

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
Recreation Ground Committee Meeting
Tuesday, 16 March 2010, 8 pm - Framfield Memorial Hall

Present: Committee Members: Myran Eade (ME) [Chairman], Peter Friend (PF) (Vice Chair), Rob Newton (RN), Ian Paisley and Fred Thurston (FT).
Also present: Brian Hodge (BH).
In attendance: Ann Newton (Parish Clerk).
Public: Mrs Sue Turner, resident of Blackboys.

1. Apologies.

There were none.

2. Declarations of Interest.

FT declared a personal interest in that he is a joint-tenant of one allotment plot in Blackboys. RN and ME declared personal interests in the item on the Pavilions in that they are both members of the Blackboys Cricket Club.

3. Approval of the last meeting's minutes.

These were approved as read (13 January 2010).

4. Matters Arising

- **Private Access to Council Land.**
 - **Update** - the Clerk reported that two out of three replies had been received. The third was discussing the matter with their solicitor and would be followed up again.
 - **Further request for discussion.** The Clerk stated that a request had been received from a resident of Framelle Mount to reinstate the rear access gate from his garden to the recreation ground. The meeting agreed that permission should be given as long as the appropriate paperwork was signed.
- **Land Registry work** – the Clerk confirmed that the solicitors were now going ahead with the 'easier' items. Further investigation at the Archive Office was required on the some of other ones.
- **Blackboys Pre-school – reimbursement of cost of the ROSPA inspection to BVH play area** - FT corrected the item, in that he will be putting the request to the BVH Committee not the Pre-school although this would remain ongoing, as there has yet to be a meeting.

All other items are detailed under the relevant sections.

5. Recreation Grounds and Allotments – current condition etc.

ME reported that the general condition was good as there had been a great improvement due to the weather over the last few days.

Framfield Recreation Ground

- **Letter from FBHS regarding the Summer Show.** The Clerk reported that the usual letter had been received asking permission to use the grounds for the Show on 14 August. The meeting formally agreed.
 - ME then reported that a further letter had been received detailing various points:
 - **Vehicle Access to the Recreation Ground.** Due to the angle/positioning of the gate, the marquee contractors, tractor and trailer providing bales for the Show and the recycling rubbish team all struggle to gain access through the gate. This has been raised in the past but the FBHS ask if anything could be done to alleviate the situation. Following discussion the meeting asked that the FBHS submit their ideas (possibly the addition of another 12-foot gate in place of the stretch of fencing next to the current gate) with confirmation that they will cover the cost of the works.
 - **Grassroots Grant - Storage Container.** The Society has been successful in obtaining a grant to purchase a container for storage on the

recreation ground. The letter states that Eryl Thomas agreed to the purchase and placement of a container in his then capacity of Chair. The FBHS now have the funding to implement this and seek confirmation from the PC that they can progress this further.

The meeting discussed the proposal and agreed that unfortunately nothing had ever been brought either to Committee or Full Council for approval. The current container requires planning permission and only contains items from the FBHS and is not now required by the PC. In addition the meeting felt it inappropriate to place another such container on the recreation ground. The proposal was made to seek retrospective planning permission for the current container and then offer it on a lease basis to the FBHS who would then have the responsibility of insuring and maintaining it.

- **Post meeting note: Licence to Sell Alcohol.** The last item on the letter was unfortunately omitted but following agreement after the meeting, permission was given to the FBHS to apply for a Temporary Event Notice to regularise the Pimms' Tent at the Show.
- **Mark Moore.** The Clerk reported that Mark had asked if he could utilise the recreation ground for 2 evenings, Wednesday, 17 and 24 March 2010 for football with floodlights. Permission was given at no charge.

Framfield Allotments

- **Meeting with Mentor.** The Clerk stated that now that the weather had improved she would invite Paul Neary to Framfield, as he appeared to have lots of useful advice on many practical and administrative issues.
- **Next Steps.** FT and RN agreed to review the timetable and endeavour to highlight items, which could be taken forward.
- **Tenancy Agreement.** The Clerk was asked to liaise with David Andrews to draft a suitable tenancy agreement. Three different agreements had to be drafted – a standard agreement; one for the Pond Warden and one for Charlie Diplock. A meeting could then be arranged with the tenants. The meeting agreed that the rate per plot should be kept in line with Blackboys Allotments at £10.00 per plot for the next year – 2010/11.

Blackboys Recreation Ground

- **Car parking permits – John Dann Close.** The Clerk reported that she had received three permits. ME held one, a further one would be passed to Arbor Management and she would hold onto the third for use by councillors. Comment was made on the unsightly signs attached to the streetlights detailing the enforcement action, which could be taken if anyone is parked incorrectly and the Clerk was asked to write to Downland Housing stating that no permission had been given for the signs.
- **Bee-keeping.** The Clerk reported that Simon Green had notified the Council that he had joined the High Weald Bee Keepers' Association and has started going to their meetings. There is also a member who lives in Blackboys who would agree to be Simon's mentor although unfortunately the beginners' course is already fully subscribed. He asked that the PC consider giving him permission to keep bees as long as he is mentored. Following discussion the meeting agreed that no permission should be given until the course has been completed and at that time they would reconsider their position. The Clerk was asked to inform Simon.
- **Review of tenancy agreements.** Two alterations were made to the agreement – the addition of the relevant tenancy year in the title and under item 7, first point, reduction in cuts to 1. The agreement was then approved.
 - **To include discussion on an increase in rent for the year 2011/12.** The meeting agreed that notice should be given to tenants now that the rent will remain the same (£10.00) for the year 2010/11 but would increase to £15.00 per plot in April 2011.
- **Carrie Ceretti.** The Clerk reported that Ms Ceretti asked if she could share her double plot with a neighbour who had asked for an allotment. The meeting agreed that the Clerk should contact Ms Ceretti and inform her that unfortunately, tenants are not allowed to sublet and if she wishes to give up one of her plots, it must be offered through the Clerk to the next person on the waiting list.

Palehouse Common

ME reported that the entrance gate was broken and he would try to repair it. A car seemed to have been driving into the recreation ground again.

6. Pavilion Review - Update

FT stated that there was nothing to formally report.

7. Any Other Business.

- **Repairs to play area safety surfacing.** RN reported that Mark Moore had confirmed that he would be carrying out some repairs to the safety surfacing.
- **Dog Bin, Blackboys Recreation Ground.** ME reported that this had still not been removed. Clerk to inform WDC again.

Extra item

Streetlighting. FT asked if consideration could be given to an urgent problem concerning the streetlighting contracts – ME agreed.

Members gave the go-ahead at the last PC meeting for the termination of the maintenance contract with DTS and supply from EDF changing over to a dual contract with ESCC. DTS are requiring a 6-month notice of termination – the Clerk reported that this is contained within the contract, but the contract was only for one year, 2009/10. However it was noted in an attached email and although could probably be defeated in court, the cost of solicitors would outweigh any gain. FT put the costings to the meeting:

1. Remain the same, ie continue with EDF (energy) and DTS (maintenance) for one year from 1 April 2010 - £3,460.
2. Employ ESCC (both energy and maintenance) from 1 April 2010 and DTS (to cover only the 6 month notice period until 30 September 2010) - £3,358.
3. EDF and DTS for six months, then ESCC (both energy and maintenance) from 1 October 2010) - £3,220.

The meeting discussed the dilemma and agreed that option 2 should be implemented as although £138 more expensive than option 3, it was thought that DTS might not be inclined to perform satisfactorily, as their contract would have been terminated. The Clerk was asked to contact ESCC and DTS. The decision would be ratified at Full Council on 30 March 2010.

8. Date of Next Meeting.

Change of scheduled date - Tuesday, 18 May 2010, Framfield Memorial Hall – time to be advised.

Meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

Chairman