

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Blackboys, on Tuesday, 31 January 2017 at 7.30pm

Present (Councillors): Jeff Goggin (Chairman) Noel Mansley
Keith Brandon (Vice Chairman) Maria Naylor
Selina Allen Rob Newton
Alan Greenslade Sam Sharples
Rob Jackson

Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC) - part

In attendance Ann Newton - Clerk Members of the Public – none.
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:

- The County Council will be meeting to discuss spending £91 million on highway improvements over the next seven years. This is part of the budget which is yet to be approved. £40 million has already been spent over the last five years. The revenue budget totals £363 million, a reduction of £18 million on the previous year.
- The proposal is to increase Council Tax by 1.99% for the 2017/18 year. In addition there is the extra precept (3%) for Adult Social Care.
- ESCC (Trading Standards) are working with the Home Office looking at the large number of 'scams' which the public are subjected to on a frequent basis.
- Bird-in-Eye Hill, Framfield – proposal for a reduction in the speed limit. Chris commented that the Parish Council (PC) has now re-applied for Community Match Funding (CMF) under the new scheme. The County Council is also intending to increase the fund for CMF in subsequent years.
- 231 bus service. Chris reported that the new bus timetable for the service has been issued. The service remains very much the same on weekdays but has had to be cut on Saturdays. (Full details have been placed on the Parish Council website and will be put in the next issue of the Parish Magazine).

Councillor Ann Newton (WDC) – Ann reported on the following items:

- Wealden District Council (WDC) is still working on the Local Plan and the next iteration will be published during the first quarter of 2017. Ann commented that it is difficult to achieve a balance from what Government policy requires and residents want.
- Crematorium – Ann explained that she is on the Project Board for the crematorium. The application has now been approved and it is hoped that the facility will be ready in approximately eighteen months' time.

(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 resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2016, having been circulated, as a true and accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were signed by the Chairman as proposed by Selina Allen and seconded by Rob Newton

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Some items were dealt with under other appropriate headings below.

PC 056	Blackboys – B2192/B2102 – speeding issues. School signs/village gateways? Clerk to contact residents again. Letters circulated to Councillors. The meeting agreed that they should make an approach to ESCC to look at the possibilities for reducing the speed limit on the B2192 with the addition of potential village gateways. <u>ACTION: PC 077 – CLERK.</u>
PC 057	Memorial bench at the top of Becketts Way. Clerk to source a replacement. The Clerk reported that she is in the process of obtaining two quotes and will obtain a third. <u>ACTION: PC 078 – CLERK.</u>
PC 058	Guideposts – the Council are still waiting the removal of two ‘stumps’ and to ask for a licence for the posts at the bottom of Stonebridge Lane and at the junction with Palehouse Common both on the B2192 and relevant insurance. The Clerk reported that she is still awaiting to hear from ESCC. <u>ACTION: PC 079 – CLERK.</u>
PC 059	Bird-in-Eye Hill – proposal for a reduction in the speed limit. Council to re-apply for community match funding under the new scheme. This has been done and news is awaited from ESCC. <u>ACTION: PC 080 – ESCC.</u>
PC 060	Consideration for the provision of Wifi in both halls. Keith Brandon to prioritise the installation at the Memorial Hall – ongoing. Keith reported that he was moving forward with the projects. <u>ACTION: PC 081 – KB/CLERK.</u>
PC 061	Grounds maintenance contract. Clerk to contact the contractor to consider more cuts if there is a warm, wet spring and to arrange a meeting. The Clerk reported that contact has been made and a walk round is planned shortly. <u>ACTION: PC 082 – CLERK/PF.</u>
PC 062	Official Council logo – Keith Brandon to ‘computerise’ the winning entry and investigate making it into an official ‘stamp’ for the Council. Clerk to look out designs for the village signs. This is ongoing. <u>ACTION: PC 083 – CLERK/KB.</u>
PC 063/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framfield School – signing of the licence agreement required for the gateway between the playground and woodlands. This has been done. • Refuse – Clerk to liaise with the School over the use of the Memorial Hall refuse bin for lunch waste to meet with a representative of Chartwells. The Chairman stated that he had met with Chartwells. The situation is being monitored.
PC 065	British Telecom plc – Clerk to advise WDC that they are not interested in retaining the Parish telephone kiosks. This has been done.
PC 066	Larkins & Pollington Design – Mill Field. Clerk to draft a reply. This has been done. Deferred to Blackboys Trust agenda.
PC 067	FGP Committee minutes – Clerk/RFO to implement resolutions. The Clerk reported that most of the items have been completed.
PC 068/9	Policies - Keith Brandon to confirm that a fee is no longer required for Data Protection Registration each year and to send out the revised policies to Councillors – agenda item.
PC 070	‘Old’ Memorial Hall account – Clerk to arrange the closure and transfer of the funds to the Framfield Trust account. This has been done.
PC 071	Clerk/RFO to find out if it would be prudent to pay off part of the loan with some of the reserves. This is still to be investigated. <u>ACTION: PC 084 – CLERK/RFO.</u>
PC 072	Clerk to source some new noticeboards. The Clerk reported that she

	was in the process of obtaining quotes. Rob Jackson offered to assist. <u>ACTION: PC 085 – CLERK.</u>
PC 073	Memorial Hall – Clerk to make enquiries about applying for a full alcohol licence. The Clerk explained that if the Hall had a licence it would mean that they were responsible for anyone hiring the Hall and selling alcohol, a situation which would not be within their control. Following discussion, the meeting agreed unanimously that they would not apply for a licence. Hirers wishing to sell alcohol could apply for a TEN (Temporary Event Notice) which are still £21.00 each.
PC 074	Grant funding opportunity from Tescos – Keith Brandon to investigate. The meeting agreed that Keith Brandon should investigate with idea of applying for funding for a new basketball post/net at Framfield recreation ground for which a request had been received. The Clerk replied that she had also received an email about funding from Sport England. <u>ACTION: PC 086 – KB/CLERK.</u>
PC 075	Clerk to look into the fees paid by The Stagers in recent years. This had been done. Concerns were also raised about the extension to the stage in the weeks running up to the Pantomime and if there was any impact on the use by the School. The Clerk was asked to make contact with the School. <u>ACTION: PC 087 – CLERK.</u>
PC 076	A large increase in electricity charges at the Village Hall, Blackboys, had occurred – Keith Brandon to look at the details – deferred to Blackboys Trust agenda.

5. Additional items for discussion

- Gritting/grit bins – the provision of. There had been concerns raised about the condition of the roads in very cold weather (in particular the junction of Palehouse Common/Brookhouse Lane), however following discussion the meeting decided that they had agreed in the past not to provide grit bins, because providing one would set a precedent and would incur the responsibility of keeping them topped up. There is also the fact as to whom would spread the grit.
- Building works encroaching on ‘the green’ at the top of Becketts Way, Framfield. The meeting agreed that the Clerk should write a letter to the home owner asking for an expedient completion to the works and that in the meanwhile all materials should be housed within the home’s curtilage and any damage to the public land rectified.
ACTION: PC 088 – CLERK.
- Request by a resident to refurbish the grass triangle at the junction of the B2192 and Stonebridge Lane. The meeting agreed that the Clerk could contact ESCC to initiate dialogue. **ACTION: PC 089 – CLERK.**

6. Correspondence received since the last meeting

Letters for noting/discussion (Including items that have been received after this agenda has been published) – most items were from pending matters and dealt with under separate headings.

- WDC:
 - Parish/Town Council Members’ Allowances 2017/18. The Council, as in previous years, agreed not to adopt the Allowances.
 - Tesco’s Bags of Help Grant Scheme for Open Space Improvements. As detailed under the action points above.
- Letter from Bethany Wright – circulated to Councillors. As detailed under the action point above.
- Framfield & Blackboys Horticultural Society. The meeting agreed that the Society could use the recreation ground in Framfield for the Show including car parking (weather-permitting) on 12 August 2017.
- Email – Jo Shakir; request for a path around Framfield recreation ground - detailed under ‘Finance’ below*.
- Framfield & Blackboys Monday Club – detailing the programme for the year and the condition of the accounts/funds.

7. Finance and General Purposes:

- Resolve to set the budget and Precept for the next financial year – 2017/18. The Clerk had provided an up to date finance schedule for the end of December 2016 and a draft budget for the 2017/18 financial year. The meeting subsequently agreed to set the budget at £53,410. However, asking for a precept of £51,200 (the same as for 2016/17); this added to the Council Tax Support Grant of £880.00, meant that £1,330 would need to be taken from general reserves, which was agreed. This was proposed by Noel Mansley, seconded by Rob Newton and agreed by all present.
ACTION: PC 090 – CLERK.
- Resolve to earmark the reserve funds as detailed at the meeting – previously circulated. The meeting agreed to earmark the reserves as detailed: £40,000 Framfield Trust (funds from Shared Access Ltd); £10,000 village gateway/traffic calming, Blackboys; £10,000 Village Hall, Blackboys, connection to mains sewer; £10,000 recreation ground/play area contingency; £8,000 legal fee contingency; £2,000 speed limit reduction, Bird-in-Eye Hill; £2,000 play area fencing, Framfield; £3,000 new benches; £2,000 new noticeboards; £3,000 repair/replace guideposts; £2,000 general recreation ground fencing, Framfield; £2,278.14 – general reserves. This was resolved for agreement as proposed by Jeff Goggin, seconded by Keith Brandon and agreed by all present.
- *Discussion on the use of funds from Shared Access Ltd. The meeting agreed that any essential works to the Hall should be given priority (new heating system, works to the outside including the rear steps) and then other projects could be given consideration. It was not thought practical to put a footpath around the recreation ground due to potential issues with draining the area. This has been flagged up when looked at before. The suggestion was made that perhaps a shorter path could be put from the western entrance to the play area.
- Resolve to approve revised policies/Terms of Reference – circulated to Councillors. These were agreed, proposed by Selina Allen, seconded by Rob Newton and agreed by all present.
- Councillors were in receipt of the schedule of expenditure as at 31 December 2016, bank reconciliation and bank statement for December for comparison and agreement. The accounts were verified as correct by the Council. (KB/JG).
- Formal agreement of the December [part] 2016/January 2017 payments/disbursements – itemised below. This was agreed for payment by Jeff Goggin, seconded by Selina Allen and agreed by all present.

£

701343 – Barcombe Landscapes Ltd (grounds maintenance)	£1,896.00
701344 – Mr R Richards (annual donation/grass-cutting, Becketts Way)	120.00
BACS – BVH (Hall hire)	12.00
701345 – HMRC; January tax and NI payments for the Clerk/RFO (Staff salaries paid net of tax by BACS)	298.81

£35,000 to be transferred to deposit account – as agreed.

Cheques received

Dawson Hart Solicitors - £39,747.

Bank Balances as at 31 December 2016

Current Account £49,651.55
Deposit Account £119.21

8. Reports from Committees (KB, PF, JG, AG & MN)

- **Planning** – the minutes of the previous meetings (16 January 2017) would have been be ratified at the meeting prior to full Council. There were no other Planning matters.

9. Reports from Representatives

- **Schools:** St Thomas à Becket Church of England Federation (Blackboys & Framfield CEP Schools) (KB). There was nothing to report.
- **WDALC** – minutes to be sent out as and when received.

Signed

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Date

- **Parish Planning Panel (c/o Clerk)** - minutes to be sent out as and when received.

10. Councillors' Questions

- Rob Jackson asked for clarification of the status of the land outside the Hare & Hounds public house. The Clerk confirmed that this is the 'village green'. Suggestions were made that in order to try and ensure that drivers slow down around the bend and along The Street, double yellow lines could be painted along that stretch of road stopping the car parking along there. Parking places could also be marked out for the two homes. Discussion ensued on safety along The Street.
- Rob Newton suggested that the Parish Council look into obtaining a credit card for use on Parish Council business. Alternative suggestions were also made. The Clerk/RFO would look into it. **ACTION: PC 091 – CLERK/RFO.**
- Keith Brandon reported that he had very little response from residents to his suggestions for setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:</i> <i>Tuesday, 28 March 2017</i> <i>at the Memorial Hall, Framfield.</i> <i>commencing at 7.30 pm.</i> <i>The public and the press are cordially invited to attend</i></p>
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