

Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Blackboys, on Tuesday, 26 January 2016 at 7.30pm

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 – seven
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.

Mr and Mrs Brian Turner were in attendance voicing their concerns over the damage being done to the verges, kerbs and pavements in School Lane, Blackboys, by parents taking/collection their children to/from school. The Clerk suggest that she should contact the ESCC Highways Steward in the first instance for a meeting to involve the residents, representatives from the School, Councillor Dowling and Keith Brandon as a Governor for the Federation of Schools. Clerk to arrange. **ACTION: PC 001/16 – CLERK/KB.**

Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC) – Chris stated that the decision would be made on the application for match-funding for the speed reduction on Bird-in-Eye Hill on 2 February 2016. Next year's budget will be put to the next Full Council meeting to include £90m worth of cuts over the next three years including £23m in the next financial year, the bulk of which is from Adult Social Care. The Government grant has once again been reduced but the Council can now precept twice, generally and secondly for Adult Social Care so the total raise in precept will be just under 4%. The recent library consultation has just concluded to reduce library hours by 25%. Chris lastly stated that he was happy to help out on the issues regarding School Lane as detailed above. Selina Allen asked if the tinsel could be removed from the accident site on the Lewes Road, as it is a distraction particularly at night to drivers. Chris said he would look into this. **ACTION: PC 002/16 – CD.**

Councillor Ann Newton (WDC) reported to the meeting that the Local Plan, Issues, Options and Recommendations Consultation had closed in mid-December. There had been some 1,000 responses from approximately 200 respondents. She also stated that she would be attending the Judicial Review of the Steel Cross Appeal Decision in the High Courts during the week.

(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

Councillor Sue Newman.

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 24 November 2015 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.

- Parish Magazine – the Clerk reported that she is in the process of renewing the advertisements.

PC 033	Bird-in-Eye Hill – proposal for a reduction in the speed limit. The results of the application to ESCC for match-funding is awaited – as detailed above. ACTION: PC 003/16 – ongoing/ESCC.
PC 034	Grounds maintenance contract – 2016-18. Three tenders have been received. Council to resolve to appoint a contractor – on agenda under 'Finance' below.
PC 035	The Pensions Regulator. Ongoing. ACTION: PC 004/16 – CLERK/RFO.
PC 036	WDC: Review of the Conservation Areas – Clerk to place details on the Framfield noticeboard and website. This had been done.
PC 037	Precept discussions – 2016/17. Clerk to forward updated finance schedule to Councillors when available. Council to resolve to set precept – on agenda below.
PC 038	Keith Brandon to produce options for the installation of Wifi in the Memorial Hall. Keith gave a presentation on the options which could be applied to both Halls. The approximate cost to install a telephone line and broadband would be £300 with a monthly cost of between £33-35 for all calls etc. Keith would do all the installation work free of charge. This would be of benefit to all users and provide safety in the way of a telephone line as mobile signal is very bad at both locations. The Clerk suggested that she enquire as to what other local halls have in the way of telephone/internet availability and would put the item on the next agenda for consideration. ACTION: PC 005/16 – CLERK. Consideration has also been given to hire raising rents next year and the suggestion was made for an agenda item in this regard next time. ACTION: PC 006/16 – CLERK.

5. Correspondence received since the last meeting

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

- WDC: Report of the Wealden Parish Remuneration Panel. The Council agreed that they do not take Members' Allowances.
- Letter from Mr and Mrs Brian Turner – as detailed at the start of the meeting.
- Letter from Ms Jane Petrie – taken with the letter from Mr and Mrs Turner on the same subject.
- 'Clean for the Queen' – 4-6 March 2016.
- Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations.
- Blackboys - road improvements (B2192) – village gateways. The Clerk detailed a recent meeting that she had with two Blackboys residents who wish to start a campaign to reduce the speed limit on the B2192 through Blackboys. They are intending to liaise with the School who have to cross the road to access Kiln Woods for their Forest School activities. The Clerk also mentioned discussions around potential village gateways. **ACTION: PC 007/16 - CLERK.**
- Mrs Sandy Rogers (Framfield & Blackboys Monday Club) – detailing the summary of accounts and a programme for this year, their 55th Anniversary. Councillors were asked to put 19 September in their diaries!
- GACC (Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign) – the Council declined to join.

6. Finance and General Purposes:

- Resolve to set the Precept for the next financial year – 2016/17. The Council agreed that they should raise the precept by £1,000 to help cover potential costs for the reduction in speed limit on the Bird in Eye Hill and any proposals for the B2192 in Blackboys. Therefore the budget was set at £52,409, this includes the precept of £51,200 (an increase of £1,002) plus the CTSG (Council Tax Support Grant) of £1,209. This was proposed for agreement by Jeff Goggin, seconded by Maria Naylor

and agreed by all present. The Clerk would send the appropriate paperwork off to WDC. **ACTION: PC 007/16 – CLERK.**

- Resolve to appoint a grounds maintenance contractor for a three year contract (2016, 17 and 18) with the option of an extension to five years. The meeting agreed to award the contract to Barcombe Landscapes as proposed by Maria Naylor, seconded by Rob Newton and agreed by all present. This was also the lowest of three quotes received. Peter Friend agreed to walk around the various sites with the contractors. Clerk to advise all the contractors of the decision. **ACTION: PC 008/16 – CLERK/PF.**
- ESCC: street lighting – lantern replacement – 5 and 8 The Street, Framfield. The meeting agreed that the work should be done but to enquire as to the exact make of bulb which will be used and for a complete breakdown of the cost on the invoice. **ACTION: PC 009/16 – CLERK.**
- External and Internal Audit. The meeting agreed that were happy to be appointed an External Auditor by the new Board from 2017 and would also be happy with the recommendation from Alison Hillman (current Internal Auditor) to approach Keith Robertson as she would be decreasing her internal audit workload.
- Hall oil tanks – the suggestion was made that both tanks should be topped up. **ACTION: PC 010/16 – CLERK/BS.**
- Schedule of expenditure as at 31 December 2015 – this was adopted as read. (KB/JG).
- Formal agreement of the December 2015/January 2016 payments/disbursements – itemised below. This was agreed for payment by Peter Friend, seconded by Jeff Goggin and agreed by all present.

	£
701303 – SLCC (annual subscription)	105.00
701304 – HMRC	
701305 – WDC (election costs)	492.35
701306 – HMRC.	
701307 – Compact Cutting (grounds maintenance for the remainder of the season – invoices sent to incorrect email address)	3,252.00

Parish Magazine

100021 – Print Matters (December/January edition - printing)	546.00
100022 – P Tomsett (BR) (December/January edition – typesetting)	125.00
100023 – Print Matters (February/March edition - printing)	546.00
100024 – P Tomsett (BR) (February/March edition and ads– typesetting)	250.00

Bank Balances as at 31 December 2015

Current Account	£42,858.00
Deposit Account	£119.18

7. Reports from Committees

- **Planning** – the minutes of the previous meeting (5 January 2016) and delegated comments would have been ratified at the meeting prior to full Council.

8. Reports from Representatives

- **Schools:**
 - Framfield – Keith Brandon had made a presentation on the potential installation of Wifi at the Memorial Hall which would be of benefit to the School as detailed above.
 - Blackboys – the Clerk reported that she had not be able to attend the recent Governors’ meeting of the Federation. She would be looking into the parking problems as detailed above.
- **Police Panel meeting** –Selina Allen reported that there had been two shed/out building burglaries and residents should keep an eye on their oil tanks.
- **WDALC** – minutes to be sent out as and when received.

9. Councillors’ Questions

There were none.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Chairman.....

Date

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:
Tuesday, 22 March 2016,
at the Memorial Hall, Framfield.
commencing at 7.30 pm.