

Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall, Framfield, on Tuesday, 27 April 2010 at 7.30 pm

Present

Rob Newton (Chairman)	Peter Friend
Selina Allen	Felicity Groves
David Andrews	Maria Naylor (Vice Chair)
Myran Eade	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.

Mrs Amanda Eade was in attendance having offered to assist the Cricket Club with fundraising.

PCSO Simon French reported on the following:

- *Five vehicles had been broken into last month (works vans) – Simon was trying to get this information around to as many as possible. CID and the Police were now involved.*
- *A van asking for scrap has also been hanging around Framfield. The registration plate is known to the police.*

Simon asked that if anyone has any information on either of the above to contact him.

- *Framfield Recreation Ground car park – the vehicles have now been removed. Unfortunately the PC has no firm policy for their removal.*
- *School Lane, Blackboys – ESCC have offered to put a single white line outside the houses which are experiencing the most problems. The residents will have to cover the cost between them (£35.00). The Clerk is to liaise.*

Councillor Ann Newton (WDC) stated that the LDF process was still underway. Officers were still sifting through the evidence to enable the Council to move towards their Core Strategy. AIRS are campaigning to get BT to improve Broadband in rural areas. Ann stated that she could put in the next Parish Magazine a note asking residents to get in touch if they are dissatisfied with the current Broadband service.

(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

Richard Brocklebank and Brian Hodge. Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC).

2. 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.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting, 30 March 2010 for Approval

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2010 having been circulated, be approved, adopted and signed as a correct record. (FT/ME).

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

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

- The Chairman was to meet with Alan Greenslade to discuss his concerns.
- The Clerk had sent to Bernard Lillywhite the papers he had requested.
- Could members give some thought to what they want to say in a note in the next Parish Magazine regarding a website.

- The recycling event arranged by WDC in the Memorial Hall to explain the new system has been postponed due to a lack of bins! It was thought that the second phase of the programme would therefore be slightly delayed.

5. Correspondence received since the last meeting

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

ESCC:

- Exploring East Sussex.

OTHER:

- Applause – Autumn 2010 Menu.

6. Finance

Rob Newton stated that he would be convening a Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting within the next few weeks to look at the year end figures.

- **Formal agreement of the April 2010 expenditure – itemised below.** This was agreed for payment by Maria Naylor, seconded by Peter Friend and agreed by all present.

	£
<u>Cheques already paid (by the end of March 2010)</u>	
D & J Greengrow (handyman last quarter 2009)	600.00
Framfield Memorial Hall (Hall hire)	37.50
<u>Cheques to pay</u>	
WDALC (annual subscription)	25.00
Beeney & Co (drain clearance, FF rec car park)	100.32
WDC (dog bin emptying Jan-March 2010)	296.45
Framfield Parish Magazine (in lieu of a cheque mistakenly written to FPC)	130.00
EDF Energy DD Energy	262.75
Jan Riddle, RFO:	
Last payment for 2009/10 (cheque to be dated 31.3.10)	182.50
April (gross salary £54.17)	43.36
Ann Newton, Clerk:	
Annual salary increment backdated to 1.4.09 (£582.40); (cheque to be dated 31.03.2010)	401.94
April (gross salary £1,147.47); mileage (£9.02).	892.90
HMRC	
Tax/NI to cover increase in salary for year ending 31.03.10 (cheque to be dated 31.03.2010)	255.01
April tax and NI payments for Clerk/RFO	400.72
<u>Total:</u>	<u>£3,628.45</u>
<u>Cheques Received</u>	
EDF Energy Networks (SPN) plc (wayleave payments)	£95.33
Uckfield Chiropractic Clinic (mistakenly made payable to FPC instead of the magazine)	£130.00

Any other urgent financial business

Rob Newton left the meeting room at this point and the Chair was taken by Maria Naylor.

- Maria Naylor asked that the PC approve a rise in salary for the Clerk in line with the SALC salary scales for the year 2009/10. This was proposed for approval by Fred Thurston, seconded by David Andrews and agreed by all present.

Rob Newton returned to the meeting room and resumed the Chair.

7. Committees

- **Planning:** the Planning Committee minutes for the meeting held on 7 April 2010 have already been circulated along with the comments on the Quicken Wood application.
 - Maria Naylor commented that both herself and Brian Hodge had looked at the Quicken Wood site with the permission of an adjacent landowner and had then had a meeting with the WDC Case Officer.

- **Recreation Grounds: (Parish Councillors as Trustees):** Myran Eade commented that there was really nothing to report; the summer maintenance had commenced on all recreation grounds.
- **Pavilion Review.** Fred Thurston reported on findings to date and went through the six recommendations as detailed in previous meetings in conjunction with a reply from the Charity Commission of which every member held a copy. Lengthy debate followed.
 - RECOMMENDATION 1. *The community at large should be informed of the changed circumstances at the next Annual Assembly and via the Parish Magazine.* This is still on track.
 - 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.* This is still on track.
 - 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).* One meeting has been held with the Football Club who have offered to produce drawings with clear costings with a view to them putting forward for a planning application. They have organised two specific fundraising events. This recommendation is therefore live.
 - 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.* Everyone was in receipt of a reply email from the Charity Commission. With this additional information on replacing any land if a current asset was sold, it was deemed that further steps with this recommendation futile. The recommendation therefore fails.
 - 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.* Fred Thurston stated that he had written to three possible contributors, had to date no reply from two and a reply in the negative from the third. Myran stated that grant bodies would not agree to funding unless a full up-to-date planning consent including all disabled facilities etc had been given. He did not agree that a less ambitious refurbishment could be carried out with the funds the Cricket Club already held. There had been no reply from 3VA on their fundraising capabilities. This recommendation is therefore still live.
 - 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.* There had been no replies to the fundraiser 'advert' placed in the Parish Magazine, although Myran Eade stated that he had offered to look at fundraising options and Amanda Eade would assist him. There is a 'live' application with Veolia with the next stage being decided in July (phase 2 of 4 phases). There was no news from the Links Foundation. It seemed from the contents of the letter from the Charity Commission that to potentially put a sports pavilion on the recreation ground would go against the objects of the charity unless justification could be given for doing so – ie public demand, a number of sports clubs coming forward wanting facilities. This demand would have to outweigh the loss of the land for the purposes for which it exists. The small size of the recreation ground and the space that any pavilion would encompass also seemed to go against the proposals. No individual club or organisation can own or lease the land/buildings (have exclusive use) as this would go against the objects of the charity which owns the land for the benefit and enjoyment of the inhabitants of Blackboys. For any 'change' in the use of the charity land, the application would have to be approved by the Charity Commission and or the Secretary of State. A public referendum would have to be held, with the electorate giving their support for this change. Following lengthy debate Maria Naylor, seconded by Selina Allen proposed that a further letter be sent to the Charity Commission enclosing the details of the approved planning application for their views. Maria Naylor to meet with Fred Thurston and the Clerk to put together the response.

Rob Newton and Myran Eade left the meeting room at the end of the debate before any proposals were made.

- **Environment:** the minutes of the meeting held on 7 April 2010 have already been circulated.

- **Street lighting** – suggestion of circulating a ‘flyer’ to all the appropriate Parish households inviting residents to air their views at the Annual Parish Assembly on 25 May 2010 regarding the proposal to phase in the removal of the majority of the streetlights
Fred Thurston reported that it had been a very good move to change to ESCC. However with the information they have provided, it now means that much of the previous work that has been done has to be shelved! ESCC are able to swap out the soon to be obsolete mercury bulbs with 23 watt fluorescent lamps which burn a quarter of the electricity of the current lamps. The cost of the swap is £45 per lamp (as opposed to £220+ per lamp previously); once done the cost of electricity per annum per light will be £4.00 as opposed to £14.65 making the overall annual cost of electricity £285.00 instead of £1,114. The total cost of the change over will be £2,655 instead of the predicted £16,750. The swap over could therefore be done within this year’s budget and enabling £1,000 to be put in reserves. As the lights will be considerably dimmer, this goes a long way to alleviate light pollution thus perhaps reducing the need to remove the lights in the planned phased programme enabling certainly the next year’s budgeted funds to be added to reserves. As a trial run, two lamps are to be swapped over in Mount Pleasant, Blackboys, fairly soon to give residents an idea of the effect. The meeting agreed that Fred should report this latest information at the Annual Assembly; hoping to then swap all the lights over in one go, which meets the EU regulation. A decision can then be made on the 5-year programme. With this revised information, it was therefore not thought necessary to produce a flyer.
- **Public Meeting on traffic calming proposals for Blackboys** – 20 April 2010. Rob Newton reported that the meeting had been very well attended – some 70 people. There had been a question and answer session with Michael Higgs (ESCC). In brief, there was general consensus of agreement that everyone was happy with the re-alignment of the junction of the B2102 and B2192. There were some concerns over the positioning of the two build-outs and the suggestion of alternatives, such as rumble strips or ‘tables’, both of which are deemed unsuitable by the emergency services. Everyone wanted a form of traffic calming as opposed to just signage. The majority were not in favour of the extra lamps. Michael Higgs is to take these comments back to ESCC, copy the PC in on any written comments and return to the next Environment Committee meeting on 9 June 2010. Many raised additional concerns regarding the Lewes Road. The Clerk gave assurance that once the works to the High Street had been finalised, Councillor Chris Dowling was anxious to pursue the Lewes Road. A query was raised about the installation of ‘entrance gates’ to the village, but ESCC stated that this is not their domain.

8. Reports from Representatives

Blackboys Village Hall: Fred Thurston reported that a keysafe had been fitted and a procedure for issuing the code would be put together once he was convinced that the safe was tamper-proof. The Welcome Church recently conducted a very good spring-clean – thanks to them. He was also having problems with changing the signatures on the bank mandate so there would be more paperwork to complete!

Memorial Hall: Rob Newton reported that he had changed the ball valve in the heating; a quote had been obtained to repair or replace the curtain rails, which had raised the issue of the agreed amount of money, which could be delegated before 3 quotes had to be obtained - £200. Fred Thurston suggested increasing it to £300.00 in line with the Blackboys Village Hall. The plans for the refurbishment of the changing rooms are awaited from the football club.

Schools:

- Framfield – Selina Allen reported that there was a meeting of Governors scheduled for the following week, a quiz night on Saturday to raise funds for the building work which was due to commence on 10 May with completion of 22 October 2010.
- Blackboys – Nothing to report.

SALC/WDALC: WDALC & Liaison with ESCC. The Clerk reported that an email had been received about improving the working relationship between towns/parishes and ESCC and the fact that it might be helpful to meet with officers from time to time. Many Clerks had replied that liaison is often the most successful via the local councillors who were generally very diligent about attending meetings.

WDC Parish Planning Panel: Nothing to report.

9. Any Other Business at the Discretion of the Chairman

- **Annual Parish Assembly: 8 pm, Tuesday, 25 May 2010, Blackboys Village Hall.** All Chairmen of Committees were asked to produce a report for the meeting. Fred Thurston would update residents on

the streetlighting proposals and an update on the Pavilion Project. Rob Newton could update anyone present on the speed limit proposals for Blackboys.

- Rob Newton asked members to give him views on what committees they would like to sit on prior to the Annual Parish Council Meeting.
- The meeting agreed that the Annual Parish Council Meeting should commence at 7 pm, this would be followed by a brief ordinary PC meeting with any items, which needed an update; with the Annual Parish Assembly at 8 pm.
- Rob Newton asked the meeting if they would agree to move the October meeting one week to 2 November 2010? This still left four weeks between the September, October, and November meetings. The meeting agreed to this change.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Chairman..... Date

***NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (the AGM):
Tuesday, 25 May 2010, at the Village Hall, Blackboys,
commencing at 7 pm.
This will be followed by a brief ordinary PC meeting and then
the Annual Parish Assembly at 8 pm.***