

**FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council (PC) held at the Village Hall,**  
**Blackboys, on Tuesday, 26 July 2022 at 5 pm.**

---

**Present (Councillors):** Keith Brandon (Chairman) Tony Hall  
Peter Friend  
Councillor Ann Newton (WDC)

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

*(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**

Councillors Chris Dowling (ESCC) and Maria Naylor. Councillor Dowling had provided a report for the meeting. Marie Owen (RFO).

### **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 (31 May 2022)**

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meetings held on 31 May 2022, (AGM and ordinary) having been circulated, as a true and accurate record of the meeting as proposed by Keith Brandon and seconded by Peter Friend.

### **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 it now appeared that all plans by ESCC Highways to provide a re-design of the Parish streetlighting had been scrapped. A schedule of outstanding repairs is to be sent through. Clerk to chase.
- Replacement trees – recreation grounds. A benefactor had come forward to discuss the provision of some trees. A meeting would take place in late summer.
- Memorial Hall, Framfield – insurance claim. The Clerk reported that Hiscox were not prepared to cover the cost of the root wall but would pay up to the total cost of the tree felling. All other remedial repair works are covered. They have provided a quote and the Clerk has sent out tenders to three other contractors for comparison.
- Community Governance Review (WDC) – Clerk to attend Audit & Finance Committee meeting the following day to advise them the reasons why the Parish Council believes a reduction to nine councillors beneficial.

### **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:**

- a) Memorial Hall, Framfield: proposal to change all the lights to panel LED lights at a cost of £35.00 each (x8). This was agreed.
- b) Hall hire rates – the new proposals were agreed in principle from 1 August 2022. Bookings that are already in the diaries will be honoured at the old prices.
- c) Resolve to adopt revised Standing Orders – copy attached; changes highlighted in red. These were agreed.
- d) Renewal of the Parish Council insurance. The Clerk and Chairman advised the meeting that the policy had risen significantly which was due to the ongoing claim plus due to the cost of the claim, the insurers had the right to break the three-year long term agreement. In addition the cost of the re-build of

Blackboys Village Hall had been updated and would add further to the cost. If the Council decides not to stay with the current insurers they will still have to see the claim through. With this in mind and the confusion which could ensue, the meeting agreed that they should accept the quote for this year but send agreement with a firm note on their views.

- e) BlackRock Investment fund – resolve to update signatories to add on Keith Brandon, Ann Newton, Marie Owen; Peter Friend being already listed. This was agreed and Councillors asked to obtain certified copies of their details in order that this can be done. Copies to be given to the Clerk.
- f) 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. (TH/KB).
- g) Resolve to agree the since the May 2022 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 (PF/TH).
- h) Any other financial matters: there were none.
  - Resolve to ban the hire of inflatable bouncy castle-type equipment at the village halls. Due to the complexities of insurance cover and the ability to carry out any enforcement with hirers, the meeting agreed to the ban.

## **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 – the works to provide designs and prices could be available in September 2022. Within Councillor Dowling's report was a note stating that officers have looked at some possible design and locations but they need to review. Comment was made that it is nearly a year since ESCC agreed to provide the details of these proposals.
  - Lewes Road/High Street, Blackboys – feasibility study application made for the stretch of road from Stonebridge Lane to Brownings Farm.
  - High Street, Blackboys – developer of the 50-home site agreed to pay for the implementation of a 30-mph limit from the site entrance to the junction at the eastern end of the High Street. This is subject to the agreement of ESCC.
  - Pathways, Blackboys – again within Councillor Dowling's report pavement and sidings work is now finished, although there might be some small outstanding areas. The condition of pavements which have been questioned will be assessed by engineers and they will advise.
  - Speedwatch is now active but looking for more volunteers. A further 'advert' had been put in the Parish Magazine.
  - SLR meetings – none have been held.
- Clerk – report on any other items not recorded elsewhere in the agenda.
  - Urban grass cutting – update. The Clerk detailed a serious issue whereby the cut scheduled for the end of May initially omitted Blackboys. This was eventually completed by the end of the week commencing 11 July with a further cut due on 20 July! The matter is now under investigation.
  - Mill Field – hedge cutting. It appears that ESCC have covered the cost of cutting the hedge at Mill Field! This has been queried. As has a notice of overhanging trees at the adjacent property which is believed to be rather extreme especially considering that the hedge cutting carried out on Mill Field is not in line with County's own regulations – ongoing.

## **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).**

## **10. Items for referral by Councillors to the next appropriate Council or Committee agenda.**

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.50 pm.*

