

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
Recreation Ground Committee Meeting
Wednesday, 18 November 2009, 7.30 pm - Framfield Memorial Hall

Present: Committee Members: Myran Eade (ME) [Chairman], Peter Friend (PF) (Vice Chair), Rob Newton (RN), Eryl Thomas (ET) and Fred Thurston (FT).
Also present: Brian Hodge (BH).
In attendance: Ann Newton (Parish Clerk).
Public: None.

1. Apologies.

Ian Paisley.

2. Declarations of Interest.

FT declared a personal interest in that he is a joint-tenant of one allotment plot in Blackboys. ME and RN declared personal interests in the item on the Pavilions in that they are both members of the Blackboys Cricket Club.

3. Approval of the last meeting's minutes.

These were approved as read (16 September 2009).

4. Matters Arising

- **Private Access to Council Land.** The Clerk reported that one out of three replies had been received. The meeting requested that she follow up the other two with a further letter.
- **Grounds maintenance contracts – decision on the three-year contract for grounds maintenance of the recreation grounds and allotments.** *Exempt item until the process has been completed.* ME reported that clarification had been sought and received from the two contractors shortlisted. The proposal was made to reduce the cuts from 8 to 2 to the track/footpath through Blackboys Allotments thus saving £180 per year. The Clerk was instructed to inform the two contractors accordingly; Paul Saunders for Framfield Recreation Ground and Arbor Management for Blackboys recreation ground and allotments and Palehouse Common Recreation Ground.
- **ROSPA Report – update on work carried out** – ME stated that the urgent work in replacing the swing chains on Framfield recreation ground had been done – thanks mainly to RN. MM was to look at the shackles.
- **Land Registry work** – the Clerk confirmed that she has chased up the solicitors regarding the ongoing works and was awaiting to hear further news. ET commented that he had received advice that there was a 'DIY' way of registering land via the LR website which he could investigate for Framfield Allotments in particular.

All other items are detailed under the relevant sections.

5. Recreation Grounds and Allotments – current condition etc.

Framfield.

- ME reported that the hedges had been cut and the bulbs kindly donated by Selina Allen planted along the top edge and around the seats. A tree near the storage container needs attention and Alison Wright has been contacted regarding an opinion on the 'ancient woodland'.

Framfield Allotments

- A copy of the updated monitoring report was held by each councillor. ET commented that things seemed to be moving along very well.
- The Clerk reported that she has made initial contact with the Charity Commission regarding the rationalisation of the object of the charity – 'for the labouring poor'.
- She further reported that she had made contact with Paul Neary, an allotment adviser who had come up with some innovative ideas such as winding up the Trust etc. The meeting asked that Paul be asked along to meet those involved. The Clerk was asked to look into new taps for the water supply on all allotments.

Blackboys

Nothing to report. The Clerk was asked to post the last cheque to Arbor Management. They had returned to clear out the ditches but the job wasn't perhaps carried out quite as satisfactory as would have been liked.

Blackboys Allotments

ME stated that he would speak to Robin Neale regarding a problem with rats entering the butchers premises.

Palehouse Common

Nothing to report.

6. Pavilion Update

ME invited ET to explain in further detail the rationale behind his paper handed out prior to the meeting. ET described the general lack of progress on the project and how the meeting with the Cricket Club had focused his attention on the need to reassess the situation to ascertain that the criteria that prevailed at the outset of the project was still valid. He then asked for endorsement of his proposal to hold a review of the project using a small team of 2 councillors and a representative from each of the Football and Cricket clubs.

This was agreed and the team instructed to report their findings back to the full PC meeting to be held in January for a comprehensive debate.

BH described his understanding of the history of the project and handed out a paper that described his doubts and concerns on the issue as well as some suggested ways forward.

ME and ET welcomed the paper as a useful "neutral" reference document for the proposed review and thanked Brian for his efforts.

PF reiterated the concerns he aired at the meeting with the Cricket Club concerning the finances required for the undertaking and the difficulties in obtaining the necessary funds. There then ensued a general discussion on the fund raising options that may be open to the PC.

The review team was agreed to be FT and PF for the Parish Council, ME for the Cricket Club and Graham Pope for the Football club with BH taking a remote monitoring role whilst he remained on holiday. FT to convene the first meeting as soon as possible.

7. Any Other Business.

The Clerk reported on the following items:

- **Freedom of Information Request.** Bernard Lillywhite has now taken his complaint a step further to the FoI Commissioner. The Clerk has provided copied of all the exchanges of emails detailing the reasons behind the refusal to supply the information requested at the current time.
- A letter had been received from a grounds maintenance company in Dorking asking for contractual information on any grounds maintenance contracts under the guise of a FoI request. ME took the letter to read. *[Post meeting note: SALC have informed all parish councils who have received the letter to reply in full].*

8. Date of Next Meeting.

Wednesday, 13 January 2010 – time to be advised.

Meeting closed at 9 pm.

Chairman