

**FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council (PC) held at the Village Hall,**  
**Blackboys, on Tuesday, 25 January 2022 at 5 pm.**

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**Present (Councillors):** Keith Brandon (Chairman) Maria Naylor  
Peter Friend Tony Hall (Vice Chairman)

Councillor Ann Newton (WDC)  
Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC)

**In attendance** Ann Newton - Clerk Members of the Public – none.  
Marie Owen - RFO

*(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).*

**Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC) [CD]** made the following report:

County matters:

- Cabinet had met in advance of the final budget meeting to discuss the Council Tax increase which is likely to be a total of just short of 4.5% which will be put to Full Council. This comprises of the basic increase of 1.99% plus the Adult Social Care precept of 1.5% with the permitted extra top up equalling a total of 4.5%. There will be an additional £6m for the climate change agenda from 2023-25 and £3.1m per year for highways maintenance.

Parish maintenance:

- The water leak on the B2102 to the east of Pump Lane has been dealt with. The Clerk commented that there is still a leak from around the cats' eyes in the road.
- Brookhouse Lane – the ruts in the road have been filled, the drains repaired and the situation is being monitored.
- Upton Mill Lane – repairs have been carried out and extra signage installed deterring large vehicles from using the lane/bridge.
- Beckets Way – ESCC have informed UKPN of the damage to the surface of the tarmac but have advised that this is not enforceable. The Chairman advised that he has reported the issue to UKPN themselves. [Post meeting note: this has now been repaired].

Speed limit/interventions:

Palehouse Common – email received from Ian Johnson, ESCC stating that the works to provide the PC with costings for advisory signs had been started but the officer believed that their installation would be futile. Following discussion, the PC agreed to write to CD stating their deep disappointment in the contents of the email copying this reply to Ed Sheath, Head of Planning at ESCC, who had attended the meeting with the PC in September and agreed that the works should be instigated.

Blackboys:

- A series of repairs to pavements have been identified and CD has walked around the village with residents looking at the condition/width of many of the pavements and speed of traffic.
- CD has been contacted by numerous residents urging ESCC to reduce the speed limit on both main roads.

Lewes Road:

- Speed monitors were put at three different locations on the Lewes Road the results of which showed there was very little speeding. Members of the PC commented that the issue is that the speed limit of 50 mph is too high and not appropriate for the road.
- The route study from Lewes to Cross in Hand has been completed but the results are not yet known.
- The Police are intending to erect cognitive signs on the road encouraging safe driving.
- The PC was asked if they would consider Community Match Funding for any future works which indicated that although ESCC were unwilling to address the problem they would if they didn't have to pay for it! The PC have supported CMF in the past. The next CMF bids are to be signed off in October. The feasibility study to start the process would be half the usual cost because some of the works have already been done - £500.00 (instead of £1,000)

High Street:

- Community Speed Watch – three couples had now been registered for training with the team for CSW on the High Street. There is no safe place to carry out any speed monitoring on the Lewes Road which is a 50 mph.
- CD has asked for more Police visibility.

Framfield Road:

- The meeting stated that when the full planning application is submitted for the 50-house scheme, ESCC must look to asking for a 30 mph through the village as part of the plans and not miss the opportunity.

Streetlighting: this has been highlighted as an issue and the Clerk has written to clarify that the streetlights are in the ownership of the PC who contract ESCC for the maintenance and energy. There is an ongoing review of the entire Parish’s streetlighting and when the results are known the necessary changes, will be made.

**Councillor Ann Newton (WDC) [AN]** made a short report:

- The meeting with Secretary of State, Michael Gove, had gone well and she is hopeful that he is working to reduce Wealden’s housing numbers. The news is awaited.
- Council Tax – it is likely that the Council will approve a rise of £5.00 to a Band D property with related increases above and below the banding. The recommendation will be put to the next Full Council meeting.

**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.* There were none.

**3. To accept the Minutes of the last meeting (30 November 2021)**

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2021, having been circulated, as a true and accurate record of the meeting as proposed by Keith Brandon and seconded by Maria Naylor.

**4. Matters Arising from the Minutes To receive updates or agree any further actions – all detailed elsewhere on the agenda.**

- Parish streetlighting – the Clerk stated following on from a meeting with ESCC news was still awaited from ESCC on an action plan.
- Damaged finger post update. A quote is still awaited for their repair/replacement.
- Tree survey/works – update. The tree works application for the works on Framfield recreation ground had been approved and all the works were due to commence on 31 January 2022 and would last a week. Further discussion was needed on a re-planting scheme.
- Benches, Framfield recreation ground. The Clerk advised that they were to be installed imminently.

**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.*

ESCC

- Wildlife Verge Scheme Application – Sandy Lane. The meeting agreed to support the scheme as long as the pavement was kept in a suitable condition to allow pedestrians and wheelchair users to pass. Clerk to advise ESCC.
- Proposed Diversion of Public Footpath Framfield 7 (part) – Upper Honeys Green Farm, Lewes Road, Framfield TN22 5RE. The meeting agreed that they had no objection to the proposals. Clerk to advise ESCC.

Other

- Bird in Eye Farm. All Councillors were in receipt of a copy of the letter and following discussion the Clerk was asked to draft a reply.
- Councillor Nikos Mikelis/Over-development in Wealden/letter to the Secretary of State – representing seven parishes. The Parish Council agreed to support their campaign – Clerk to advise.
- As above from ten parishes based in Lewes District.

## 6. Finance and General Purposes:

- a) Resolve to set the budget for the next financial year – 2022/23. The Council made a provisional recommendation at the November 2021 meeting that the budget/precept be set at £68,700 - an increase of £2,020 on this year. The provisional tax base has now been published and is an increase of 9.3% (rather than the 9.9% quoted in the budget report) which brings down the increase to a Band D property to £6.10 from £6.50. It is recommended therefore that the Parish Council sets the precept at £68,700. Following discussion, the Parish Council agreed to set the budget for 2022/23 at £68,700 as proposed by Maria Naylor, seconded by Keith Brandon and agreed by all present.
- b) Resolve to set the precept for the next financial year – 2022/23 at £68,700. This was agreed, proposed, seconded and agreed as above. Clerk to advise WDC.
- c) Internal Auditor - appointment. The Clerk advised the meeting that Mulberry & Co were preparing a quote.
- d) Bank reconciliation, balances and accounts – all Councillors were in receipt of a copy of the financial sheets for comparison and agreement. The accounts were verified as correct by the Council. (MN/TN).
- e) Resolve to agree the since the November 2021 meeting the payments/disbursements as detailed on the report as circulated. These were agreed and detailed at the end of the minutes. These were agreed (TH/MN).
- f) Any other financial matters:
  - Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Memorial Hall/Village Hall. The meeting agreed to allow the use of both halls to organised committees of residents to hold a celebration to commemorate the event as long as this was a public event open to all. They would cover the insurance for any event and the Clerk would liaise with all parties. A note had been put in the Parish Magazine.

## 7. Planning Committee.

- The minutes/delegated comments since the last Parish Council meeting were agreed as read.

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

- Liaison with ESCC on highway matters:
  - HGV's in Palehouse Common – as detailed above.
  - Lewes Road, Blackboys – as detailed above.
  - High Street, Blackboys – as detailed above.
  - Pathways, Blackboys – as detailed above.
  - Speedwatch – as detailed above.
  - SLR meetings – none have been held.
- Clerk – report on any other items not recorded elsewhere in the agenda.

## 9. Reports from Representatives

- **WDALC** (Wealden District Association of Local Councils) – minutes to be sent out as and when received.
- **Parish Planning Panel (c/o Clerk/Tony Hall)** - minutes to be sent out as and when received.
- **CSAG – Police (Chairman/Clerk)** – the Chairman and Clerk attend the meetings.
- **Cluster meetings – WDC Planning/Local Plan (Chairman/Clerk).**
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## 10. Items for referral by Councillors to the next appropriate Council or Committee agenda.

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.14 pm.*

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Tuesday, 29 March 2022**  
**commencing at 5 pm**  
**to be held in the Village Hall, Blackboys.**

**FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Income and Expenditure November 2021/December 2021/January 2022**

Invoice	Folio	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Comments	Pre VAT	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
06/12/2021		Tfr	To ****6278	Interest	1.44		1.44
06/12/2021		Inc	Interest	Interest	1.44		1.44
Invoice Date	Folio	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Comments	Pre VAT VALUE (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
04/01/2022	2485	exp	recreation Grounds	Amazon	31.67	6.33	38.00
04/01/2022	2484	exp	recreation Grounds	Amazon	16.66	3.33	19.99
04/01/2022	2483	exp	Staff Costs	Staff Costs	2,576.61		2,576.61
19/12/2021	2481	exp	NI & Paye	WG Accounting	798.09		798.09
07/12/2021	2477	exp	Dog Bins	Wealden DC	325.00	65.00	390.00
20/11/2021	2475	exp	Hall Hire	Trans BBT	40.00		40.00
06/12/2021	2473	exp	Stationery/Copying	Amazon	31.15		31.15
29/11/2021	2471	exp	telephone/Internet	BT	138.69		138.69
25/11/2021	2470	exp	Staff Costs	Staff Costs	2,565.65		2,565.65
22/11/2021	2466	exp	Website	Web Site	350.00		350.00
22/11/2021	2465	exp	NI & Paye	WG Accounting	783.63		783.63