

Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall, Framfield, on Tuesday, 28 April 2009 at 8 pm

Present

Eryl Thomas (Chairman)
Myran Eade
Peter Friend
Mark Moore

Maria Naylor
Rob Newton (Vice Chair)
Fred Thurston

Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC) [part]
PCSO Simon French [part]

In attendance

Ann Newton - Clerk

Members of the Public – none.
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.

PCSO Simon French reported on the following:

- He had made various patrols around the Parish during the intervening month.
- Has been involved in two Speedwatch sessions and would investigate obtaining the speeding statistics.
- Had attended the Village Market at the Memorial Hall and would do so again.
- He was congratulated on his primary role in Old Library Cottage, which culminated in the raid. He had been made aware on his patrols of some unusual occurrences at the residence, this led to the raid and removal of the evidence. Unfortunately, no culprits were around but this goes to prove the important role that a PCSO can have in a Parish, getting information on the ground.
- Blackboys School – Community Cohesion – he is to become involved along with Brian Hodge, Ann Newton and the Speedwatch team with the School on a Community Cohesion project.

Eryl Thomas commented on the invaluable role of the PCSO who has the interests of the community at the forefront of his work.

Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC) commented on two points:

- There is a delay in the redrafting of the paperwork for the traffic proposals in Blackboys which have already been presented at the Environment Committee due to the work involved in looking at the junction at the east end of the High Street. Chris has reminded the officers that there is a timetable for the works scheduled for the Parish.
- Cables, School Lane, Blackboys. Chris had a site visit with Fred Thurston, Ann Newton and an EDF engineer to ascertain which cables in School Lane are still too low. There is still one cable, which needs replacing, but this requires a new pole as BT will not allow EDF to share the current BT pole!

Councillor Ann Newton (WDC) reported on the recent LDF Sub-Committee meeting at WDC where the options, which will go forward for consultation in the Core Strategy, were discussed. Mention of the Uckfield Appeals decision and the Secretary of State's comments on periphery building around Uckfield will now be added and the report will show a comparison between finding the required sites for 8,000 homes (which WDC has accepted) and the 11,000 which it is expected the SE Plan will stipulate have to be accommodated in the District. The Portfolio Holder might decide to delay the consultation until the final SE Plan has been published which is imminent. Ann suggested putting an article in the forthcoming Parish Magazine advising residents that the document will be open for consultation in June and that residents should comment as should the PC. WDC might hold a PC event on the subject.

(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

David Andrews, Brian Hodge, Ian Paisley and Rita Redman.

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, 31 March 2009 for Approval

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2009 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 31 March 2009

- **Dog Warden** – the Clerk reported that following on from the parishioner's concerns at the last meeting the Dog Warden has patrolled around Framfield, particularly along The Street and put up some more signs. She would be attending again to see if she could catch any culprits.
- **Memorial Bench** – the Clerk asked the Council if they would authorise a memorial bench to be placed next to the village sign at the top of Becketts Way. Mr Saunders, who maintains the area, was happy with the site. A licence would most probably have to be obtained from ESCC. The Clerk could also put the applicant in touch with local builders or the PC handyman as the seat would have to be concreted in.

5. Correspondence received since the last meeting

Letters for noting/discussion

- Equality and Human Rights Commission – Public Sector Duties.
- Newsletter from the Ramblers. The Clerk was asked to request to be put on the regular mailing list. Retained by Fred Thurston.
- The Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee.
- The Big Lunch, 19 July 2009. The Clerk to suggest to the writer that it be advertised in the Parish Magazine.
- KPS Open Day – 9 May 2009.

6. Finance

- **Finance Committee** – a report had been circulated which was taken as read and agreed following the correction of the figure of £44,442.37 to £41,442.37.
- **Formal agreement of the April 2009 expenditure as detailed on the report circulated at the meeting** – itemised below. This was agreed for payment by Maria, seconded by Myran Eade and agreed by all present.

	£		
Arbor Management (maintenance of BB rec/allotments)	550.63		
WDC (dog bin emptying covering period Jan to March 2009)	272.03		
D&J Greengrow (general maintenance Dec, Jan, Feb March)	400.00		
WDALC (annual subscription y/e 31 March 2010)	25.00		
EDF Energy	DD Energy (1-31 March 2009)	191.15	
Jan Riddle, bookkeeper: (last quarter)	210.00		
Ann Newton, Clerk:	Salary (April)	1,098.93	
	Total expenses	76.15	1,197.52
Direct Technical Services (half year invoice for streetlight maintenance)	569.02		
Arthur Makepeace, Internal Auditor	100.00		
	<u>Total Expenditure</u>	<u>£3,515.35</u>	

Cheques Received

EDF Energy Networks (wayleave payments April 08/March 09)	£12.95
EDF Energy Networks (wayleave payments April 09/March 10)	£79.04
Precept (WDC)	£20,500.00

Eryl Thomas commented that he would be drafting an article on the rise in the precept for the next Parish Magazine highlighting some relevant issues such as the high cost of dog bin emptying and maintenance of the recreation grounds.

7. Committees

Planning: the minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2009 had already been circulated. The next meeting is scheduled for 13 May 2009.

Maria Naylor commented that the number of planning applications definitely seemed to be down presumably due to the economic situation.

- **Quicken Wood.** A meeting with WDC was to be arranged to discuss the way forward.
- **SHLAA/LDF – Bird in Eye/Community Governance Review.** The discussion on the SHLAA/LDF took place under District reports but Eryl Thomas commented that a very favourable reply had been received from the WDC Chairman of the Regulatory and Audit Committee to which any request for a boundary change under the Community Governance Review would be dealt with. It seemed as though any attempt by Uckfield had been quashed and would not be considered for re-discussion for another two years. An emailed reply had been received from the Clerk of Uckfield Town Council stating that the Mayor would be contacting Eryl direct.

Recreation Grounds: (Parish Councillors as Trustees): no meeting had been held. The next meeting is scheduled for 13 May 2009.

- Myran Eade reported that it appeared that Palehouse Common and Framfield had received their first cut of the season. The tree work had been completed on Framfield recreation ground.
- **WDC Active Play Project.** The meeting agreed that this project run by Freedom Leisure would be authorised to use preferably Framfield recreation ground as the access and parking was better. However, the Clerk was asked to obtain some dates.
 - **Pavilion Project:** Rob Newton reported that there had been a meeting prior to the PC meeting that day. He made the following points:
 - **Blackboys:** The Clerk was chasing Downland Housing on the options for the positioning of the pavilion and was now dealing with a Director. The Cricket Club have now raised a total of £20,000 and feels that they have done almost as much as they can. As the recreation ground comes under the auspices of the PC, there are grants available that can be applied for in the Council's name.
 - **Framfield:** If a grant was obtained from the Football Foundation, this would be for 50% of the total build cost. However, the building would be to their specification and costs – more than double the estimate the PC has obtained. This would mean having to raise more than the current amount of funds to reach the other 50%! Mark More is investigating the possibility of obtaining a grant from Sport England
 - Discussion on Rob's report ensued and it was agreed that:
 - A Project Manager would be needed for each site – this should be a member of the Parish Council in both cases.
 - As it seemed as though Blackboys had completed the first hurdle in that significant fundraising had been carried out by the Cricket Club, they could now move on to the second stage. Framfield had not reached that level. It was therefore agreed that Blackboys would be moved forward as phase one of the overall project with Framfield as phase two.

The Parish Council agreed to this approach and stated that a small working party should be established to start chasing grants.

Environment: the minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2009 had already been circulated. The next meeting is scheduled for 3 June 2009.

- **Streetlighting** – Fred Thurston reported that he had obtained further information on the possible reduction of lit hours/costs from EDF. In brief there are 76 streetlights in the Parish split into two switch regimes – 35 on one and 41 on the other. The settings are sunset to midnight, then 5.30 am to 30 minutes after sunrise. There are two controlling poles, which feed to the other poles. 16,700 KHz of energy is used. He intends to check that the PC is being charged for the correct regime. Suggestion was made that in the summer, removing the 5.30 am to sunrise session. The question should be asked if this could be done for the summer only. Eryl Thomas asked that a firm decision be made at the next Environment Committee meeting on the way forward.
- **Traffic Commissioner.** The Clerk reported that there had been another notice in the Sussex Express stating that a company based at New Place were applying to use/keep three HGV's and trailers on site. The PC had written and voiced their objections as previously and now a reply had been received wanting the PC to authenticate their objection! The forms were taken by Eryl Thomas for initial thoughts.

8. Reports from Representatives

Blackboys Village Hall:

- Eryl Thomas reported that the work to the WC's had been completed and the boiler repaired. A letter has been written to the boiler manufacturer explaining all the problems that the Hall has experienced with the boiler since it was installed.

Memorial Hall:

- **Update on the Charity Commission** The Clerk reported that some forms had been received from the Charity Commission presumably having agreed in principle to the amalgamation. These were yet to be completed by all parties, which would hopefully be the final hurdle in the

merger. The meeting confirmed their resolution/commitment to go forward with the amalgamation as it was in the best interests of both parties – the Hall and the recreation ground.

Schools:

- **Framfield: Request from Framfield CE School asking the PC to nominate a new Governor Representative as Rita Redman's term of office ends in July.** Mark More offered to take up the role to which the PC agreed. The Clerk stated that she would put the Council's nomination forward to the School for their decision.
- **Blackboys** – The Clerk reported that the recent School Ofsted inspection report was now available and denoted the School as was 'outstanding'.

SALC: Eryl Thomas reported that there is a review/re-organisation of NALC being carried out as it is generally felt that they are not performing as they should. A quarter of East Sussex councils have now obtained Quality status. At the next meeting on 23 June 2009 there was to be a presentation by an officer on gypsy and travellers with some police input. The Clerk was asked to look up courses for attendance by the newest councillors.

WDALC: There was to be a special meeting held on 27 May 2009 at 7.30 pm at Uckfield Civic Centre with WDC officers present to discuss affordable homes and their allocation in villages and the availability of funds generated by S106 agreement. Councillors are welcome to attend the meeting. Peter Friend thought he might be available. Could anyone interested please contact the Clerk.

9. Any Other Business at the Discretion of the Chairman

- **Annual Assembly. Tuesday, 26 May 2009, 8 pm in the Village Hall, Blackboys.** The Clerk would put up the usual agenda and the Chairmen of each Committee would be expected to make a report. This can be done in writing to the Clerk prior to the meeting who will read them out if necessary.
- Swine Flu. The Clerk had distributed updates from WDC via email.
- Eryl Thomas stated that there were now two Assistant Chief Constables on the beat.
- Myran Eade asked if the PC could raise a team for the forthcoming Quiz Night organised by the Cricket Club for the Pavilion Project to be held on 22 May 2009 in the Memorial Hall.
- The Clerk gave details of a 'Networking BBQ' organised by Hadlow Down Parish Council for 26 June 2009. Members of local councils had been invited along with WDC, ESCC and SALC representatives.
- The Clerk stated that a large television was being offered by a Halland resident to any organisation in need. The Clerk made the suggestion of offering it to 'Greenacres'.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Chairman.....

Date

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – the AGM:
Tuesday, 26 May 2009, at the Village Hall, Blackboys,
commencing at 7.15 pm.
The Annual Parish Assembly will follow on at 8 pm.**