

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council (PC) held at the Village Hall,
Blackboys, on Tuesday, 29 November 2022 at 5 pm.

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

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 Dowling (ESCC) (CD) reported on the following items and joined in at the discussion on the Lewes Road, High Street and Palehouse Common; comments are noted below on those items

- Water leak to the east of Pump Lane. Investigatory works are due to start in January 2023.
- Brookhouse Lane
 - The problematic vegetation at the northern end is to be cut.
 - The hardcore washed down the Lane deposited over the bridge was reported to WDC as the road clearing (detritus) authority and representatives of BIFFA were seen brushing it aside.
- Gun Road
 - The repairs to the damaged bridge expect to be long term. CD promised to get some communication to the community.
 - The trenches at the side of the road have been reported.
- Near to the Blackboys Inn, Lewes Road – a gully is to be pumped out.
- The Green – a ESCC Highways representative is to visit the resident with flooding problems.
- Gatehouse Lane – a gully has been cleared and a broken drain cover replaced.

Councillor Ann Newton (WDC) (AN) reported the following:

- WDC Local Plan – it is hoped that a Draft Plan will be published early next year if the information is complete. [Post meeting note – this has now been delayed due to the response from Levelling Up Secretary, Michael Gove. A consultation is to run until April on housing numbers etc which will have an impact on a Local Plan].
- Southern Water (SW) – active dialogue is now taking place with SW who are using WDC as a pilot to share more information prior to a planning committee. Investigations are underway in problem areas to potentially take steps to separate surface from foul water drains. A large group of cross-county boroughs and district has been set up by WDC to continue to lobby SW.

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 (26 September 2022)

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2022, having been circulated, as a true and accurate record 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 reported that a meeting was to be held with ESCC Highways regarding the streetlighting on Monday, 5 December 2022.

- Replacement trees – recreation grounds. A benefactor had come forward to discuss the provision of some trees. Clerk to contact for a discussion with a view to planting in the Spring.
- Memorial Hall, Framfield – insurance claim. The Clerk reported that a local surveyor is to give his opinion on the issues and a decision made on the way forward. There has been further water ingress into the rear and side of the Hall which is deemed potentially unrelated. Drains/gutters are to be cleared; the latter possibly renewed.
- Community Governance Review (WDC) – The Clerk reported the consultation is progressing through the relevant stages with the last stage being with the Boundary Commission who make the final decision. It is expected that the new figure would come into play at the elections next year.
- Lewes Road – reduction in speed limit – PC to resolve to agree to apply for Community Match Funding and if granted to agree to take the scheme forward. This was agreed unanimously. CD to contact ESCC for an acknowledgement of the CMF application.
- Defibrillators.
 - The Chairman stated that the new machines were now in place. Great thanks given to the Uckfield Lions who supplied them. Contact to be made with the Lions to see what publicity opportunities they may wish to have.
 - Decommissioned defibrillators – the Chairman to dispose of them. The meeting did not think it appropriate to sell them due to the risk as they as they were obsolete they could be mis-used. Clerk to ask Clerk's forum for any ideas.

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:

- Speed limit – Lewes Road. At the request of CD, a further/final letter has been received from ESCC stating that they will not implement a reduced speed limit on the B2192, Lewes Road, through Blackboys. The only way forward now is via the PC taking control and an CMF application which has already been submitted.

6. Finance and General Purposes:

- Budget discussion – 2023/24. The Clerk and RFO had met to discuss the budget and had produced a budget note and recommendations for 2023/24. All Councillors were in receipt of a copy. Following discussion, the meeting agreed that the budget should be set at £72,838 a rise of £4,138 from the previous year. However, if set as the precept this would be, on the current base rate, an increase of 15.9% or £10.42 per annum to a Band D Council Tax payer. Therefore, with the current high rise in the cost-of-living, Councillors agreed to set the precept at £69,000, taking the remainder from general reserves giving a 9.8% increase or £6.41 per year to a Band D Council Tax payer. This would be adjusted when the base rate is known – to be updated at the January 2023 meeting. This was agreed by all present. (KB/MN).
- Review of salaries – RFO and Parish Clerk – in line with the NALC recommendations. The meeting agreed the recommendations and also stated that the Groundsman should be added to the scale.
- 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).
- Resolve to agree the since the September 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).
- Any other financial matters: there were none.
 - There were none.

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 – CD reported that the positioning of a sign on the Eastbourne Road prior to the junction with Palehouse Common was under debate.
 - High Street, Blackboys – a meeting has been convened between ESCC Highways, CD, the PC and the developer to discuss the way forward.
 - SLR meetings – it was agreed to reinstate them. Clerk to make the initial contact.
- Clerk – report on any other items not recorded elsewhere in the agenda.

- Parish Council meeting dates for 2023.
- Framfield Market dates for 2023.
- Elections 2023 – 4 May 2023.

9. Reports from Representatives

- **WDALC** (Wealden District Association of Local Councils) – minutes to be sent out as and when received. The Clerk stated that she now generally attends these meetings.
- **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 6 pm.

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, 31 January 2023
commencing at 5 pm
to be held in the Village Hall, Blackboys.**

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL								
Income and Expenditure September/October/November 2022								
Invoice Date	Folio	Income/Exp	Payment Ref	Detail	Comments	Pre VAT VALUE (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
01/11/2022	2627	exp	OLB	Open spaces Gras	Mr R Richards	220.00		220.00
09/11/2022	2626	exp	OLB	Stationery/Copyin	Amazon	2.91	0.58	3.49
07/11/2022		exp	OLB	Pension	NEST	583.39		583.39
20/10/2022	2624	exp	OLB	NI & Paye	WG Accounting	712.42		712.42
30/09/2022	2622	exp	OLB	Bus Service	NWCT Partnership	139.75		139.75
20/10/2022	2621	exp	OLB	Staff Costs	Staff Costs	2,320.50		2,320.50
19/10/2022	2618	exp	OLB	subscriptions	WDALC	27.00		27.00
27/09/2022	2617	exp	OLB	Stationery/Copyin	Ann Newton	6.85		6.85
02/10/2022	2615	exp	OLB	I A Fee/GDPR	WG Accounting	110.00		110.00
14/10/2022	2614	exp	OLB	Pension	NEST	2,019.70		2,019.70
10/10/2022	2613	exp	OLB	recreation Group	Amazon	31.67	6.33	38.00
03/10/2022	2612	exp	OLB	Loan Interest	Public Works Loan	2,914.21		2,914.21
19/09/2022	2609	exp	OLB	NI & Paye	WG Accounting	712.22		712.22
15/09/2022	2607	exp	OLB	Staff Costs	Staff Costs	2,320.73		2,320.73