

**FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council (PC) held at the Village Hall,**  
**Blackboys, on Tuesday, 31 January 2023 at 5 pm.**

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<b>Present</b>	Councillors	Keith Brandon (Chairman) Trishia Blewitt Peter Friend	Tony Hall (Vice Chairman) Maria Naylor
		Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC) Councillor Ann Newton (WDC)	
<b>In attendance</b>	Ann Newton - Clerk Marie Owen - RFO		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).*

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

- Gun Road - damaged bridge – ESCC have been asked to put in place more substantial barriers in an attempt to stop the current ones from being moved as the bridge is dangerous. Works to repair the bridge are anticipated in the Spring.
- Blackboys Road/The Street, Framfield – works to replace the recently implemented anti-skid surface will go-ahead when the weather has improved.
- Water leak to the east of Pump Lane. Some minor investigatory works have been completed – there is more to follow.
- Brookhouse Lane – ESCC have offered a meeting to discuss the issues.
- Sandy Lane – the repairs to the pavement have still not been completed.
- Lewes Road – the Police have promised some recent speed data.
- Speedwatch – there has been a decline in the number of volunteers so the Police can't do anything else.

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

- WDC Local Plan – WDC are in the process of responding to the consultation on the revisions to the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) and the publication of the Draft Local Plan has been delayed until the results are known later in the year.
- Southern Water – AN chaired the first meeting of the Southern Water Local Authority Stakeholder Group which consists of more than 40 councils across the south east.
- South East Water – following on from the issues before Christmas the CEO of SEW has been called to an Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March to be questioned about their response to the crisis.

### 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 (29 November 2022)

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 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.

- Budget 2023/24 – confirmation that the budget be set at £72,838. This was confirmed, proposed by Maria Naylor, seconded by Tony Hall and agreed by all.
- Precept 2023/24 – confirmation that the precept be agreed at £69,000 taking the balance out of general reserves. This was confirmed, proposed by Maria Naylor, seconded by Tony Hall and agreed by all.

- Parish streetlighting – the Clerk reported that a meeting was held with ESCC Highways regarding the streetlighting on Monday, 5 December 2022. The disclaimer which ESCC now require from the Parish Council prior to commissioning any works was reviewed and agreed but any works could not now be scheduled until the new contractor is in place in May. Minor faults would still however be repaired.
- Community Governance Review. This has passed through to the next stage and the new number of councillors is expected to be in place for the Parish Council in time for the May elections.
- Framfield Road/High Street – reduction in speed limits - update. Resolve to accept the offer of £50,000 towards the cost of a speed reduction in the High Street from Gold (Blackboys) Ltd. This was agreed. ESCC and Gold are working together on a scheme with costings. It is hoped that the balance of cost can be covered by CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy).

## 5. Co-option of a Parish Councillor

Trishia Blewitt, resident of Framfield, gave a resume of her life to date and was unanimously co-opted onto the Council as proposed by Keith Brandon and seconded by Maria Naylor. Trishia signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Register of Interests. The Clerk said she would inform WDC.

## 6. 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: Update regarding Customers Service Managers – there is to be a restructure and all SLR meetings are now on hold.

## 7. Finance and General Purposes:

- a) 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).
- b) Resolve to agree the since the November 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).
- c) Any other financial matters: there were none.
  - There were none.

## 8. Planning Committee.

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

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

- Liaison with ESCC on highway matters:
  - HGV's in Palehouse Common. The lead officer at ESCC has now decided that he will do no further work on the matter unless the Parish Council cover the cost of a feasibility study and lorry study - £500.00 and £900.00 respectively. Following discussion councillors believed that considering it is 18 months since the meeting with ESCC when ESCC agreed to put together costs for the project that this is deplorable. The Chairman agreed to write a letter to the Head Planning Officer with the Council's views. Enlargement of facilities at Enlightened Business Park was mentioned in that if this application is passed it would only add to the traffic problems.
  - Lewes Road – reduction in speed limit. The application for Community Match Funding acknowledged by ESCC.
  - High Street, Blackboys – as detailed above.
  - SLR meetings – as detailed above, they are currently on hold.
- Clerk – report on any other items not recorded elsewhere in the agenda.
  - Parish Magazine – the Clerk reported that the magazine had just about 'washed its own face' this year. It was agreed that the magazine was very good community publication and something which councillors would not wish to see come to an end. They agreed to amalgamate the account into the Parish Council general accounts with the assistance of the Internal Auditor. The Clerk agreed to contact the Church to clarify their position.
  - Blackboys play area – a complaint has been received about the condition of the play area. The Chairman/Clerk to reply and to look at a refresh of the equipment.
  - Meeting dates – councillors agreed to change the March meeting to 29 March and include the Annual Parish Meeting on this date. The May (AGM) meeting was also changed to 16 May.
  - Agenda – the meeting agreed to the Clerk's suggestion that Trust business could now be included in the main agenda within a separate heading and bullet pointed.

## 10. 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. The Chairman commented that Uckfield Town Council were investigating the potential purchase of a SID (Speed Indication Device) and there were possibilities for sharing this cost with them so that the machine could be used in the Parish.
- **Cluster meetings – WDC Planning/Local Plan (Chairman/Clerk).**

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

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.20 pm.*

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Tuesday, 29 March 2023**  
**commencing at 4.30 pm.**  
**This will be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 6 pm.**  
**Both to be held in the Village Hall, Blackboys.**

<b>FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL</b>									
<b>Income and Expenditure November/December 2022/January 2023</b>									
Invoice	Folio	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Payment	Comments	Pre VAT	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)	
05/12/2022		Tfr	To ****6278	OLB	Bank Interest	32.18		32.18	
05/12/2022		inc	Interest	OLB	Bank Interest	32.18		32.18	
Invoice Date	Folio	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Payment Ref	Comments	Pre VAT VALUE (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)	
20/01/2023	2648	exp	Pension	OLB	NEST	583.39		583.39	
19/01/2023	2647	exp	general	OLB	Bookers	16.98		16.98	
30/09/2022	2646	exp	Bus Service	OLB	NWCT Partnership	185.09		185.09	
31/12/2022	2645	exp	recreation Grounds	OLB	Barcombe Landscapes Ltd	2,110.00	422.00	2,532.00	
17/12/2022	2642	exp	Staff Costs	OLB	Staff Costs	2,335.79		2,335.79	
17/12/2022	2639	exp	NI & Paye	OLB	WG Accounting	668.82		668.82	
01/12/2022	2636	exp	Dog Bins	OLB	Wealden DC	325.00	65.00	390.00	
21/11/2022	2635	exp	NI & Paye	OLB	WG Accounting	669.02		669.02	
26/11/2022	2634	exp	Website	OLB	Mr B Richardson	350.00		350.00	
28/11/2022	2633	exp	telephone/Internet	OLB	BT	151.56		151.56	
28/11/2022	2632	exp	Pension	OLB	NEST	583.39		583.39	
25/11/2022	2631	exp	Staff Costs	OLB	Staff Costs	2,335.57		2,335.57	