

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
Recreation Ground Committee Meeting
Wednesday, 16 September 2009, 7.45 pm - Framfield Memorial Hall

Present: Committee Members: Myran Eade (ME) [Chairman], Peter Friend (PF) (Vice Chair), Ian Paisley (IP), Rob Newton (RN), Eryl Thomas (ET) and Fred Thurston (FT).

In attendance: Ann Newton (Parish Clerk).

Public: None.

1. Apologies.

Brian Hodge. ET announced the resignation of Mark Moore (MM).

2. Declarations of Interest.

FT declared a personal interest in that he is a joint-tenant of one allotment plot in Blackboys.

3. Approval of the last meeting's minutes.

These were approved as read (15 July 2009).

4. Matters Arising

- **Land Registry work** – the Clerk reported that the go-ahead had been given to the solicitors to formally register Framfield recreation ground, car park and Memorial Hall. These are the 'easier' ones to do as we hold many of the conveyancing documents relevant to the site, which prove ownership. For this work we will be charged some £750.00 (50% of the actual cost). Palehouse Common recreation ground is already registered. However, there may be disbursement costs for each site particularly with the Land Registry. These seem to be calculated on the value of the land so has been queried with the solicitors as the recreation grounds and allotments, as charitable trusts, have a nil value. If this does not affect the LR charges, the PC could have to pay a further £500 for the registration of Framfield recreation ground alone! To enable the solicitors to go-ahead and get the registration of the other sites underway, it will be necessary to visit the Archive Office to see what information is held to prove that the PC has jurisdiction over the sites. The work will cost a similar amount as the first stage so it was suggested that this form phase two and possibly three to spread the cost over a couple of years.
- **Update (if any) on the proposal to keep bees on Blackboys Allotments** – the Clerk reported that all the letters had been sent but there was no further update. The subject could be added to the tenancy agreement when the next review is carried out.
- **Private access to Council land** – this was the only item that had not been followed up from the previous meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk should send letters to all the relevant residents backing onto Framfield recreation ground who have gated access into the ground.
- **Grass maintenance contracts** – the Clerk reported that four requests had been received for the tender pack (and a courtesy copy sent to Bernard Lillywhite as requested). The closing date for submissions is 30 September 2009.
- **Freedom of Information Request – Internal Review** – the Clerk reported that the Rev Chris Lawrence had conducted the Internal Review and determined that the PC had acted in a wholly honourable manner in line with the legislation.
- **ROSPA Report – update on work carried out** – ME stated that in the unfortunate absence of MM there could not really be an update. It seemed as though MM was willing to still assist and an update of the situation would need to be obtained from him. FT reported on one other area of essential work highlighted on the Blackboys Village Hall site, where it was deemed there is a trip hazard between the car park and the Pre-school play area.

All other items are detailed under the relevant sections.

5. Recreation Grounds and Allotments – current condition etc.

ME reported that all the three recreation grounds seemed to be in reasonable condition for the time of year. IP had also visited all the sites and gave his input on various items in need of repair. Particular items to report were:

Framfield.

- **Additional football – Forresters’ Arms, East Hoathly.** The Clerk reported that the team, who would normally play in East Hoathly, had used the pitch for a Sunday morning league game and would probably be doing so again. As the Framfield & Blackboys Football Club can be playing a home game on a Saturday afternoon, this would only be permissible if FF&BB have played away on the Saturday or if the pitch is dry. A fee of £20.00 is being charged by the Hall for use of the changing facilities.
- The hinge on the gate onto the play area needs replacing.
- The diseased tree at the rear of the ground has been removed.
- Mrs Selina Allen has given the Council a bag of bulbs to plant on the recreation ground. The Clerk stated that she would send an email of thanks.

Framfield Allotments

Everyone was in receipt of a report and draft programme for moving forward. ET commented that some initial progress had been made by FT and ME. With MM’s departure, this would bring additional pressure on other members to get the tasks done.

Blackboys

- One of the gateposts to the play area has split and needs repairing.
- The closing hinge on the gate to the twitten needs attention.
- The tulip tree is in good condition.
- There is a dead ash tree on the play area, which needs removing.
- The bark chippings were installed successfully and the contractor also did some work to the gates.

Blackboys Allotments

Nothing to report other than there had been some problem with tenants parking on the track and blocking access to other tenants.

Palehouse Common

- The tulip tree is in a bad state but is being looked after by a local resident.
- The bark chippings were installed successfully and the contractor also did some work to the gates.
- A panel is missing out of the main gate.

6. Pavilion Update

ET reported that RN has resigned as Chairman of the Steering Committee. There was a meeting scheduled after the recreation ground meeting.

7. Any Other Business.

The Clerk reported on the following items:

- Framfield School had reported seeing rates at the rear of the Memorial Hall. ME was keeping an eye on the situation.
- The book on managing allotments has been purchased and arrived earlier on in the day – cost £25.00.
- The Allotment Regeneration Initiative – a free body to which the Clerk has joined on behalf of the Parish Council is having its inaugural forum in Dover on 4 November 2009.
- Mr Greengrow, the PC handyman, has asked if he may submit his invoices bi-annually in order to keep his bank charges down. This was agreed.

8. Date of Next Meeting.

Wednesday, 18 November 2009 – time to be advised.

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Chairman