

# Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall, Framfield, on Tuesday, 29 September 2009 at 7.45 pm

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**Present**

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

PCSO Simon French [part]

**In attendance**

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

Mr Michael Higgs addressed members of the Council prior to the meeting with an update on the proposals to introduce a 30 mph speed limit on the High Street, Blackboys. Implementation of the proposals has been pushed into the next financial year. Mr Higgs will return in January with a final update.

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

**PSCO Simon French** reported on the following items:-

- Framfield School had reported an incident of a youth looking into the windows of the ICT suite very early one morning. Both Parish Schools had been put on their guard for further incidents.
- There has been a spate of cold calling from a company wishing to tarmac drives who then do a dreadful job and charge a great deal of money.
- The landlord at the Blackboys Inn has agreed to allow parents to park in the overflow car park of the pub before and after School to free up School Lane. A mum is to instigate a park and walk plan to get from the pub to the School.
- Discussion arose on the ongoing problems with the Cysleys roundabout and the fact that many drivers still go over the roundabout instead of around it!
- PSCO French was thanked for his ongoing diligence for the Parish.

**Councillor Ann Newton (WDC)** stated that the next LDF Sub-committee was scheduled for the end of October when some idea might be given on the response to the recent consultation exercise on the spatial options for the region.

*(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

Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC). Eryl Thomas informed the meeting that Mark Moore had resigned from the Parish Council due to the pressure of work.

## 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. Fred Thurston and Eryl Thomas also declared prejudicial interests in that they had items for reimbursement on the finance sheet. Rob Newton and Myran Eade declared personal interests in the item on Pavilions as they are both members of the Cricket Club.

## 3. Minutes of the Last Meeting, 28 July 2009 for Approval

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2009 having been circulated, be approved, adopted and signed as a correct record. (Proposed by Myran Eade and seconded by Maria Naylor).

## 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 28 July 2009

- Casual Vacancy. The PC was now in a position to co-opt a councillor onto the Council to replace Rita Redman. The Clerk would advise WDC of Mark Moore's resignation.

## 5. Correspondence received since the last meeting

### Letters for noting/discussion

#### WDC:

- Forest Row Parish Council – S106 Developer Contributions. The Clerk reported that a response of support had been sent to Forest Row Parish Council and Wealden District Council requesting that a review be made of the Policy through the LDF process to enable such contributions to be levied on development sites of under 15 houses, which are prevalent in village locations.
- Scrutiny Process Questionnaire. The Clerk stated that the questionnaire had arrived during the summer break with only a matter of days for a reply. The meeting agreed that the relevant District/County Councillor should bring any scrutiny matters of interest to the Council to their attention.

#### ESCC:

- Exploring East Sussex.

#### Other:

- Wealden CAB. The Clerk was asked to write and inform the CAB that the application would be considered at the end of the financial year.
- East Sussex Fire Authority.
- Priority Services Register detailing EDF contact numbers etc for emergencies. The Clerk suggested that this is passed to the editor of the Parish Magazine for inclusion in the next/ongoing editions.

## 6. Finance

- **Committee Report.** All members were in receipt of a copy of the minutes which were adopted as read.
- **Formal approval of the accounts by external auditors, Mazars.** The Clerk reported that the formal approval had been received with one matter for attention. The Council as sole managing trustees of the various charitable trusts must remove any reference to income/expenditure from the charities which are currently included in the Annual Return. The Clerk stated that her only concern was that this would then mean that the trust accounts would not be audited and perhaps the Internal Auditor could take on this role.
- **Formal agreement of the August/September 2009 expenditure as detailed on the report circulated at the meeting** – itemised below. This was agreed for payment by Maria Naylor, seconded by Brian Hodge and agreed by all present.

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### Payments already made

Direct Technical Services (repair to streetlight base)	52.33	
FF & BB Monday Club (annual donation)	100.00	
Eryl Thomas (reimbursement for purchase of gazebo for Summer Show)	19.99	
Cancer Research (donation c/o Cooper & Son in memory of Rita Redman)	50.00	
Fred Thurston (reimbursement for purchase of large-scale map of FF Allotments)	24.00	
Treework & Forestry Ltd (removal of tree on FF rec)	200.00	
Arbor Management (maintenance of BB rec/allotments)	550.63	
AIRS (annual subscription)	40.00	
BT plc (paid by direct debit – office account to be shared with EH)	132.21	
Blackboys Village Hall (Hall hire)		20.00
Pump House Maintenance (spreading of woodchippings BB/PHC recs supply of spring gate closers)	406.00	
EDF Energy	DD Energy	191.39
Ann Newton, Clerk:	Salary (August)	1,098.93
	Total expenses	419.88
S P Hadley (steps BVH – reimbursed by BVH minus VAT)		1,087.24
South East Water (fee for survey of FF allotments site with a view to Reconnecting the water supply)		102.00
	<u>Sub-Total (August):</u>	<u>£4,494.60</u>

### Payments to make

Arbor Management (BB rec/allotments maintenance)	550.63
Blackboys Village Hall (donation to cover cost of insurance premium)	1,024.45
Blackboys Village Hall (Charity investment dividends)	266.83
Aon Limited (insurance premium Framfield Memorial Hall)	1,092.55

Mazars LLP (external audit fee)			327.75
CPRE (annual subscription)			29.00
Framfield & Blackboys Horticultural Society (Show donation)			70.00
Action in Rural Sussex (fee for two places at the AGM)			46.00
EDF Energy	DD Energy		191.39
Ann Newton, Clerk:	Salary (September)	1,098.93	
	Total expenses	91.15	1,190.08
	<u>Sub Total: (September)</u>		<u>£4,788.68</u>
	<u>Grand Total:</u>		<u>£9,283.28</u>

- Myran Eade commented that he felt the dividends received from the charity investments should once again be put back within the PC accounts for use within that charity, ie on the allotments or recreation ground in Blackboys instead of being passed to Blackboys Village Hall. This was agreed in principle but would be put for formal adoption on the October agenda.

## 7. Committees

**Planning:** the Planning Committee minutes for the meetings held on 5 and 26 August 2009 and 16 September had already been circulated. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 October 2009. Maria Naylor stated that the appeal at High Tree House had been dismissed.

- **Recreation Grounds: (Parish Councillors as Trustees):** the minutes of the meeting held on 16 September have already been circulated. There is to be an extra-ordinary meeting of the Committee to discuss the Grounds Maintenance Contract on Wednesday, 7 October 2009 at 7.30 pm.
  - Myran Eade commented that he felt Mark Moore's resignation was a great loss to the Committee and in particular with the implementing of the actions of the ROSPA report. He asked the Clerk to report to ESCC that the gate leading to the twitten between Blackboys recreation ground and School Lane as it is in need of repair/replacement.
  - **Framfield Allotments.** Eryl Thomas thanked everyone who has got involved with the project so far.
  - **Freedom on Information Act – Internal Review.** The Clerk reported that the Reverend Chris Lawrence had carried out the Internal Review and found that the PC had acted in a wholly honourable manner in line with the legislation.
  - **Pavilion Project:** Myran Eade reported that there had been a meeting of the Steering Committee which Eryl Thomas was now chairing as Rob Newton had resigned. There was to be a further meeting the following week. The Cricket Club have been unsuccessful in their application to Sport England which was vastly oversubscribed.
- **Environment:** the next meeting is scheduled for 28 October 2009. David Andrews reported that a session on Community Transport would be held at the next available slot prior to a PC meeting – hopefully November 2009. Discussion arose on the state of some of the hedges within the Parish – Maria commented on those in Brookhouse Lane. The Clerk stated that she would contact Steve Wilkinson who deals with such matters at ESCC and put him in touch with David Andrews. An ongoing list could be compiled for regular reporting to ESCC.

## 8. Reports from Representatives

**Blackboys Village Hall:** Eryl Thomas reported that Fred Thurston has stepped into his shoes as Chairman. Fred gave thanks to Rob Newton for his help with the lights and commented that the external painting had now been delayed until the end of the year – weather-permitting.

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

### Schools:

- **Framfield:** The Clerk was asked to contact the School to see what the position was with regard to the appointment of Mark Moore as the PC representative on the Governing Body.
- **Blackboys** – The Clerk stated that she had attended a training course on the safe recruitment of staff.

**SALC/WDALC:** Nothing to report.

**9. Any Other Business at the Discretion of the Chairman**

- Eryl Thomas reported on some comments from the Arboricultural Officer at WDC on Framfield School's recent planning application in that the area of woodland behind the School on the recreation ground was designated as ancient woodland which could have ramifications for the PC with regard to its maintenance. The Clerk stated that she would investigate.
- Brian Hodge was thanked for completing the WDC road safety review questionnaire.
- Maria Naylor asked if consideration could be given to making the bridge down Brookhouse Lane single traffic. It was thought the suggestion could be passed to Chris Dowling.
- Thanks were given to Esther Eade for all her help with the Memorial Hall in Brian Short's absence. The PC wished Brian a speedy recovery.

*The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.*

**Chairman..... Date .....**

***NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:  
Tuesday, 27 October 2009, at the Village Hall, Blackboys,  
commencing at 7.30 pm.***