

Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Blackboys, on Tuesday, 27 January 2009 at 7.30 pm

Present

Eryl Thomas (Chair)
David Andrews
Myran Eade
Peter Friend
Brian Hodge.

Mark Moore
Rob Newton (Vice Chair)
Ian Paisley
Rita Redman

Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC)

In attendance

Ann Newton - Clerk

Members of the Public – one.
Members of the Press – none

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

Councillor Ann Newton (WDC) commented that budgetary discussions were underway and WDC were endeavouring to keep the rise in Council Tax as low as they could considering the extremely low grant they receive annually from the Government – the lowest in East Sussex. There is a petition lodged on the 10 Downing Street website stating that the District is not happy with the 11,000 houses that the Government has proposed to be built in the area over the next 20 years. This is a free, non-political petition and Ann urged everyone who has access to a computer to add their 'signature' as if enough signatures are obtained this will go forward into the Local Development Framework as evidence that the residents of Wealden do not want the houses.

Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC):

- Chris stated that he had achieved some success with EDF Energy over the issue with the electricity cables in School Lane. They are to heighten the cables and will be liaising with the residents concerned.
- Roundabout at Cysleys Farm. Chris reported that he is also pursuing this issue and there was a site meeting before Christmas. A speed check has also been carried out.

(The minutes are detailed in the order in which they appeared on the agenda. A copy of all the reports mentioned will be attached to the minutes for the minute book).

1. Apologies for Absence

Maria Naylor and Fred Thurston. Eryl Thomas welcomed Rita Redman back to the Council following on from her period of ill health.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors to give notice of declarations of personal and prejudicial interests in respect of items on the agenda. Rob Newton declared a prejudicial interest in the item on the Clerk's salary on the finance sheet. The Clerk being his wife.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting, 25 November 2008 for Approval

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2008 having been circulated, be approved, adopted and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Myran Eade and seconded by Rob Newton).

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 25 November 2008

- EDF Cables – School Lane. As detailed above.

5. Co-option of the 11th Parish Councillor

Mark Moore, resident of Framfield, was proposed for co-option by Myran Eade, seconded by Rob Newton and agreed by all. Mark will be a great asset to the Council for his expertise in grounds maintenance etc of the recreation grounds. He will also be involved in the Framfield Pavilion project.

6. Correspondence received since the last meeting

Letters for noting/discussion

ESCC:

- Review of support local bus services (Lewes and North Wealden areas). The Clerk to reply objecting to any reduction in the 318 bus service.
- ESCC Draft Cycling Strategy.

WDC:

- Open Space Study.

Other:

- Communities and Local Government – code of recommended practice on local authority publicity: a consultation.
- Lt Col C N S Drew. The Clerk was asked to send Col Drew a note and mention all his efforts on behalf of the Royal British Legion in the next Parish Magazine.
- Mrs Sandy Rogers. The Clerk was asked to do the same as for Col Drew above.
- Framfield CE School asking firstly if they can remove a section of hedge in order to install a gate between the School and the Hall car park to enable parents to drop their children at the school gate and so avoid the need for parking. This was agreed and the Clerk was asked to inform the current Hall Committee and ask the School to ensure that they are insured for this 'Kiss and Drop' scheme as the car park is for parking cars not for a constant movement of traffic. Secondly, the School intends to bid in an attempt to obtain capital funding under the Extended Schools scheme to provide full-time day care for pre-school children which the Playgroup is not able to offer. This would include a Breakfast Club for the school. The School asks for the Council's support in their bid – the Clerk was asked to contact Mrs Wilde and state the Council's agreement on all the points.

7. Finance

- **Finance Committee Report** – the report on the meeting held on 19 January 2009 was agreed and adopted as read. The meeting ratified the donation to the East Sussex Hearing Resource Centre of £50.00.
- **Formal resolution – 2009/10: setting of the Budget and Precept.** All Councillors were in receipt of the recommendations. Rob Newton proposed that the budget be agreed as detailed at £41,000. This was seconded by Brian Hodge and agreed by all present. Rob then proposed that the precept for 2009/10 be set at £41,000; this was seconded by Ian Paisley and agreed by all. As the increase is seemingly large on a percentage basis, Eryl Thomas stated that he would be producing a report for the Parish Magazine, website and noticeboards to explain the increase but also converting it into monetary terms, which will show that the increase is still quite minimal.
- **Formal agreement of the December 2008/January 2009 expenditure as detailed on the report circulated at the meeting** – itemised below.

£

Cheques paid in December

D & J Greengrow ('handyman' duties – 3 months)		315.00
EDF Energy	DD Energy	190.24
	DD Maintenance	105.60
		295.84
Ann Newton, Clerk:	Salary (December)	1,096.33
	Total expenses	54.99
		1,151.32
Jan Riddle, Book keeper (quarterly account)		82.50
Blackboys Village Hall (Hall hire)		28.00
P K Waters Sign Studio Ltd (sign for allotment/BVH car park)		218.50
	<u>Total Expenditure (December)</u>	<u>£2,091.16</u>

Cheques to be paid in January

WDC (dog bin emptying service – quarterly invoice)	229.08
J R Seale (cutting top of hedge bordering BB allotments)	71.87
Mr A G Saunders (annual PC contribution towards maintenance of grass verge at the top of Becketts Way)	70.00
Blackboys Village Hall (Hall hire)	8.00
Blackboys Village Hall (charity investment dividend from the second 2008 quarter (£260.17) and third 2008 quarter (£344.64))	604.81
Framfield Memorial Hall (Hall hire)	15.00
East Sussex Hearing Resource Centre (donation as detailed in Finance Committee notes)	50.00

EDF Energy Contracting Ltd (repair to streetlight)		31.02
Heathfield & Waldron Parish Council (share of directions signs to Dower House Farm Industrial Estate)		277.81
<i>EDF Energy</i>	<i>DD Energy</i>	190.24
	<i>DD Maintenance</i>	105.60
		295.84
Ann Newton, Clerk:	Salary (January)	1,096.33
	Total expenses	109.73
Arthur Makepeace, Internal Auditor (bi-annual payment)		1,206.06
		100.00
	<u>Total Expenditure (January)</u>	<u>£2,959.49</u>

Cheques received

East Hoathly with Halland PC (share of telephone account [£46.46] plus share of SLCC subscription [£53.00]).		99.46
Framfield & Blackboys Book Fund (final payment for second printing)		437.00
Charishare Common Investment Fund (dividend – to be paid to BVH)		279.00
Charinco Common Investment Fund (dividend – to be paid to BVH)		65.64

The expenditure was proposed for agreement by Ian Paisley, seconded by Brian Hodge, and agreed by all present.

8. Committees

Planning: the meeting minutes from the meeting held on 10 December 2008 and 7 January 2009 had already been circulated. The next meeting had been cancelled due to lack of planning applications. One delegated decision was made on application number WD/2008/3116/F in line with the Committee's Terms of Reference.

- **Quicken Wood.** Eryl Thomas mentioned the Public Inquiry, which is scheduled for the following week. Brian Hodge and Eryl would attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

Recreation Grounds: (Parish Councillors as Trustees): everyone was in receipt of the meeting minutes for 7 January 2009. Myran Eade reported that both Palehouse Common and Blackboys play areas needed a top up of woodchippings. This would total something in the region of £1,200. The PC agreed this. The Clerk and Myran to liaise on the details. Myran further reported that two residents of Preston Grove, Framfield, had complained about a tree overhanging their properties and obscuring light. The meeting agreed that the necessary measures should be taken to endeavour to alleviate the problems.

- **Pavilion Project:** Myran Eade stated that it was excellent news that Mark Moore had been co-opted onto the PC and it was hoped that once Chartermark status had been achieved by all the Wealden teams, Mark would be able to divert his attentions with Laurie Breeds to the Framfield Pavilion. The Blackboys Cricket Club has currently raised some £12,000 towards the Blackboys Pavilion.

Environment: everyone was in receipt of the meeting minutes for 10 December 2008. The next meeting was the following day when two representatives from ESCC Highways would be present to discuss the 'wish list' for the Parish along with Chris Dowling. Fred Thurston was thanked for all his efforts on the footpath survey, which would also be discussed the following evening.

9. Reports from Representatives

Blackboys Village Hall:

- Car park - Eryl Thomas reported that the car park is settling down and that a handrail to the path from the car park would be erected. The ladies WC had been completed; the gents WC was nearly finished. The bookings are healthy.

Memorial Hall:

- Eryl Thomas read out from a report that had been received from Keith Riddle. The AGM is scheduled for 9 March 2009. Norman Jones has given notice that he will be resigning at the AGM and Norman was given recognition for all the effort that he has put in over the years.
 - **Update on the Charity Commission.** There is still work to be done with the Charity Commission over the amalgamation of the charities (Hall and recreation ground).
 - **Agreement with ESCC.** The formal hire agreement with ESCC over the school use has almost been completed. This is the standard hire agreement (from NALC) not the lease which had at first been negotiated).

Schools:

Framfield: Rita Redman reported that the official opening of the School extension would be happening soon.
Blackboys – The Clerk reported that the Reception schoolteacher would be leaving to further her career and a TA had also handed in her notice. The positions were to be advertised shortly.

WDALC: There would be a meeting the following week.

10. Any Other Business at the Discretion of the Chairman

- **Chairman’s Annual Report** – all Councillors were in receipt of the Annual Report, which had been placed in the latest issue of the Parish Magazine.
- Brian Hodge reported on the Neighbourhood Policing Panel meeting, which he attended the previous week with the Clerk. Our new PCSO, Simon French, is intending to hold a monthly ‘surgery’ for residents to drop in with their issues. It had been suggested that he have a ‘stall’ at the Village Market in Framfield and possibly have a half hour session prior to a PC meeting in Blackboys.
- Brian further reported that the Speedwatch training had been done the previous Sunday and eight volunteers had come forward to be trained. The sessions are to start in about four weeks and the times will be chosen and set up on a rota system by the volunteers. The Clerk stated that she would investigate the purchase of yellow jackets. .
- Myran Eade asked if Mark Moore could be immediately placed on the recreation ground committee for his expert knowledge on the subject. All parties agreed this.

The meeting closed at 9 pm.

Chairman.....

Date

<p>NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, 24 February 2009, 7.30 pm, Village Hall, Blackboys.</p>
