

Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Blackboys, on Tuesday, 30 October 2012 at 7.30 pm

Present

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Maria Naylor (Chairman) | Jeff Goggin (Vice Chair) |
| Selina Allen | John Mordaunt |
| Richard Brocklebank | Rob Newton |
| Myran Eade | Ian Paisley |
| Peter Friend | |
| Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC) | |

In attendance

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ann Newton - Clerk | Members of the Public – four. |
| | 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.

Fiona Fidler and Phil Day were in attendance representing the Framfield & Blackboys Horticultural Society offering the Council the opportunity to comment where they thought in the Parish there could benefit from some planting. The last Summer Show had made a surplus of funds which they were happy to donate to this cause. Various ideas were suggested including planting around the village entrance signs or village signs. The Society were thanked for their generosity and the Clerk said she would liaise with the ESCC Highways Steward to find out the possibilities. **ACTION: PC 110 – CLERK.**

Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC) commented that there had been no further progress on the traffic calming proposals for Blackboys but that he would pursue the matter. Traffic calming proposals were to be implemented along the Possingworth section of the Lewes Road in December following on from the fatality earlier in the year. Chris commented on the apparent success of the Highways Steward scheme to which the Clerk wholeheartedly agreed.

Councillor Ann Newton (WDC) commented that the Core Strategy has been formally approved by the Inspector and it can now go forward to WDC Full Council for adoption.

(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).

1. Apologies for Absence

Felicity Groves.

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 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 September 2012 having been circulated, be approved, adopted and signed as a correct record. (JM/RN).

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Some items were dealt with under other appropriate headings below.

| | |
|--------|---|
| PC 105 | Guideposts. The outcome of the meeting with ESCC is awaited. <u>ACTION: PC 111 - ESCC/ONGOING.</u> |
| PC 106 | Village signs – quotes are on their way. <u>ACTION: PC 112 – CLERK.</u> |

| | |
|--------|--|
| PC 107 | Changes to street-lighting in the Wealden area – Clerk to contact ESCC to clarify the issue. The Clerk reported that at a cost of £1,350 the remaining 45 lights not on part-night timers could be changed over. This would give a saving at today's prices of £277.00 per year – hence a pay back period of 4.9 years. Comments were made about possible issues with the new timers. The Council deferred any decision until the next meeting. ACTION: PC 113 – next meeting agenda. |
| PC 108 | Framfield recreation ground – bag of sand. Clerk to follow up with Mark Moore. This has gone. |
| PC 109 | WDC Parish Conference – Clerk to inform WDC that no one from the Council would be attending. This had been done. |

5. Correspondence received since the last meeting

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

- South East Water – water main replacements in Brookhouse Lane and The Street.
- Therese Sharples regarding the purchase of a grit bin. The meeting discussed the matter and decided that although they appreciated the situation, there were many other such lanes in the Parish and they could not 'favour' this lane above others which do not have grit bins either. To provide grit bins to all the lanes would be financially prohibitive. The Clerk was asked to write to Mrs Sharples with the information. **ACTION: PC 114 – CLERK.**
- Daniel Roberts resident of Becketts Way, Framfield had written voicing his concern over the condition of the play area on Framfield Recreation Ground. A letter of reply had sent detailing the financial constraints that the Trust/PC is under and the many assets it holds. Mr Roberts was invited to attend the meeting.

6. Finance and General Purposes:

- Completion of the audit by Mazars. The Clerk reported that the Annual Return had been completed successfully with only a couple of comments and would be advertised in accordance with the regulations. **ACTION: PC 115 – CLERK.**
- Council Tax/Precept 2013/14. The Clerk explained that central Government had still not made a decision on the levels of increase in Council Tax at which a public referendum will be required. It had been thought that a baseline level of say councils with a precept of £100,000 or more and those underneath that figure would be exempt as increases termed as percentages become irrelevant and misleading. However, as no clear decision has been made and might not be made until January/February 2013 the Clerk had been advised by SALC that if a clear audit trail has been left informing residents of the need and intention to raise the precept, this would be a very good way forward. (The idea had been on the Annual Parish Assembly Agenda, FGP meeting, Parish Magazine etc). The meeting confirmed that they would wish to increase the precept to £50,000 for the year 2013-14.
- Schedule of expenditure as at 30 September 2012 – this was adopted as read. (JG/JM).
- Formal agreement of the October 2012 payments/disbursements – itemised below. This was agreed for payment by John Goggin, seconded by John Mordaunt and agreed by all present.

| | £ |
|--|----------|
| Arbor Management (grounds maintenance - September) | 1,044.53 |
| Arbor Management (grounds maintenance) | 1,044.53 |
| Mazars LLP (External Auditor) | 342.00 |
| WDC (dog bin emptying July/September 2012) | 293.76 |
| D & J Greengrow (handyman April/September 2012) | 863.00 |
| East Hoathly with Halland PC (share of computer admin) | 83.12 |
| Jan Riddle, RFO | XX.XX |
| Ann Newton, Clerk | XX.XX |
| <i>Both salaries paid net of deductions.</i> | |
| HMRC: Tax and NI payments for Clerk/RFO | XX.XX |

Cheques received

| | |
|---|--------|
| Framfield Parish Magazine (website income) | 250.00 |
| FF & BB Horticultural Society (donation towards the cost of the gate on FF rec) | 220.00 |

Bank Balances as at 30 September 2012

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Current Account | £31,980.72 |
| Deposit Account | £107.66 |

7. Reports from Committees

- **Planning** - the Planning Committee minutes for the meeting held on 19 September 2012 have been circulated. Jeff Goggin commented on the applications discussed at the meeting prior to this one whereby objections had been raised to two – Sandhill Lane and Great Meade, Pump Lane.

8. Reports from Representatives

Schools:

- Framfield – Selina Allen reported that the collaboration between the two Parish schools was going very well with very few teething problems. The Clerk raised the issue following discussions with the School over the standard of cleaning. The School would like to have a one-off deep clean followed by at least one mid week clean if not two which their caretaker would be prepared to carry out but only at the Trust's expense. The Clerk also mentioned the issue of the radiator covers whereby Blackboys Pre-school had authorised their removal at Blackboys Hall, but the message from Framfield is that they have to remain on Health & Safety grounds or be replaced with cages. This did seem a little odd as Blackboys Pre-school uses the Blackboys Hall all day and the age of children starts at two years whereas Framfield School only use the Framfield Hall for PE, lunches and the odd other functions and the children are only as young as four. Jeff Goggin offered to source quotes for a deep clean or to hire the equipment to carry out a deep clean of in particular the floor and the Clerk would liaise with County Hall over the current lease and radiator covers. **ACTION: PC 116 – JG. ACTION: PC 117 – CLERK.**
- Blackboys – The Clerk reported that the collaboration appeared to have got off to a good start between the two schools.

9. Any Other Business at the Discretion of the Chairman

- Selina Allen was asked if something could be done about the dog who roams around Framfield as he will either get hurt and/or cause an accident. The Clerk offered to try and find out who could deal with the issue. **ACTION: PC 118 – CLERK.**
- John Mordaunt reported that he had been approached by several residents at the end eastern end of Blackboys High Street requesting that the street light be returned at the junction with the High Street and Lewes Road. Following discussion, the Clerk stated that she would go back to ESCC to confirm their formal comment that a light is not required there on health and safety grounds as the Council's current policy is not to carry out any repairs to lights costing over £500.00. **ACTION: PC 119 – CLERK.**
- Peter Friend commented on the car repairs firm on the site on the B2192 in Easons Green where cars overflow onto the road and cause a hazard. Paint spraying also appeared to be going on. The Clerk was asked to liaise with ESCC and the Police over the matter. **ACTION: PC 120– CLERK.**

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Chairman..... Date

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:
Tuesday, 27 November 2012, at the Memorial Hall, Framfield,
commencing at 7.30 pm.**