

Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall, Framfield, on Tuesday, 24 November 2009 at 7.30 pm

Present

Eryl Thomas (Chairman)
David Andrews
Myran Eade
Peter Friend

Ian Paisley
Maria Naylor
Rob Newton (Vice Chair)
Fred Thurston

In attendance

Ann Newton - Clerk

Members of the Public – two [part].
Members of the Press – none.

Mr Roger Williams, Head of Transport Operations, ESCC, responsible for Passenger Services gave a brief presentation on the Community Transport pilot scheme. He is responsible for the running of the bus services in the county. ESCC financially supports the bus services (some 75% - £3.7 million) to pay bus companies to provide buses on their behalf. Community Transport comes under three guises – car schemes, dial-a-ride and special bus services. 20 parishes have been identified as having a need which means that residents cannot get to a key centre by 9.30 am on a weekday. Framfield is not one of these parishes. He suggested that the Council decides if there is a need; ie where can people not get to? Hospital appointments, social events, job interviews? Parishes can precept and club together to fund schemes which have to be sustainable. He is happy to facilitate further discussions. The Clerk stated that the Parish was quite fortunate in that the 318 bus service had recently been enhanced. There was also a facility – ‘Godsend’ enabling people to reach destinations via a voluntary driving service run by the Church. There is also a band of volunteers who are available to take residents to social events etc – Monday Club, Lunch Club. Following discussion, the meeting agreed to find out if there is a need. Mr Williams was thanked for his attendance.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting members of the public and County and District Representatives were invited to address the Parish Council.

Sarah Funnell and Sue Turner were in attendance to listen to any discussion on the Pavilion Project. They had taken exception to some of the comments in a note Brian Hodge had written as input information to the Pavilion Review.

Councillor Ann Newton (WDC) reported that Framfield would be part of Phase 2 in the expansion of the kerbside recycling scheme – summer 2010. There would be public parish meetings and plenty of information prior to the project being commenced.

PCSO Simon French – the Clerk reported that Simon had asked that following on from the two recent aggravated burglaries in Hadlow Down and Ditchling, the Police were interested in receiving the location of any elderly, isolated, rural residents so that they could have an eye kept on them.

(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. A copy of all the reports mentioned will be attached to the minutes for the minute book).

1. Apologies for Absence

Brian Hodge. Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC). The Clerk stated that Rob Newton would be late due to his attendance another meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors to give notice of declarations of personal and prejudicial interests in respect of items on the agenda. Myran Eade declared a personal interest in the item on the Pavilion as he is associated with Blackboys Cricket Club.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting, 27 October 2009 for Approval

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2009 having been circulated, be approved, adopted and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Fred Thurston and seconded by Maria Naylor).

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 29 September 2009

- Casual Vacancy. Maria Naylor stated that she still hoped her neighbour would come on board.

5. Correspondence received since the last meeting

Letters for noting/discussion – most items were from pending matters and dealt with under separate headings.

- East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service 'In Partnership' magazine.

6. Finance

Item number six was taken out of sequence just prior to AOB at the end of the meeting.

- **Finance Committee Report** – all councillors were in receipt of the report. *Rob Newton declared a prejudicial interest in items on the report and left the room during the discussion. Peter Friend, seconded by Fred Thurston proposed that the public be excluded whilst the matters on the report were fully discussed. This was agreed by all.*
- **Ratification of expenditure:** £3,500 sent to HMRC as a down payment towards the monies owed. This was ratified by all present.

Rob Newton returned to the room and the meeting was re-opened to the public.

- **Proposal to:-***
 - **Ask the Management Committees of both the Memorial Hall and Blackboys Village Hall to make a contribution to the Parish Council of the insurance premium paid by the Council during the current financial year of 50%. (Withdrawn).**

Rob stated that he was withdrawing the first point and then declared a prejudicial interest in being a member of the BVH Committee and stated that he would leave the room once discussion had commenced. Following discussion and clarification on the personal and prejudicial interests, prejudicial interests were declared for the same reasons by Eryl Thomas and Peter French (Memorial Hall) and Fred Thurston and Ian Paisley (BVH). All briefly left the room whilst the second item was voted on.

- **To review the payment of both Hall insurance premiums when a joint quotation is received amalgamating the insurance with that of the Council.** This proposal was seconded by Maria Naylor and those left in the meeting agreed that the review should go ahead when the relevant information is to hand.

(Prior to leaving Fred Thurston stated that he thought it was a good idea to have such a review. His recommendation would be that the PC pays the insurance to ensure that it is paid and then both Committees should be approached for a donation of up to 100% of the cost of the premium. It would then be up to the individual Halls to present their cases to the PC.

Eryl Thomas stated that the PC decided some two years ago to pay the insurance on the Halls firstly to ensure that the buildings were insured as they do belong to the PC who are Custodian Trustees. He stated that two thirds of the Councils in East Sussex pay their Halls' insurance)

**As proposed by Rob Newton.*

All rejoined the meeting.

- **Formal agreement of the November 2009 expenditure** – itemised below. This was agreed for payment by Maria Naylor, seconded by Myran Eade and agreed by all present.

£

Payments already made

F A Thurston (reimbursement of cost of bulbs for BB village)	60.00
B & S Chains (replacements swing chains, FF rec)	274.72
HMRC (payment on account for unpaid staff NI contributions)	3,500.00
Sub Total:	<u>£3,834.72</u>

Payments to make

P N Saunders (PHC and FF rec maintenance)	580.00
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Mr A G Saunders (grass cutting top of Becketts Way)			70.00
Direct Technical Services (2 nd payment of 90/10 contract)			569.02
British Telecom plc (office account shared with EHWH PC – paid by DD)			130.36
Blackboys Village Hall (Hall hire)			20.00
Contractorumbrella Ltd (installation of new computer to be shared with EHWH PC)			143.75
EDF Energy	DD Energy		191.39
Ann Newton, Clerk:	Salary (November)	1,098.93	
	Total expenses	66.15	1,165.08
	<u>Sub total:</u>		<u>£2,869.60</u>
	<u>Total:</u>		<u>£6,704.32</u>

7. Committees

- **Planning:** the Planning Committee minutes for the meetings held on 7 and 28 October 2009 had already been circulated. The minutes for the meeting held on 18 November 2009 will be distributed shortly. The next meeting is scheduled for 9 December 2009 at 7 pm at Blackboys Village Hall.
- **Recreation Grounds: (Parish Councillors as Trustees):** the minutes of the extra meeting held on 7 October 2009 have already been circulated. The minutes for the meeting held on 18 November 2009 will be distributed shortly.

Myran Eade commented on the following:-

- Three-year grounds maintenance contracts. The contracts have been awarded to two contractors – news is awaited of their acceptance or not (deadline 1 December 2009).
- Our handyman has reported that some repairs are required to the three multi-play units. The meeting agreed that Mr Greengrow should obtain quotes. None of the repairs were thought to be urgent.
- Thanks were given to Fred Thurston for planting the bulbs on Blackboys Recreation Ground and Village Hall courtesy of Mrs Thurston. Bulbs had also been planted on Framfield recreation ground with kind courtesy of Mrs Selina Allen.

The Clerk commented on the following:

- Bernard Lillywhite has now taken his complaint direct to the Freedom of Information Commissioner who had asked for all the details of correspondence which the Clerk had sent.
- A company from Dorking had asked for details of the PC's grounds maintenance contracts under a Fol request. A similar request had been sent to many councils and SALC's advice was to answer the questions – it was thought to be just a rather aggressive form of job-hunting!
- **Framfield Allotments.** Eryl Thomas commented that many actions had been completed and some were ahead of time. A meeting with the current tenants would be the next item to be scheduled.

Rob Newton entered the meeting.

- **Pavilion Project:**
 - **Update.** Myran Eade stated that many people had worked very hard for two years towards the project and he took exception to some of the inaccuracies in Brian's letter to the Review. It was thought that full discussion on the relevant points could be dealt with under the Review.
 - **Project Review.** Everyone was in receipt of a paper detailing the proposed Review. Peter Friend and Fred Thurston were to represent the PC, Myran Eade Blackboys Cricket Club, Graham Pope the football Club with Brian Hodge as a monitoring role. The first meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 26 November 2009 at the Memorial Hall.
- **Environment:** the minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2009 have already been circulated. The next meeting is scheduled for 9 December 2009 at Blackboys Village Hall – time to be advised.
 - The Clerk updated the meeting on the progress of the consultation process on the Waste & Minerals Core Strategy consultation. There had been a meeting of involved parishes and there was to be another one the following week, followed by a public meeting on 12 December 2009. Brighton & Hove and ESCC had agreed to an extension to the consultation period to 15 January 2010.

8. Reports from Representatives

Blackboys Village Hall: Fred Thurston reported that the external painting had been completed and the kitchen sink had new taps. The quarterly Committee meeting was scheduled for Friday, 27 November 2009. Discussion would take place on the quotes for the ROSPA works to the ramp, trip hazard in the play area and ramp for the disabled access into the rear of the main hall.

Memorial Hall: Eryl Thomas reported that a meeting of the Committee had been held. There were many things to do with money to spend. The Village Market is still a very valuable in terms of money into the kitty and a good social occasion for the village. Many thanks to Sandy Rogers.

Schools:

- Framfield:
 - Nomination of replacement School Governor Representative. Maria Naylor put her name forward. This was agreed by all and the Clerk agreed to inform the School.
- Blackboys – The Clerk stated that there would be a Governors' meeting the following day.

SALC/WDALC: Nothing to report.

9. Any Other Business at the Discretion of the Chairman

- David Andrews on behalf of himself and Eryl Thomas reported on a new handbook which is available from SALC "Local Councils Employment Handbook". This had thrown up many personnel issues which perhaps the PC did not cover and should. However, following discussion it was not thought how a small PC with one employee could be expected to cover everything. The meeting agreed that Trevor Leggo of SALC could be asked along at some time to shed some light on the subject.
- Rob Newton asked if there was a date for the first Pavilion Review meeting. The date was Thursday, 26 November 2009.
- The Clerk reported on her attendance at the Society of Local Council Clerks Regional Conference. She had gone to listen to a presentation on allotments which did not prove worthwhile but there was a very good present by the HR Manager on employment issues. There was also a useful presentation from WDC on the importance of having an Asset Management Plan which is particularly relevant for councils with many assets/liabilities as a good practice budgetary exercise.
- The Clerk informed the meeting that the office would be closed for two weeks over the Christmas break.
- Eryl Thomas stated that as he felt 'out of step' with other members on the Council he would be stepping down as Chairman of the Council forthwith.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Chairman..... **Date**

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:
Tuesday, 26 January 2010, at the Village Hall, Blackboys,
commencing at 7.30 pm.**