

Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall, Framfield, on Tuesday, 29 June 2010 at 7.30 pm

Present	Rob Newton (Chairman)	Peter Friend
	Selina Allen	Felicity Groves
	David Andrews	Brian Hodge
	Richard Brocklebank	Maria Naylor (Vice Chair)
	Myran Eade	Fred Thurston

In attendance	Ann Newton - Clerk	Members of the Public – five [part].
		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 Jenny Bacon and Mrs Kathy Gore on behalf of the Horticultural Society and Summer Show. Jenny reported to the meeting that last year the Horticultural Society created a sub-committee to run the Show as the Show seemed to be taking over! However, with the popularity of the Show and a decline in help, much more support is needed. The Show schedule takes a lot of putting together; organising the adverts, judges for the exhibits, stewards, stall holders, car parking etc. The show has become a Village Fete. Rob Newton thanked Jenny and Kathy for coming along and said how valuable the Show was to the Parish. The meeting agreed that 'crisis talks' with the Council and any other interested parties should be held soon after this year's Show.

Mr Glen Swire and neighbour. Glen stated that they have been carrying out Speedwatch now for six months at the western end of Blackboys Road, Framfield. The Police have recently attended three sessions and given out formal speeding tickets and fines. Glen handed over a flyer with the facts and figures to date and asked if the PC could take this further. The meeting agreed to ask Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC) to contact the relevant County officers to see if there was any progress.

(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

Ian Paisley. 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 items under the Finance section of the agenda relating to the Clerk, the Clerk being his wife.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting, 25 May 2010 (AGM and ordinary meetings) for Approval

Brian Hodge asked for one amendment to the minutes of the ordinary meeting on page two, first paragraph, penultimate sentence, delete everything from 'Brian Hodge' up until and including 'information' and replace with: '. .in Brian Hodge's view there was insufficient information brought to the meeting. . .'. It was then subsequently agreed that the minutes of the meetings held on 25 May 2010 having been circulated, be approved, adopted and signed as a correct record. (FT/ME).

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes (April and May)

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

- Website. The Clerk reported that she had received five enquiries to tender for a website all via the Parish Magazine. They were asked to base their quote on the East Hoathly with Halland Parish Council website. The Clerk suggested that the quotes should be looked at over the summer and possibly tailored to suit the needs of the Council.

- WDC Recycling Programme. A meeting had been held in the Memorial Hall by WDC explaining the new processes – the changes for the Parish was on line for the late summer/autumn.

5. Matters Arising from the Annual Assembly

Everything is covered elsewhere in the meeting.

6. Correspondence received since the last meeting

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

WDC:

- Environmental Partnering with Parish and Town Councils.
- Rural Affordable Housing Delivery. Following on from the results of the housing needs survey, WDC ask if the Council would be interested in attending a meeting with officers to discuss the further provision of affordable housing within the Parish. The meeting asked that the Clerk reply in the negative stating that some twenty-one affordable houses have been built over the last fifteen years within the Parish, indeed nine over the last couple of years and there seemed to be vast concerns as to whether people with the required local connection criteria obtained a dwelling over people who hadn't.

Other:

- Horticultural Society. As detailed above.
- Wealden Colts. Two letters had been received from Laurie Breeds. Following discussion on both, the Clerk was asked to reply stating although there was currently no more storage available, the proposed refurbishment of the Memorial Hall will provide extra storage space for general storage along with the improved changing facilities. The PC is happy to make sure that the football clubs' requirement for storage is taken into consideration when the storage is available. With regard to any other matters, such as a possible review of charging, this would be dealt with under the newly formed Trust administration.

Rob Newton left the meeting room at this juncture and Maria Naylor took the Chair.

7. Finance

- *Deferred from the May meeting: Recommendation from the FGP Committee - Parish Clerk - revised Contract of Employment to include gratuity payment. That Full Council resolve to deposit monthly into a secure fund a gratuity equal to 3.75% of her annual salary backdated from the commencement of her employment and the accumulated fund would be paid in total on termination of employment and her contract of employment updated accordingly in line with current legislation – all members were in receipt of a further paper detailing the history behind the recommendation. Brian Hodge had also tabled a report.* Following discussion and clarification on a number of points, Maria Naylor proposed that the Council resolve to pay the gratuity under the terms above. She further proposed that this be backdated to the Clerk's commencement of employment. This was seconded by David Andrews and agreed by all Councillors present with the exception of Brian Hodge.

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

- *Recommendation from the FGP Committee - revision of the administration arrangements of the two charitable Trusts and also FGP Committee – all members were in receipt of a report detailing the two recommendations.* Brian Hodge asked for clarification on the last line of the report and the meeting agreed that the word 'trusts' should be replaced with 'halls'. Further clarification was given, that it would be desirable but not obligatory to have the Chairs of both Halls on the FGP Committee. FGP positions are based on the members being either the Chair or Vice Chair of the Council, Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Environment and Planning Committees plus the Internal Auditor and RFO. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Trusts are by default the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council. Meetings of the FGP Committee are open to other members of the Council. The was formally proposed for agreement by Maria Naylor, seconded by Brian Hodge and agreed by all present.
- *Formal approval of the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2010 and Statement of Assurance in line with the audit regulations – all members were in receipt of the relevant papers.* The accounts were unanimously accepted and formally proposed for agreement by Fred Thurston and seconded by Brian Hodge. Those present subsequently endorsed the Statement of Assurance.

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

	£
<u>Cheques to pay</u>	
Arbor Management (grounds maintenance of all recs/allotments (May/June)	1,834.04
Blackboys Village Hall (Hall hire)	20.00
British Telecom plc (telephone a/c paid by DD – shared with EHwHPC)	155.28
Jan Riddle, RFO:	
June (gross salary £54.16); 7 extra hours (£87.50)	113.46
Ann Newton, Clerk:	
June (gross salary £1,147.47); room allowance (£40.00); mileage (£9.02).	892.70
HMRC	
June tax and NI payments for Clerk/RFO	418.32
Green-tech Horticulture (supply to a grit bin to each Hall – cost to be charged to both halls)	344.28
<u>Total:</u>	<u>£3,778.08</u>

Cheques Received

East Hoathly with Halland PC (share of BT a/c) £55.48
 Charishare Common Investment Fund Dividend £174.06
 Charinco Common Investment Fund Dividend £65.64

8. Committees

- **Planning:** the Planning Committee minutes for the meeting held on 8 June 2010 have already been circulated. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 30 June 2010 at 7 pm.
- **Recreation Grounds: (Parish Councillors as Trustees):** Rob Newton asked for a vote of thanks to be given to Myran Eade for all his efforts on behalf of the Recreation Ground Committee following on from his resignation as Chair.
 - **Framfield Recreation Ground – Storage Container.** The Clerk confirmed that the planning status of the container had been regularised; the container was now on the PC insurance for a very minor cost and the Horticultural Society were willing and able to insure the contents. Following discussion the meeting agreed that Horticultural Society should be given the use of the storage container on an informal basis, which would be reviewed annually.
- **Pavilion Review.**
 - **Framfield:** Fred Thurston reported that Recommendation 3 of the Review was progressing and that a meeting had been held with Graham Pope, Mary Short and Jim Richardson (Architect) to discuss ideas for the refurbishment of the changing rooms to include enhanced facilities for the Hall. The meeting had agreed that a purely internal refurbishment would be the better option – less costly and planning permission would not be required. This would include new showers, an extra ladies WC, larger kitchen, plus smaller ‘committee’ room for meetings. The architect was also keen to renew and improve the ceiling. The cost for the drawings has been confirmed at £800 of which the Football Club will pay 50%. The meeting resolved that the Council (as Trustee) should cover the cost of the remaining 50% but that this should be taken from the earmarked funds of £5,000. (Proposed by Brian Hodge and seconded by Selina Allen).

Rob Newton and Myran left the meeting room at this juncture and Maria Naylor took the Chair.

- **Blackboys:** All members were in receipt of the recent reply from the Charity Commission with regard to Blackboys Recreation Ground.
 - Following discussion covering the content of the letter from the Charity Commission, the meeting agreed that Recommendation 6 of the Review now fails for the reason that the proposal is no longer practicable. (Proposed for approval by Selina Allen, seconded by Brian Hodge and agreed unanimously).

- However, the Parish Council supports the proposal (Recommendation 5 of the Review) to refurbish the current Cricket Pavilion. The Council would need to investigate further ways to achieve this and would welcome early discussion with the Cricket Club on the way forward. (Proposed for approval by Fred Thurston, seconded by Brian Hodge and agreed unanimously).

Fred Thurston commented that he is very keen to switch a potential funding opportunity from a new build to a refurbishment and he is subject to a specific timescale.

The meeting subsequently agreed that the Clerk should send a copy of this part of the minutes, once approved in draft, to Colin Eade, Club Secretary, and requests it is circulated to all members of the Club.

Selina Allen wanted recognised the huge amount of time and effort that members of the Council had put into the project especially Fred Thurston.

Rob Newton and Myran Eade rejoined the meeting and the recommendations were read out to them.

- **Environment:** the meeting scheduled for 8 June was cancelled by reconvened from the following day, Wednesday, 30 June 2010.
 - **Street lighting** – to be reported at the meeting the following day.
 - **Traffic calming proposals for Blackboys** – Brian Hodge reported that as agreed at the last meeting a meeting had been held between himself, Chris Dowling, Rob Newton and Michael Higgs to try and progress the proposals. It had been agreed that the proposed extra lighting to the build-out at the eastern end of the High Street was not required due to the number of current lights. At the western end, attempts were being made to minimise the lighting but that no form of exemption would be granted to remove it completely. Modern, low lighting technology was being investigated. The location of the restrictions remains unchanged as do the road junction improvements for the B2102/B2192. Michael Higgs would be finalising the plans for formal consultation. The Clerk was asked to see what progress he has made to date.

Any other business

Traffic-calming measures in Framfield. Rob Newton clarified his stance over a possible lack of communication between Brian Hodge, the Parish Council and Chris Dowling over potential proposals in Framfield and the embarrassment this has caused. Brian also clarified his position. Rob subsequently proposed that Brian be removed from the Environment Committee for the present time and attend a SALC councillor course. This was seconded by Maria Naylor and agreed by a majority. Fred Thurston asked that he be disassociated from the actions of the Council.

9. Reports from Representatives

Blackboys Village Hall: Fred Thurston reported that a grit bins had been purchased for each Hall. A meeting had been held two weeks previously at which it was agreed that the rates be set until January 2011. The Committee further agreed to pay their element of the ROSPA inspection.

Memorial Hall: Rob Newton reported that the curtain rails have been repaired and an AGM will be scheduled for July.

Schools:

- Framfield – Nothing to report.
- Blackboys – Nothing to report.

SALC/WDALC: Nothing to report.

10. Any Other Business at the Discretion of the Chairman

- Peter Friend asked if any progress had been made on Framfield Allotments. Rob Newton stated that the water has been reconnected but a leak has been discovered which needs repairing. Letters are to be sent out shortly to the 'tenants' asking for clarification on their plots prior to tenancy agreements being issued.
- Myran Eade reported that the Cricket Club had raised further funds at the recent Classic Car Event.
- The Clerk detailed the recent further spate of thefts on Blackboys Allotments.

- The Clerk asked if Blackboys Pre-school could utilise the recreation ground for their sports day on 7 July 2010. Agreement was given, but stipulation made that they should use the Hall car park.
- The Clerk reported that WDC Active Play would be holding a session on Framfield recreation ground on 30 August 2010, 2.30-4.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 10.30 pm.

Chairman..... Date

***NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:
Tuesday, 27 July 2010, at the Village Hall, Blackboys,
commencing at 7.30 pm.***