

Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Blackboys, on Tuesday, 22 February 2011 at 7.30 pm

Present Maria Naylor (Chairman) Peter Friend
Salina Allen Felicity Groves
Myran Eade Rob Newton (Vice Chairman)

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.

(The minutes are detailed in the order in which they appeared on the agenda but not necessarily the order in which they were taken at the meeting. A copy of all the reports mentioned will be attached to the minutes for the minute book).

Two residents of Framfield voiced their concerns over Framfield footpaths 67b and 68c since the land has been under new ownership. It is impassable and 'No trespassing' signs have been erected. The Clerk assured the residents that Councillor Chris Dowling and the ESCC Rights of Way team were involved and if the signs were not removed enforcement action will take place. There is also the issue of the application to ESCC for a claimed right of way on a circular route around the fields on which the Parish Council have been formally consulted. Following discussion the meeting agreed that they should advise ESCC that they are aware that this has been used as an alternative route by local walkers for many years but unfortunately has no evidence to prove it.

Councillor Ann Newton in her role as Wealden District Councillor reported on the following:

- *There would be a nil rise in Council Tax from Wealden. This in fact means that the weekly cost of Wealden Council Tax to a Band D householder is £3.35! A private contractor wouldn't empty a dustbin for that amount! As an aside, the Parish Council increase (0.7%) only equates to 34p per year to a Band D householder! This will cover the cost of the provision of the website. The Parish Council ranks twenty-first out of 42 district parishes for cost per year to householders. The annual charge to again a Band D householder for the year 2011/12 will be £48.40. This, bearing in mind, the many assets/liabilities which the PC oversees is very low compared to other parishes, leaving very little funds for anything other than the day-to-day running of the Parish facilities.*
- *The consultation period is under way for the Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework.*
- *27 March 2011 Census – Ann encouraged everyone to complete it.*

1. Apologies for Absence

Richard Brocklebank, John Mordaunt and Fred Thurston. Councillor Chris Dowling and PCSO Simon French.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors to give notice of declarations of personal and prejudicial interests in respect of items on the agenda. Myran Eade declared a personal interest in the item on the Blackboys Pavilion Project as he is associated with Blackboys Cricket Club. On decision-making matters if the meeting thought appropriate, Myran would leave the room. Rob Newton stated that he would not take an active part or vote, on any decision-making discussions involving the Pavilion, as an adjacent neighbour to the recreation ground. Rob Newton declared a prejudicial interest in the items under the Finance section of the agenda relating to the Clerk, the Clerk being his wife.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting for Approval

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2011 having been circulated, be approved, adopted and signed as a correct record. (SA/ME).

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Clerk followed up a few points from the last meeting as follows.

- Website – the Clerk reported that a meeting was to be held that week and confirmed that the domain name would be 'framfieldcouncil.org.uk'. It is hoped to launch the site as soon as possible.
- Parish Magazine – quite a few people had already replied renewing their adverts and there were many new ones. Already over £200.00 has come in from people wishing to have their advert placed on the website.

5. Correspondence received since the last meeting

Letters for noting/discussion – most items were from pending matters and dealt with under separate headings.

WDC:

- Parish Conference 2011 and Localism Bill. WDC have suggested bringing the annual Parish Conference forward to September or early October so that the Localism Bill can be explored in full at the earliest opportunity. It would also be the dominant item on the agenda. The Council were happy with the decision.
- Core Strategy Consultation. Retained by Maria Naylor.

ESCC:

- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 – Section 53. Claimed Footpath. As detailed at the start of the meeting.

Other:

- Sussex Police - the Stop Speeding, Make your Community Safer Campaign. The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by the Police who were following up a call from a Blackboys resident worried about the speed through the High Street. The suggested campaign is local, run by the community and advertised by the Parish Council. 'Speed Kills' signs have already appeared on the B2102. The Clerk informed Iain Tomsett (Road Safety/Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator) that the village was feeling a little sore as they had just missed an opportunity for a lower speed limit and traffic-calming due to the cutbacks by ESCC and to embark on this campaign might not be popular as it does seem as if the voluntary sector is relied upon by those authorities whose remit it is to actually deal with the problem. He also noted with regret that the Speedwatch in Framfield had stopped. The Clerk stated that the exercise was never meant to be a permanent fixture – it had been hoped that with the support of ESCC and the Police that measures could be put in place to reduce the speed of traffic in that area. The campaign was started with the hope that this would happen and didn't. Clerk to liaise with Iain Tomsett.
- Framfield & Blackboys Monday Club – a thank you letter from Sandy Rogers for the donation.
- Royal Mail – the Clerk explained that many Blackboys residents on the stretch of road from Lankhurst Oak to Mapleleaf Cottages had received a letter from the Royal Mail informing them that they would need to insert the road name 'Framfield Road' into their address. Also, 'Lankhurst Oak' appeared to have been dropped and numbers one to four Mapleleaf Cottages (formerly School Lane/High Street TN22 5LJ) were to also have a postcode change to TN22 5LR. This had raised huge objection and concern with the residents. On contacting Royal Mail, it appeared that if all the residents at the Lankhurst Oak end write to them, the hamlet name can be reinstated. On contacting WDC regarding the four Mapleleaf Cottages involved, WDC believe this is a mistake and if all the residents write to WDC wanting to revert back to the original details this can be forwarded onto Royal Mail. The Parish Council also agreed to support those proposals.

6. Finance and General Purposes:

- Parish Council Insurance renewal. The Clerk reported that she had received the renewal documentation – it appeared that for the entire insurance that had only seen increase of £300.00 which now includes a year's insurance for the Pavilion (£100.00).
- Charity Dividends. A form has been received to enable the dividends to be paid directly into the Blackboys Trust account. Due to the complicated nature of the completion of the form, the meeting agreed to leave matters as they were and to transfer the funds from the PC account to the Trust account as and when they arrive for the time being.
- Schedule of expenditure as at 31 January 2011 – this was adopted as read. (SA/ME).
- Formal agreement of the February 2011 payments/disbursements – itemised below. This was agreed for payment by Maria Naylor, seconded by Selina Allen and agreed by all present.

Cheques already paid (January)

	£
HMRC: January tax and NI payments for Clerk/RFO	437.16
Mrs Ann Newton (reimbursement for stamps and printer cartridge)	147.13

TOTAL: £584.29

Cheques to pay

WDC (dog bin emptying Oct/Dec 2010)	250.98
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Jan Riddle, RFO:	
February (gross salary £79.16 including 2 hrs overtime)	63.16
Ann Newton, Clerk:	
February (gross salary £1,147.47); room allowance (£40.00); mileage (£12.02);	895.59
<i>Both salaries paid net of deductions.</i>	
HMRC: February tax and NI payments for Clerk/RFO	406.36
Blackboys Trust (hire of BVH)	8.00
East Sussex County Council (replacement of BB streetlights to non-mercury)	1,311.73
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	TOTAL: £2,935.82

Bank Balances as at 31 January 2011

Current Account £18,555.39
Deposit Account £107.60

7. Reports from Committees

- **Planning:** the Planning Committee minutes for the meeting held on 2 February 2011 have already been circulated. The next meeting is scheduled for 23 February 2011 for which the agenda has been circulated.
- **Environment:** the Environment Committee minutes for the meeting held on 2 February 2011 have already been circulated.
- **Pavilion Review**
 - Framfield. There was no update although it is believed that the Framfield Stagers are making a donation to the refurbishment funds.
 - Blackboys. There had been no contact from the Cricket Club since the proposed agreement was issued in draft. Myran Eade stated that he believed that David Jenner still had some queries before the agreement could be signed. The meeting voiced their disappointment at the delays caused by the Club and asked that an urgent meeting be arranged between both sides. Peter Friend, Maria Naylor and Rob Newton were given delegated permission to finalise the issue following the meeting. [Post meeting note: meeting arranged for Wednesday, 2 March 2011, 7 pm, BVH. David Jenner has been asked to provide a list of queries prior to the meeting].

8. Reports from Representatives

Schools:

- Framfield – Nothing to report.
- Blackboys – The Clerk reported that the planning application had been lodged to replace the sports shed on the playing field with something slightly better.

SALC/WDALC: Nothing to report.

9. Any Other Business at the Discretion of the Chairman

- ACRE Information Sheets. Authorisation was given to the Clerk to purchase a set of up to date Village Hall information sheets to assist in the implementation of the contracts of employment etc of the staff – cost £60.00.
- Charity Law Course. The Clerk was given permission to attend the course on 4 March 2011 – cost £15.00.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Chairman..... Date

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:
Tuesday, 29 March 2011, at the Memorial Hall, Framfield,
commencing at 7.30 pm.
This will be preceded by a meeting of the Trustees
of the Blackboys Trust at 7 pm.**

