

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

Present

Eryl Thomas (Chairman)	Brian Hodge
David Andrews	Maria Naylor
Myran Eade	Rob Newton (Vice Chair)
Peter Friend	Fred Thurston

Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC)

In attendance

Ann Newton - Clerk	Members of the Public – one.
	Members of the Press – none.

Mr Colin Anstee, an independent member of the WDC Standards Committee addressed the Council prior to the meeting a 7 pm and explained the role of the Committee.

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

Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC) made the following comments:

- Chris had recently made contact with Michael Higgs and understood that he would return to the PC in January with the final proposals for the Parish. However it seems as if the Police had scuppered any plans to reduce the speed limit on the B2192, Lewes Road, Blackboys. The consensus of opinion at the meeting was that the matter should be pursued either with the Police or ESCC.
- EDF cables, School Lane, Blackboys – Chris asked for an update. Fred Thurston stated that the cable that the PC had highlighted had been replaced but nothing apparent had been done regarding the other pole. It was thought that this matter should be between EDF and the resident.
- Roger Williams – ESCC – would be attending the next meeting to give a presentation on Community Transport issues.

Councillor Ann Newton (WDC) stated that there had been a meeting of the LDF Sub-committee where it had been announced that approximately 1,100 answers had been received to individual questions from some 460 correspondents. The data was still being collated and there would be a further meeting shortly. There had also been some debate over if there was a change in government whether the stipulation of 11,000 houses would be significantly reduced.

Sarah Day, a neighbour of Maria Naylor, was in attendance, with a view to putting herself forward for co-option onto the Council.

(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

Ian Paisley.

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, 29 September 2009 for Approval

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2009 having been circulated, be approved, adopted and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Rob Newton and seconded by Maria Naylor).

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 29 September 2009

- Casual Vacancy. The Clerk stated that the notice expired on 26 October 2009 on Mark Moore's resignation so she imagined the PC would be in a position to make two co-options to the Council.

- Ancient Woodland. Eryl Thomas reported that some woodland at the rear of Framfield School on the recreation ground had been designated ancient by the WDC tree expert when commenting on the recent planning application for Framfield School and he wondered how this would impact on any future maintenance works. The Clerk reported that following on from a meeting with the tree expert, he stated that as none of the trees were TPO'd really it had little or no effect. It was wondered whether Alison Wright would give an opinion on the status or not of the 'ancient' woodland.
- Bridge on Brookhouse Lane. Eryl Thomas asked if Maria Naylor had followed up her thoughts on the suggestion of a priority-working system on the bridge. The Clerk reported that she had emailed an officer at ESCC on that issue and also on the suggestion of a pavement from the top of Gun Road to the bus stop beyond the butchers. Chris Dowling had been copied in and a reply was awaited.
- Private access to Council land. Eryl Thomas stated that letters had been sent out to the relevant residents around Framfield recreation ground. The Clerk replied that one reply had been received to date and the others were awaited.

5. Correspondence received since the last meeting

Letters for noting/discussion

ESCC:

- Draft Bus Strategy.

Other:

- High Weald Joint Advisory Committee Annual Review 2008-09

6. Finance

- **Proposal to stop passing the benefit of the Charity Investment dividends to Blackboys Village Hall to enable them to be put into the budget for Blackboys Recreation Ground and allotments.** Following brief discussion the motion was proposed for approval by Brian Hodge, seconded by Maria Naylor and agreed by all present. Clarification was given that the change would stand until the time when an alternative proposal was made should the need arise.
- **Formal agreement of the October 2009 expenditure** – itemised below. This was agreed for payment by Myran Eade, seconded by Rob Newton and agreed by all present.

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Payments already made

Society of Local Council Clerks (Regional Conference) – to be shared with EHwHPC	56.35
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Payments to make

Arbor Management (BB rec/allotments maintenance)*		550.63
P N Saunders (PHC and FF rec maintenance)		1,490.00
Direct Technical Services (streetlighting repairs)		47.15
WDC (dog bin emptying – July/September 2009)		325.16
South East Water Ltd (BB allotments)		188.89
Framfield Memorial Hall (Hall hire)		45.00
EDF Energy DD Energy		191.39
D&J Greengrow, Handyman (April/September 2009)		600.00
Jan Riddle, book-keeper (July/September 2009)		82.50
Ann Newton, Clerk:		
	Salary (October)	1,098.93
	Total expenses	66.15
		1,165.08
	<u>Total:</u>	<u>£4,742.15</u>

*Myran Eade asked that the cheque to Arbor be withheld until their work is completed.

• **Any other Financial Business**

- Eryl Thomas commented on the issue of a recent one-off incident of bank charges being brought. The Finance Committee would need to discuss the possibility of challenging the bank on their decision.
- PAYE scheme for the Clerk/RFO. Eryl Thomas reported that in light of some recent issues that have come to light this would need to be discussed at the next Finance meeting. The Clerk

requested that this be brought forward from 11 to 2 November 2009. This was supported by David Andrews and Fred Thurston and subsequently agreed. Agreement was also given to allow the Finance Committee to make a delegated decision on the issue in light of timescales.

7. Committees

- **Planning:** the Planning Committee minutes for the meeting held on 7 October 2009 had already been circulated. The next meeting is scheduled for 28 October 2009.
- **Recreation Grounds: (Parish Councillors as Trustees):** the minutes of the extra meeting held on 7 October 2009 have already been circulated. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 18 November 2009.

Myran Eade commented on the following:-

- That a decision could be made on the maintenance contracts for the recreation ground on 18 November 2009 as the Clerk had received the follow-up pieces of information required.
 - ROSPA report. With the assistance of Mark Moore, the swing chains and seats on Framfield recreation ground had been replaced in the line with the report. Thanks also to Rob Newton.
 - It appeared that a further dead tree might need removing from Framfield recreation ground.
 - On investigating the contents of the container on Framfield recreation ground, it was apparent that most of the contents belonged to the Horticultural Society. Would it be possible to dispose of the tin shed behind the Hall and put those chairs in the container?
 - **Ratification of expenditure:** Framfield play area - replacement swing chains and seats – approximate cost £240.00 + VAT. This was agreed unanimously.
 - **Framfield Allotments.** Eryl Thomas handed everyone a copy of the updated monitoring report and a written progress report. There would be a full discussion the following day after Planning.
 - **Pavilion Project:** Nothing to report as the football club had cancelled the scheduled meeting.
- **Environment:** the next meeting is scheduled for 28 October 2009.

8. Reports from Representatives

Blackboys Village Hall: Fred Thurston reported that the external painting was well underway and the possibility of a keysafe was being investigated to hold the key for casual users since the shop had closed. Brian Hodge offered to approach the butchers. It was formally proposed that Rob Newton should replace Eryl Thomas on the Committee as the second PC representative.

Memorial Hall: Eryl Thomas stated that a Committee meeting would be held soon.

Schools:

- Framfield:
 - Nomination of replacement School Governor Representative. This was deferred to the next meeting.
 - Eryl Thomas reported that following on from a meeting he had with the School it was likely that a skip would be required on the Memorial Hall car park during the period of the construction works.
- Blackboys – The Clerk stated that there had been a large intake at the School – 17 into reception, but also 18 elsewhere in the School, many from outside the Parish. Councillors commented that this was causing continual parking problems and parents appeared not to be using the offer of the pub car park. The Clerk stated that the School was doing it's best to address this.

SALC/WDALC: Nothing to report.

9. Any Other Business at the Discretion of the Chairman

- Myran Eade commented that the Cricket Club would be holding a jumble sale in the Memorial Hall on 7 November 2009 in aid of the Pavilion fund.
- Brian Hodge gave his apologies for the next meeting.

NOTE: Mr Roger Williams (ESCC) will give a presentation on the Community Transport scheme prior to the meeting at 7 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Chairman..... **Date**

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:
Tuesday, 24 November 2009, at the Memorial Hall, Framfield,
commencing at 7.30 pm.