

# Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall, Framfield, on Tuesday, 22 March 2016 at 7.30pm

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**Present** Jeff Goggin (Chairman) Peter Friend  
Selina Allen (Vice Chairman) Maria Naylor  
Keith Brandon Rob Newton

Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC) - part

**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 are invited to address the Parish Council if present.*

**Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC)** – Chris reported on the following items:

- Reduction in speed limit on Bird in Eye Hill – the ESCC Panel has met and stated that they will not sanction the work at this time but that they will give further consideration in September. Chris is fairly optimistic as he thinks the delay in the decision-making is due to a change in contractors and not wanting to overload the 'retiring' contractor with work prior to the new one picking it up.
- Broadband – ESCC has a contract with British Telecom to roll out superfast broadband. However there are ongoing issues with connectivity and a second contract has been entered into to deal with the 'hotspot' areas.
- Budget – this was agreed in early February and will mean a 4% increase in Council Tax. The Government has given ESCC a transitional grant of £2.7 million and promised the same for next year in an attempt to cope with the changes that are required. This still means that ESCC need to make cuts of £15 million in the 2016/17 year.
- Library consultation – this is due to close soon and is a consultation on the potential reduction of opening hours across the twenty four libraries across the County.
- Devolution. This is still very much in the air. The three Southern counties have made a bid to DCLG but await to hear any news.
- The Clerk detailed a letter received from a Blackboys resident that day complaining about the condition of many road signs etc most of which are under the jurisdiction of ESCC. She stated she would pass the details onto Chris. **ACTION: PC 017 – CLERK/CD.**
- Highways Steward. The Clerk asked Chris if he could find out if the Steward is off sick and if there is a replacement. Also if Councils could be advised when this happens. **ACTION: PC 018 – CD.**

**Councillor Ann Newton (WDC)** reported to the meeting that she is still heavily involved in her position as the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Planning & Development with the production of the Wealden Local Plan. The responses from the recent Issues, Options and Recommendations consultation are currently being analysed before moving on to the next stage.

*(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. Declarations of Interest

*Councillors to give notice of declarations of personal, prejudicial and pecuniary interests in respect of items on the agenda.* Rob Newton declared a prejudicial pecuniary 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

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2016 having been circulated, be approved, adopted and signed as a correct record. (PF/JG).

### 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

*Some items were dealt with under other appropriate headings below.*

PC 001/16	Clerk to arrange a meeting with all parties to look at the parking problems associated with the School in Blackboys. Update. The Clerk reported that Councillor Dowling had received a reply from County officers stating that the Council does not provide laybys - this would have to be at the expense of the Parish Council with the possibility of match-funding. However, the implications were not to be thought straightforward and therefore expensive. ESCC could potentially issue a licence for flower planting in the grass verge in an attempt to deter drivers from parking on the verges. They have also offered leaflets for the School to distribute about parking. The meeting agreed that this should be conveyed to the School and residents and a possible meeting set up with the Highways Steward to see if the installation of bollards would be possible in various locations. <b>ACTION: FF 019 – CLERK.</b>
PC 002/16	Councillor Chris Dowling to see if he can arrange for the tinsel to be removed from the accident site on the Lewes Road as it causes a great distraction to drivers at night. This had been.
PC 003/16	Bird-in-Eye Hill – proposal for a reduction in the speed limit. The results of the application to ESCC for match-funding is awaited. Detailed above – ongoing. <b>ACTION: PC 020 – CD.</b>
PC 004/16	The Pensions Regulator. Ongoing. The Clerk was delighted to report that she has managed to opt out successfully and thanked the RFO for her perseverance!
PC 005/16	Consideration for the provision of Wifi in both halls. Clerk to enquire as to what is available in other halls. The Clerk reported that of the halls that replied, the majority had a Wifi facility. Keith Brandon reported that he had conducted a local survey and 90% of the residents who replied welcomed the suggestion of Wifi. By a majority vote the meeting agreed that Keith should progress the installation at the Memorial Hall but that any works at the Blackboys Village Hall should be put on hold for six to twelve months. Keith also reported his disappointment and he has written to the Blackboys Pre-school with a series of questions because they have already installed a broadband connection without any permission from the Council. This may impede any installation that the Council might approve. <b>ACTION: PC 021 – KB/CLERK.</b>
PC 006/16	Consideration to raising the rents in both halls – on agenda.
PC 007/16	Blackboys – B2192/B2102 – speeding issues. School signs/village gateways? Way forward. The Clerk reported that various residents have made contact with her regarding the two roads in Blackboys with particular emphasis of the safety of the B2192. She had met with two residents who were going to gauge the support of the School in presenting a case to the County Council - this has not yet materialised. Another suggestion from a resident is the installation of school flashing signs on the High Street – he also offered to part fund them. Clerk to make contact with the residents/School for an update. <b>ACTION: PC 022 – CLERK.</b> Councillor Dowling emphasised the need for dialogue with him.
PC 007/16	Precept – Clerk to send off appropriate paperwork to WDC. This had been done.
PC 008/16	Grounds maintenance contract. Clerk to advise the relevant parties of the decision. Peter Friend to walk the sites with the successful contractor. This had been done – Peter was still to walk the sites with the contractor. <b>ACTION: PC 023 – PF.</b>
PC 009/16	ESCC Street lighting – lantern replacement. Clerk to give ESCC the go

	ahead but to ask for a breakdown of the costs. This had been done and a breakdown received – passed to Keith Brandon.
PC 010/16	Hall oil tanks – to be topped up. This had been done but would be checked (at Blackboys) by Brian Short. <b><u>ACTION: 024 – BS.</u></b> [Post meeting note: both tanks are full].

## 5. Correspondence received since the last meeting

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

- Letter from Mr and Mrs Hall, Framfield – for information. Mr and Mrs Hall are experiencing severe problems with ‘rat run’ traffic avoiding Uckfield Town Centre during the roadwork. Councillor Dowling reported that he had responded to Mr and Mrs Hall along with an ESCC officer response. Unfortunately Sandy Lane is a highway and therefore available for all to use, however they would keep an eye on the condition of the road and carry out the necessary repairs.
- Tower Mint Ltd – offering commemorative coins to celebrate the Queen’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Local Government Boundary Commission consultation - putting forward the recommendations on the District Boundary changes. The current District Ward of Framfield and Waldron is proposed to change to Framfield and Cross in Hand.
- Letter from Trevor Clark, resident of Blackboys – detailed above (action point 017).

## 6. Finance and General Purposes:

- Resolve to formally appoint Keith Robertson as the Internal Auditor. Jeff Goggin proposed his appointment; this was seconded by Rob Newton and agreed by all present. Clerk to inform Keith. **ACTION: PC 024 – CLERK.**
- Consideration to be given to raising the rents in both halls – all Councillors were in receipt of the current pricing schedules. Clarification is required from the RFO on any preferential prices prior to any increased being suggested. Clerk to contact the RFO. **ACTION: PC 026 – CLERK.**
- Review the rent for both the football clubs (currently £275.00 each) and cricket club (currently £250.00) for the use of the changing rooms (Memorial Hall) and Pavilion (Blackboys). The meeting agreed to keep the charges the same for the season 2016/17. Clerk to send out the renewals. **ACTION: PC 027 – CLERK.**
- Schedule of expenditure as at 29 February 2016 – this was adopted as read. (KB/JG).
- Formal agreement of the February/March 2016 payments/disbursements – itemised below. This was agreed for payment by Peter Friend, seconded by Jeff Goggin and agreed by all present. The Clerk was asked to split the bill for the removal of the goalposts from behind the container on Framfield recreation ground between both football clubs who had been asked to do the work themselves. **ACTION: PC 028 – CLERK.**

	£
701308 – HMRC; February tax and NI payments for the Clerk/RFO	264.04
701309 – WDC (dog bin emptying – quarter 2, 3 and 4)	963.54
701310 – ESCC (replacement of 2 lanterns – streetlights)	916.34
701311 – ESCC (annual maintenance/energy – streetlights)	2,964.80
701312 – Horizon Skills Ltd (computer anti-virus update/service [shared with EHwHPC])	150.00
701313 – D&J Greengrow (bi-annual handyman account)	1,314.00
701315 – HMRC; March tax and NI payments for the Clerk/RFO	263.93
BACS – staff salaries.	

### Cheques to be dated after 1 April 2016

701314 – East Sussex ALC Ltd (annual subscription)	560.88
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### Bank Balances as at 29 February 2016

Current Account	£37,038.77
Deposit Account	£119.18

## 7. Reports from Committees

- **Planning** – the minutes of the previous meeting (26 January/14 March 2016) would have been be ratified at the meeting prior to full Council.

## 8. Reports from Representatives

- **Schools:** St Thomas à Becket Church of England Federation (Blackboys & Framfield CEP Schools)  
Framfield – Keith Brandon advised that the meeting that the School had asked him to forward their appreciation for the recent improvement works to the Hall. Keith further suggested that the schools be involved in a competition to produce an official logo for the Parish Council. Keith stated that he would make contact with the schools to take this forward. **ACTION: PC 029 – KB.**  
Blackboys – the Clerk reported that she had not be able to attend the recent Governors’ meeting of the Federation but would make contact to update them over the parking issues etc.
- **Police Panel meeting (SA) –**
  - Next LAT meeting – 31 March 2016, 7pm. Selina Allen confirmed that she would be attending.
  - Update on local policing in Sussex – 1 April 2016. Selina asked the Clerk to forward the details to her again to see if you could attend this meeting during the Easter school holidays. **ACTION: PC 030 – CLERK/SA.**
- **WDALC** – minutes to be sent out as and when received.

## 9. Councillors’ Questions

*The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.*

**Chairman**.....

**Date** .....

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (the AGM):**  
**Tuesday, 24 May 2016,**  
**at the Village Hall, Blackboys.**  
**commencing at 7.30 pm.**  
**This will be followed by the Annual Assembly at 8 pm.**