parish Council.
 - RECOMMENDATION 3. Framfield Pavilion be cancelled and an extensive refurbishment of the current facilities be undertaken. It is further recommended that this exercise be undertaken by representatives of the Parish Council, the Memorial Hall management team and the Football club (who would wish to have priority in the use of the new facilities)

- RECOMMENDATION 4. The Parish Council urgently investigates the disposal of Parish Assets with a view to using the proceeds to augment fund raising elements and possible Sharecom investments towards the Capital costs of erecting a new Community Centre with changing facilities (prioritised in favour of the Cricket club) on the proposed site of the Pavilion.
- RECOMMENDATION 5. The Parish Council and Cricket club investigate the possible refurbishment/extension of the existing facility and restrict its use to the Cricket club and school.
- RECOMMENDATION 6. The current segment of the project be continued in the hope that the previously recommended structural changes bring about a sea change in the Parish Council's fundraising capability.

Peter Friend asked that Fred Thurston be given a vote of thanks on behalf of the PC for all his efforts and hard work. The meeting agreed that the way forward should be through a working party attached to the Recreation Ground Committee.

Rob Newton and Myran Eade rejoined the meeting.

- **Environment:** the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December have already been circulated. The next meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday, 3 February 2010 at 7 pm. The order of Planning and Environment Committee meetings have been swapped in order that Michael Higgs (ESCC) may be able to attend to discuss proposals for Blackboys.

10. Reports from Representatives

Blackboys Village Hall: Fred Thurston reported that the fire extinguishers have been tested. He asked for PC agreement to make two amendments to the constitution, namely to change "The Committee may decide the quorum necessary to transact business" to 'A quorum should be four members of the Management Committee' and secondly to change "When procuring any material the committee will seek 3 quotations unless the value is less than £100" to ' . . . unless the value is less than £300'. This was agreed unanimously.

Memorial Hall: Rob Newton as Acting Chairman of the Hall, commented that again the fire extinguishers had been tested in conjunction with those at the BVH to keep costs down, some rubbish has been cleared out and the boiler serviced. Rob added that the boiler engineer stated that it would not need replacing.

Schools:

- Framfield - Maria Naylor stated that she had attended her first meeting. Fundraising was to be carried between half term and Easter and an inset day the following day. The Clerk added that their planning application had recently been formally approved.
- Blackboys – The Clerk stated that the School had coped well during the recent severe weather conditions and a travel plan was being put together to encourage parents to park in the pub car park and walk up to the school to keep the excessive parking off School Lane.

SALC/WDALC: Nothing to report. Brian Hodge asked for any minutes etc to be passed on.

11. Any Other Business at the Discretion of the Chairman

- Myran Eade asked if the gateways which Framfield School has to Council property should be addressed in the same way as the gates from dwellings to the recreation ground. The Clerk suggested that this be investigated.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Chairman..... Date

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:
Tuesday, 23 February 2010, at the Village Hall, Blackboys,**

commencing at 7.30 pm.