

Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Blackboys, on Tuesday, 25 January 2011 at 7.30 pm

Present

Maria Naylor (Chairman)
Selina Allen
Myran Eade
Peter Friend

Felicity Groves
John Mordaunt
Rob Newton (Vice Chairman)

Councillor Chris Dowling
PCSO Simon French [part]

In attendance

Ann Newton - Clerk

Members of the Public – one.
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).

PCSO Simon French reported on several items:

- Following a spate of thefts from RVL at Squires Farm, the owner is working with the Police to put in place measures to help stop the problem.
- Paynes experienced the theft of three drums of oil from their premises in Blackboys. As the oil was discarded out of heating systems it wasn't thought to be of much profitable use!
- Some good news – due to the diligence of a resident who took and reported a van registration number, a man was apprehended following a break-in Blackboys. The culprit has been charged with the offence.

Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC) reported on the following:

- Chris commented that members were no doubt aware of the severe cuts which ESCC have to make over the next four years (£100m) which includes £37m within the current year. There will be £20m cuts to Children's Services.
- There will be a potential freeze of Council Tax for the coming year.
- Chris was very sorry to hear of the demise of the Framfield Speedwatch especially with all the effort those relevant people gave.
- Blackboys traffic calming – Chris hoped that once ESCC is back on track, that the proposals for Blackboys will be very high up on the agenda.
- Broadband enhancement – Blackboys School - progress is at last being made so that the pole will be removed in the near future.
- Chris is liaising with ESCC Rights of Way over some issues at the rear of Becketts Way.
- Rob Newton thanked Chris for all his efforts on behalf of the residents and Council.

Bernard Lillywhite, resident of Framfield. Bernard, who had also attended the FGP meeting, had returned with some comments on the proposed budget. He asked that the provision of dog bins be deleted from the Council budget which would save some £900.00. He asked that the Council consider removing all or some of the streetlights and that they look at a better option than National Savings for the Parish reserve funds. Comments of reply from the Chair, Clerk and other members stated that obviously the removal of the bins was a matter of opinion and in fact it was felt that many, if not the majority of parishioners would prefer to keep the bins. The Clerk detailed the Dog Fouling Act whereby the Parish had been invited to designate various areas of the Parish to be included in the legislation enabling fines of up to £1,000 for not clearing up. These were areas previously outside the legislation such as the recreation grounds and the churchyard. Public highways etc were already included. It was thought at the time therefore appropriate to give residents somewhere to put the waste when the legislation came into force. Consideration would be given at the next Environment Committee meeting to removing one bin from Framfield recreation ground. With regard to streetlighting, there had been an exhaustive exercise to reduce costs but the large cost of removing the lights (some £30,000) was thought to be prohibitive. Low carbon/energy fluorescent bulbs were therefore installed instead of the previous mercury lamps to lower energy costs and to bring the lights in line with EU regulations. The energy costs will be dramatically reduced. In addition, any light which is deemed financially beyond

repair will be removed (over £500.00). The details of this had been minuted at EC meetings. Lastly, the FGP Committee would look at the reserves account.

Rob Newton confirmed his statement at the closure of November's meeting that it was his wish to step down as Chairman. He thanked everyone for their help and support over the last year.

1. Apologies for Absence

Richard Brocklebank and Fred Thurston.

2. Election of a Chairman and Receive Declaration of Office

Rob Newton proposed that Maria Naylor be elected as Chair; this was seconded by Selina Allen and agreed by all. There were no other nominations. Maria duly signed the Declaration of Office.

3. Election of a Vice-Chairman

Maria Naylor proposed that Rob Newton be elected as Vice-Chair; this was seconded by John Mordaunt and agreed by all. There were no other nominations.

4. 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. John Mordaunt declared a prejudicial interest in one item under 'Finance' as he is a member of the Friends of the Church.

5. Minutes of the Last Meeting for Approval

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2010 having been circulated, be approved, adopted and signed as a correct record. (SA/ME).

6. 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 still to be lined up with Barry Richardson to discuss the website. The Clerk asked for suggestions for a domain name – the meeting agreed that it should be 'framfieldcouncil.org.uk'. Discussion centred around offering advertisers in the Parish Magazine an advert on the website – this was agreed at £20.00 for the year. The meeting also agreed that should businesses want links or more complex adverts, this could be negotiated separately with Barry and the Council.

7. Correspondence received since the last meeting

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

- CPRE asking for a donation towards the costs of a Public Inquiry into a potential development in Polegate – to be discussed at the end of the financial year.
- Selina Allen – a thank you letter to the Council for their help and support with the Tree of Light, particularly Rob Newton. £177.00 had been collected for Macmillan Cancer Support.

8. Finance and General Purposes:

The FGP Committee report had been circulated with the agenda; members were asked to consider the following recommendations:

- Set the Budget (£43,993) and Precept (£44,000) for 2011/12 – a detailed spreadsheet of the proposals had been circulated with the agenda. Following discussion Peter Friend, seconded by Felicity Groves proposed approval of the budget and precept as detailed. The £500.00 increase (1%) was purely for the provision of the website, but if any income was derived from adverts, this could be used to put back into reserves what had been depleted in recent years as previous budgets have been in excess of the precept.
- Resolve to donate £100 each to the FF/BB Monday Club and Friends of the Church. This was proposed for agreement by Rob Newton, seconded by Selina Allen and agreed by all present. It was deemed appropriate to give to these two local organisations at this time as the Monday Club's financial year runs

from January to December and they need to know what monies they have to budget for the year and the Friends application was sometime ago. This would still leave some funds in the budget so further donations would still be considered at the end of the financial year.

- Schedule of expenditure as at 31 December 2010 – this was adopted as read. (RN/MN).
- Formal agreement of the December 2010/January 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 (December)

	£
Arbor Management (end of season repairs/tree works)	282.00
Blackboys Village Hall (Hall hire)	8.00
Jan Riddle, RFO:	
December (gross salary £54.16); 1 hour overtime (£12.50)	63.36
Ann Newton, Clerk:	
December (gross salary £1,147.47); room allowance (£40.00); mileage (£6.10); sundries (tree/stand Mem Hall £41.45)	931.14
<i>Both salaries paid net of deductions.</i>	
HMRC : December tax and NI payments for Clerk/RFO	405.68
TOTAL:	£1,690.18

Cheques to pay (January)

	£
Framfield Memorial Hall (Hall hire)	82.50
Jan Riddle, RFO:	
January (gross salary £264.26 including mileage)	217.26
Ann Newton, Clerk:	
January (gross salary £1,147.47); room allowance (£40.00); mileage (£12.02);	873.98
<i>Both salaries paid net of deductions.</i>	
HMRC : January tax and NI payments for Clerk/RFO	TBA
TOTAL:	£1,173.74

Bank Balances as at 31 December 2010

Current Account £19,027.19
Deposit Account £107.59

9. Reports from Committees

- **Planning:** the Planning Committee minutes for the meetings held since the last meeting had been circulated. The next meeting is scheduled for 2 February 2011 for which the agenda has been circulated.
 - The Clerk asked for a representative to attend a meeting at WDC regarding an enforcement issue in Framfield. Maria Naylor agreed to attend.
- **Environment:** the next meeting is scheduled for 2 February 2011 for which the agenda has been circulated.
 - Bus shelter opposite the Blackboys Inn – to be discussed at the EC meeting.

Felicity Groves left the meeting at this juncture.

- **Pavilion Review**

- Framfield. There had been a very successful Blues evening organised by Graham Pope to raise funds for the project. The Clerk reported that she had sent details of a lottery grant funding opportunity to Graham which covered village/community halls but not pavilions.
- Blackboys. As detailed at the Trust meeting the hire agreement for the use of the recreation ground/pavilion by the Cricket Club had been agreed with rates set. It was proposed to issue something very similar to the football clubs. Myran Eade reported that all the required forms had been completed for the Veolia application; a bid for a WDC Community Grant had been submitted and the WARR grant scheme was being looked at for connecting electricity and a replacement kitchen. The Clerk was asked to obtain a revised quote from EDF.

10. Reports from Representatives

Schools:

- Framfield – Nothing to report.
- Blackboys – The Clerk reported that a planning application would be submitted shortly to replace the sports shed on the playing field with something slightly better.

SALC/WDALC: Nothing to report.

11. Any Other Business at the Discretion of the Chairman

- Parish Magazine. Rob Newton reported that he had attended the annual meeting that day and it had been agreed to keep the advertising rates the same as previous years - £65.00 per quarter page per annum. Due to Susan Whitehead's 'retirement' the Clerk and Barry would be managing the magazine on their own so deadline dates would be more strictly adhered to.
- Myran Eade asked if the FGP Committee would consider passing the charity dividend funds straight into the fund for the Pavilion. The Clerk stated that this could be seen to be restrictive as only the Cricket Club are presently using the Pavilion. The suggestion would however be passed onto the FGP Committee for consideration.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Chairman..... **Date**

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:
Tuesday, 22 February 2011, at the Village Hall, Blackboys,
commencing at 7.30 pm.
This will be preceded by a meeting of the Trustees
of the Framfield Trust at 7 pm.