

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Blackboys, on Tuesday, 29 January 2019 at 7.30pm

Present (Councillors): Keith Brandon (Chairman) Danny Gallagher
Sam Sharples (Vice Chairman) Tony Hall
Peter Friend Noel Mansley

Councillors Chris Dowling (ESCC)/Ann Newton (WDC)
Two PCSO's

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.

Two PCSO's were in attendance and they gave the following report:

- A recruitment campaign is under way to replace the number of Police who left via a redundancy route because it has been realised that the lack of Police presence on the street was a mistake. It is hoped by 2021 that there will be more Police back in place.
- Each village won't have its own PCSO but will be combined with other areas – Uckfield for Framfield Parish.
- They will not enforce parking restrictions but will ticket vehicles that are parked dangerously if passing through.
- Some success has been had with 'Pop Up' Police Stations.
- Uckfield Police Station is open until 2 pm five days a week.
- Operation Crackdown or 101 is the place to go for persistent bad parking. Although the meeting felt that the former was 'toothless' and 101 time-consuming.
- Police Property Fund – grants are available for local societies/clubs.

Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC) made the following report:

- The Council budget setting meeting in February will set the budget at 2.99%.
- A one-off grant of £4.7m has been passed down to ESCC for road repairs along with extra money for Adult and Children's Services.
- There will still be a £3.75m revenue spend next year with 75% of that being spent on Adult and Children's Services.
- The repair bill for the damage to the pavement in Becketts Way has been sent to the contractor.
- Chris has been advised that no further parking restrictions (such as yellow lines) will be implemented until some sort of enforcement is in place.

Councillor Ann Newton (WDC) made the following report:

- The Local Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 18 January 2019. It is anticipated that preliminary hearings might be held in March and it is hoped that the full Examination in Public will be in the summer but no dates are set yet.
- Now that the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been completion applications that have been approved subject to finalisation of the HRA, can now be fully approved. Once this has been done it will give a distinct improvement to the District's 5 Year Land Supply bringing it up to 5.69 years. This will mean less of a developer-led situation. The applications which are due to be refused will also start being processed.
- Biffa has been appointed as the contractor to the Waste contract which will start in June 2019. There will be a £50.00 per annum charge for any household who wishes to have a green (garden waste) bin. This is an opt in/opt out arrangement.
- Council tax will increase by 2.7% - £5.00 per annum to a Band D householder.

(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).

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Maria Naylor.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors to give notice of declarations of personal, prejudicial and pecuniary interests in respect of items on the agenda. There were none.

3. To accept the Minutes of the last meeting (27 November 2018)

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2018, having been circulated, as a true and accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were signed by the Chairman as proposed by Keith Brandon and seconded by Sam Sharples.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

To receive updates or agree any further actions.

- War Memorial, Framfield Churchyard. The Clerk advised the meeting that this was now in the hands of the Church who would make contact if they believed the memorial needed cleaning later this year.
- Finger-post, junction of Wilderness/Chapel Lane. The Clerk advised that £265.00 had been paid across to Hadlow Down Parish Council for the repairs to the post and she has asked ESCC for a licence for the site. Licences have always been issued free of charge by ESCC in the past. However, the process has now been 'amended' and two separate licences are now required for two separate fees of £380.00 for the excavation and £57.20 for the actual sign placement. This new ruling has also been made retrospective so could potentially cost the Parish for the nine, soon to be ten, posts owned, £4,372.00. ESCC have offered to create one 'master licence' for the posts which will run in perpetuity for a one-off charge of £57.20. This will however make it costly to adopt any further posts. The same or similar costs will also apply for benches, noticeboards etc on the highway. The Council thought the retrospective nature of the charge incredulous but agreed to accept the cost of £57.20 for the 'master licence'.
- Land in front of Mapleleaf Cottages, School Lane, Blackboys. The Clerk advised that WDC do own the majority of the small copse area with ESCC owning a strip adjacent to the road. The land at the end of Mount Pleasant/High Street, Blackboys, is owned by ESCC but they have no plans to cut back the vegetation at the moment. Some thoughts were voiced about pruning the overhanging branches around the village sign.

5. 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.

6. Finance and General Purposes:

- Precept for – 2019/20 – details passed to WDC. (With a budget requirement of £61,670, the Parish Council resolved in November to set the precept at £61,448 as the Council Tax Support Grant is £222.00. (An increase of £11.06 to a Band D Council Tax payer).
- Request for a grit bin – Becketts Way. Grit bins in general. The Clerk explained that there had been a request for a second grit bin in Becketts Way and one in Etchingwood Lane. The meeting agreed that they could not sanction the installation of two bins across the Parish (especially as one is a second bin in the road) without doing a survey of the need across the whole Parish. The cost is also something that would have to be budgeted for. A new grit bin including installation and one fill costs £328.00. The two licences as mentioned above are also required (£380.00 + £57.20) and then each fill would be £108.00. At the moment the on-street bins are owned and re-filled by ESCC.

- Defibrillators – ratification of an order for two new batteries and four sets of pads (£669.54) – (to be paid out of general reserves). This was agreed. The Chairman detailed that the cabinets may also need replacing if the heat elements are obsolete at an approximate cost of £400.00 each.
- Donation from the Estate of Lieutenant Colonel Drew. The meeting voiced their gratitude at this very generous donation and said that when a suitable project came forward they would contact Colonel Drew's family.
- Parish Magazine. The Clerk reported that for the first year the magazine had made a loss mainly due to several full-page advertisers pulling out. However, there was money in the account to cover the loss and going forwards. Every attempt would be made to cover costs in 2019/20. Also for the first time, an advertiser was refusing to pay – this would be pursued.
- Bank reconciliation, balances and accounts – all Councillors were in receipt of a copy of the financial sheets for comparison and agreement. Noel Mansley queried three items, on the Framfield Community, Business and Trust accounts – the bank balance did not quite match the figure on the balance sheet - this was to be queried to the RFO. The rest of the accounts were verified as correct by the Council. (KB/SS). The meeting asked that huge thanks be passed to Marie Owen, RFO, for all her work and the excellent way in which the accounts are now presented.
- Resolve to agree the December 2018/January 2019 payments/disbursements as detailed on the report as circulated. These were agreed and detailed at the end of the minutes. These were agreed (DG/PF).
- Any other financial matters.
 - The Clerk detailed a letter from the Framfield & Blackboys Monday Club attaching their accounts and asking for possibly two donations towards transport on two outings. The Clerk was asked to reply to the Club stating that the Parish Council would look at the request along with other similar requests after year end – May/June 2019.

7. Verbal Reports/updates from Council Members and the Clerk (if required).

- Liaison with ESCC on highway matters – Danny Gallagher/Clerk. Danny gave a verbal report on issues under the spotlight. All Councillors had received a copy of the updated report and the Clerk would send everyone a copy of the minutes from the recent SLR ('Strengthening Local Relationships') meeting held on 24 January 2019 to which Chris Dowling attended. Chris Dowling stated that he was pursuing issues such as Mount Pleasant, Blackboys, and Pump Lane, Framfield, with a more senior officer at ESCC.
- Clerk – report on any other items not recorded elsewhere in the agenda.
 - Wildlife Verges – there had been a move to make a stretch of verge in Tickerage Lane, Blackboys, into a wildlife verge - a level of protection for environmental reasons. (A similar request has been made in Streele Lane, Framfield). Due to historic issues with the inability of dustcarts to access properties in Tickerage Lane, objections were raised and ESCC have now withdrawn their request.
 - Litter-picking equipment – a request has been made from a resident for the Parish Council to purchase litter-picking equipment. The resident has been advised that Wealden District Council will be once again conducting their 'Spring Clean Campaign' in March when the equipment will be made available. Another resident has already offered to lend hers. Following discussion the Council decided that as the equipment is available from two other sources and the fact that if they hand out such equipment, a level of responsibility is incurred and a relevant policy would have to be written, the resident should be referred back to WDC.
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Consideration of exempt information and exclusion of the public. To give consideration under the Local Government Act 1972, Section 100 (A) (4) to the public being excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act. This resolution was proposed by Keith Brandon, seconded by Sam Sharples and agreed by all present.

- Guidance from Wealden District Council. The meeting agreed to accept the information from WDC.

8. Reports from Representatives

- **Schools:** St Thomas à Becket Church of England Federation (Blackboys & Framfield CEP Schools). Sam Sharples reported that Graham Sullivan (Blackboys Headteacher) was pleased with the results of the campaign to stop anti-social parking at school times and thanked the Council for their help with this. He felt that the issues with dog fouling were worsening. The Clerk stated that she could try and obtain more signs and speak to the Street Scene Officers at WDC. Suggestions were made about putting something on the Parish website and/or Facebook page. The meeting agreed in principle to allow Framfield School to store their table tennis table in one of the changing rooms once the dimensions were known and that the table was fairly easy to move about. The details of which would be written into the new hire agreement. The table is to be in the complete control of the school who will have the responsibility for insurance etc.
- **WDALC** (Wealden District Association of Local Councils) – minutes to be sent out as and when received.
- **Parish Planning Panel (c/o Clerk)** - minutes to be sent out as and when received. Tony Hall agreed to attend these meetings on behalf of the Council.

9. Items for referral by Councillors to the next appropriate Council or Committee agenda.

Keith Brandon stated that the new Parish Council Facebook page was getting about fifty people joining each week.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

<p>NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, 26 March 2019 at the Memorial Hall, Framfield. commencing at 7.30 pm.</p>

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Income and Expenditure November/December/January 2018 & 2019

Inc/Exp	Item Heading	Comments	Pre VAT VALUE (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)	Notes
ACC	Other	Donation	5,000.00		5,000.00	Trsfd to Reserves
ACC	General	Hadlow Down PC	265		265	Trsfd to Reserves
ACC	General	Fram/BB Hort Soc	250		250	Trsfd to Reserves

Inc/Exp	Item Heading	Comments	Pre VAT VALUE (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)	Notes
Exp	Telephone/Internet	BT	196.52		196.52	
Exp	Dog Bins	Wealden DC	312.5	62.5	375	
Exp	Hall Hire	Blackboys Hall Hire	60		60	
Exp	Stationery/Copying	Post Office Counters	58		58	
Exp	Website	BR	250		250	
Exp	Open spaces Grass	RR	130		130	
Exp	General	Transfer from FFT	-3.79		-3.79	
Exp	General	Lidl	3.79		3.79	
Exp	General	Transfer from FFT	-81.35		-81.35	
Exp	General	Bookers	81.35		81.35	
Exp	General	Hadlow Down PC	265		265	
Exp	Website	Money from Magazine	-200		-200	
Exp	General	Transfer from FFT	-63.99		-63.99	
Exp	General	Amazon	63.99		63.99	
Exp	General	Transfer from BBT	-102.16		-102.16	
Exp	General	Bookers	102.16		102.16	
Exp	NI	WG Accounting	493.77		493.77	
Exp	Staff Costs	Salaries	1,804.24		1,804.24	
Exp	Subscriptions	SLCC	196		196	
Exp	Stationery/Copying	Transfer from BBT	-12.2		-12.2	
Exp	Stationery/Copying	Transfer from FFT	-39.71		-39.71	
Exp	Stationery/Copying	Barclaycard	56.06		56.06	
Exp	Recreation Grounds	Ltd Barcombe Landscapes	850	170	1,020.00	
Exp	Recreation Grounds	Ltd	365	73	438	
Exp	General	B&M	14		14	
Exp	General	P and A Medical	465.95	93.19	559.14	
Exp	General	Amazon	92	18.4	110.4	
Exp	General	Transfer from BBT	-14		-14	