

**FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council (PC) held at the Village Hall,**  
**Blackboys, on Tuesday, 25 July 2023 at 5 pm.**

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**Present** Councillors Keith Brandon (Chairman) David Jenner  
Trishia Blewitt Maria Naylor  
Tony Hall (Vice Chairman)

Councillor Ann Newton (WDC)

**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).*

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC).

**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 (16 May 2023)**

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2023, having been circulated, as a true and accurate record as proposed by Keith Brandon and seconded by Tony Hall.

**4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

All items are included elsewhere in the minutes.

**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.*

- Friends of Sussex Hospices – letter of thanks for the donation.
- Kent, Surrey, Sussex Air Ambulance – as above.

**6. Finance and General Purposes:**

- a) Renewal of insurance premium. The meeting agreed to accept the revised premium with an approximate increase of £600.00 on the previous year which was mainly due to an increase in RPI (KB/TH). This included a three-year long-term agreement.
- b) Wealdlink bus service – whether to continue to fund. The meeting agreed that with the new more regular bus service there was no need to continue to fund this extra service at a cost of over £600.00 per year (MN/TH)
- c) Internal Audit – 3-year fixed term contract. The meeting agreed to this contract (KB/TB).
- 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. (TH/KB).
- e) Resolve to agree since the May 2023 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 (DJ/TH).
- f) Any other financial matters: there were none.

**7. Planning Committee.**

- The minutes/delegated comments since the last Parish Council meeting were agreed as read.
- Land at Bird in Eye South Appeal. The Chairman and Clerk advised the meeting that an appeal for non-determination has been lodged by the applicant and the appeal starts on 12 September 2023 and is expected to last six days.

- The applicant has produced some revisions to the application which have been accepted by the Inspector (which goes against PINS [Planning Inspectorate] guidance). It is therefore essential that a PC Planning Committee meeting is convened to discuss the changes to the application. A date was set for 8 August 2023 at 6.30 pm, Village Hall, Blackboys. (Post meeting note: the date was brought forward due to the deadline for comments).
- Land South of Framfield Road – reserved matters application. The WDC Committee have agreed not to defend the appeal which had been lodged for non-determination following a deferral by the Committee. The application is still to be decided by an Inspector but would obviously be a much shorter process now that there is no defence of WDC's position.

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

- Liaison with ESCC on highway matters:
  - Lewes Road – update on CMF. Although a strange email had been received from ESCC regarding CMF, it is assumed that the designs and costings are still being determined by County.
  - High Street, Blackboys – the design and costings are still being carried out by ESCC with Gold Developments. Seemingly, an important factor is with ESCC Streetlighting and the design/cost of the additional lights. The Head of Planning at ESCC has nudged the relevant department. Agreement has come back from ESCC that if implemented, consideration can then be given for a 40-mph 'buffer' out to beyond the 50-house site entrance.
  - Blackboys – pavement works. These continue to be carried out in the village, some of debatable value.
  - Blackboys – bus stops. The PC has been notified that the two bus stops on the High Street/Framfield Road (western end) were to be 'upgraded'. Correspondence had been sent back to ESCC reiterating the lack of need but the works seem to be part of some external funding which ESCC have acquired.
  - Framfield – additional signs at Uptons Mill Lane. Again, ESCC made contact to notify the PC that some extra signage was to be added to the Lane in an attempt to stop large vehicles accessing the bridge. Correspondence was sent back reminding ESCC that this is additional signage when the request for signage in other areas of the Parish (Palehouse Common for example) and to be covered by the PC budget, had been repeatedly declined.
- SLR meetings – meeting held on 25 May 2023; notes distributed. Comment was made that the meeting revealed that Balfour Beatty seemingly had no records, 'data', from the previous contractor so were unaware of long-term ongoing issues such as the water leak east of Pump Lane on the B2102.
- Clerk – report on any other items not recorded elsewhere in the agenda.
  - Gun Road bridge. An email had been received saying that there is to be a further delay whilst ESCC assess the wildlife immediately adjacent to where the works will be. The estimated start date is now October. The PC voiced their dismay at this further delay and the fact that by the time the works are completed the road will have been shut for a year.
  - Pound Lane – comment was made that some barriers over a watercourse are doing little to stop a vehicle from falling off the side of the road. The barriers have been there for some time – the Clerk to report/investigate with ESCC.

## 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 reporting/discussion/ratification from the Trusts for which the Parish Council is Sole Trustee

A: General

Halls

- Future works –update – reply received from the local Chamber of Commerce suggesting that the PC contacts a planning agent to structure the works and who then has links to contractors. This was thought to only incur additional charges. Some further suggestions were made as to whom the Clerk could contact.

- Electricity charges. The meeting agreed that the Chairman would negotiate the best price now that the current contracts are due to expire.

#### Recreation Grounds

- Consider extending the contact with Barcombe Landscapes to five years. The meeting agreed to extend the contract but asked that the Clerk request that the number of cuts to the rough area on Framfield recreation ground be increased from two to six and that regular cuts are carried out to the twitten on Blackboys recreation ground and between Blackboys allotments and the B2102.

#### Play areas

- Annual inspection reports received – nothing of concern to report. The reports would be studied and a list of items put together for either the groundsman to complete or to be outsourced. It is anticipated that woodchip will need to be ordered.

B: Framfield Trust – Charity Registration No. 305228

#### Memorial Hall

- Update on the claim/drainage works – claim closed; quote to be obtained for drainage works. The meeting was advised that as it is now assumed that the potential subsidence is caused by surface water accessing the Hall instead of draining away into the drainage system, the claim has been closed. The Chairman to provide a plan of the drainage system so that the pipes can be re-aligned to solve the problem.
- Review of School hire fee. Variation of hours of use. ESCC have enquired as to whether the School can extend their day by one hour (half an hour in the morning and afternoon – 7.30 am to 4.30 pm including setting/clearing up times. This is in line with Government guidelines stipulating that all schools should be operating 32.5 hours per week. The meeting agreed the principle but that this should not become a permanent feature of the licence agreement and should be reviewed annually. There would be no charge but that the need to vacate the Hall promptly by 4.30 pm would be emphasised and that on the days specified in advance when there are evening hirers, the School must make sure any vehicles are removed without fail.
- Disabled WC – the works have been carried out.
- Gents WC – quote to repair ceiling and roof above for approval. The meeting approved the quote to repair the roof and complete the internal repairs.
- External foul drains – the Clerk reported that over the weekend these were found to be blocked. A contractor was called in and as in the past the drain was very clearly blocked with food waste. The contractor said that there was a critical level of fat blocking the drain. The Clerk was asked to write to the School reminding them again of the need for the dinner staff not to put food waste down the sink and to send the invoice.

#### Recreation Ground

- Replacement trees have been planted.
- Two tree stumps need to be removed from the eastern side of the ground. The ground immediately around the roots has subsided leaving gaps, potential foot traps. Barriers have been erected around the area.

C: Blackboys Trust – Charity Registration No. 305225

Village Hall – nothing to update.

#### Recreation Ground

- Sports Pavilion – works for the provision of a ramp to meet DDA compliance have been completed.
- Gated access – update. The meeting agreed that a fencing contractor should be contacted and asked to put a fence up stopping access by the resident.

#### Allotments

- The Clerk reported that there are several spare plots.

D: Framfield Allotment Garden Trust – Charity Registration No. 296468

- Tenancy agreements sent out – all the rents have been received.
- The Chairman commented that one large central plot appeared to not being used.

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.30 pm.

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will be held on Tuesday, 26 September 2023 commencing at 5 pm in the Village Hall, Blackboys.**

Income and Expenditure						
Invoice	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Comments	Pre VAT	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
05/06/2023	inc	Interest	Bank Interest	134.61		134.61
11/07/2023	inc	Other	Lottery	15.50		15.50
13/06/2023	inc	Other	Lottery	17.50		17.50
10/05/2023	inc	Other	Lottery	17.00		17.00
17/05/2023	Tfr	To ****6278	Transfer	30,000.00		30,000.00
Invoice Date	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Comments	Pre VAT VALUE (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
17/07/2023	exp	Pension	NEST	296.48		296.48
21/06/2023	exp	NI & Paye	WG Accounting	802.22		802.22
26/06/2023	exp	Website	B Richardson	200.00		200.00
24/06/2023	exp	Staff Costs	Staff Costs	2,703.31		1,200.90
02/06/2023	exp	Dog Bins	Wealden DC	343.75	68.75	412.50
17/05/2023	exp	NI & Paye	Wealden DC	802.22		802.22
23/05/2023	exp	general	Ann Newton	23.50		23.50
29/05/2023	exp	recreation Grounds	Keith Brandon	4.99	1.00	5.99
30/05/2023	exp	Pension	NEST	296.48		296.48
20/05/2023	exp	telephone/Internet	BT	154.45	30.88	185.33
30/04/2023	exp	recreation Grounds	Barcombe Landscapes Ltd	160.00	32.00	192.00
30/05/2023	exp	general	Tesco	24.40		24.40
25/05/2023	exp	recreation Grounds	Universal Supply Group Lim	141.15	28.23	169.38
17/05/2023	exp	Staff Costs	Staff Costs	2,703.31		1,200.90
17/05/2023	exp	general	Tesco	49.90		49.90
02/07/2023	exp	general	UK Facilities Solutions Ltd	4,486.40	897.28	5,383.68