

Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Blackboys, on Tuesday, 22 January 2013 at 7.30 pm

Present Jeff Goggin (Vice Chair) Felicity Groves
 Selina Allen John Mordaunt
 Myran Eade Rob Newton
 Peter Friend

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 are invited to address the Parish Council if present.

(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

Richard Brocklebank, John Mordaunt and Ian Paisley. Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC).

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 27 November 2012 having been circulated, be approved, adopted and signed as a correct record. (PF/RN).

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Some items were dealt with under other appropriate headings below.

PC 121	Blackboys Traffic Scheme – Clerk to inform ESCC of the Parish Council's decision. This had been done.
PC 122	Clerk to liaise with the ESCC Highways Steward regarding the suggestion of planting or planters around the village signs and entrance signs courtesy of the FF & BB Horticultural Society. Update. The Clerk reported that ESCC had no immediate issues with the idea and would not make a charge for any licences required. The Clerk suggested that she would liaise with the Horticultural Society to see what their plans were and then if necessary share them with ESCC. ACTION: PC 132 – CLERK.
PC 123	Guideposts. The outcome of the meeting with ESCC is awaited. Update. The Clerk reported that a meeting had been held but it seemed as if ESCC were to have a rethink of the situation, update the inventory of signs, redraft the agreement, review the financial situation and come back to the parish councils! ACTION: PC 133 – ONGOING.
PC 124	Village signs – quotes are on their way. The Clerk reported that a ballpark figure for the three signs was £5,000. When this had been finalised and three quotes obtained a presentation would be made to the Parish Council on the detailed proposals. ACTION: PC 134 – ONGOING.

PC 125	Changes to street-lighting in the Wealden area. Update. The Clerk stated that she believed she had now got to the bottom of the issue. ESCC have confirmed that they received the order from the Council to changeover the lights in Blackboys and Framfield to fluorescent bulbs and to make sure that all the lights were set to part night. The first tranche of the work to the lights in Blackboys was carried out and completed and the Council were charged for it accordingly. The works to Framfield were only done in part, in that ESCC admit that they omitted to inform their contractor to make sure the lights were left on part night settings, so the lights are still running for the full night. However, the good news is that the Council did not pay for the work which wasn't done, but that also ESCC have only been billing the Council at the part night rate even though the lights are still on full night! The best news is that if they switch the setting over now, the price of the work is now cheaper than it was originally so nothing has been lost, in fact gained. The Parish Council gave their agreement for the work to go ahead as planned. Clerk to inform ESCC. ACTION: PC 135 – CLERK.
PC 126	Someone (the Chairman) to contact the owner of the dog which wanders around Framfield prior to any formal action being taken. Jeff Goggin said he would see if he could 'bump into' the owner.
PC 127	Clerk to inform Mr Clark regarding the decision on the streetlight at the junction of the High Street and Lewes Road, Blackboys. This had been done.
PC 128	Clerk to contact ESCC with concerns over the car business operating at Easons Green. This had been done and the business in question visited by ESCC. They have also been told to rectify the damage to the verge.
PC 129	WDC Permitted Development Consultation. Clerk to reply – update. The Clerk stated that the Parish Council 'piggybacked' on the response from WDC.
PC 130	Selina Allen to convey to Framfield School the Council's thoughts on the painting of the wall and planting. Selina stated that the School have replaced the gable end and will be painting and planting at some point. Selina did give the Council's views on the proposed colour of the fence.
PC 131	Clerk to contact a pest controller regarding the rats on Blackboys allotments and moles on the recreation ground. 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.

- ESCC – Consultation: Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.
- WDC – Parish Training Dates. Maria Naylor asked for her name to be added to the session on 6 February 2013. **ACTION: PC 136 – CLERK.**
- WDC – Core Strategy.
- Rural Broadband delivery. The Clerk stated that the campaign to insist that BT improve the broadband speed in rural areas was brought to the attention of the Council by a resident. The campaign details have now been put on the website. However, consensus of opinion was that Framfield seemed to generally have a very good broadband speed and there were other areas in a far worse situation.
- Tom Simmons – woodland management plan of New Place Park.
- Selina Allen – thank you letter to the Council for their help with the provision of the Christmas tree at the Memorial Hall. Selina raised £243.20 for Uckfield MacMillan Nurses.

6. Finance and General Purposes:

- Grounds maintenance contract – decision on the three-year contract. The Clerk detailed to the meeting that three tenders had been received with three quite different prices. The meeting resolved to award the contract to the lowest bidder, unfortunately removing the contract from the current contractor. However, they felt that with the current financial constraints this was the right way forward. This was formally proposed by Rob Newton, seconded by Maria Naylor and agreed by all present. The Clerk was asked to draw up an acceptance letter explaining to the new contractor the expectations of the Council. **ACTION: PC 137 – CLERK.** The Clerk would also inform the Cricket Club that the contractor would be changing. **ACTION: PC 138 – CLERK.**
- Setting of the Precept for 2013/14 – review of the decision made at the October Parish Council meeting. Email from Brian Hodge attached. The Clerk explained that because of the situation with the Council Tax Support Grant and the news from central Government on the potential capping of parish councils, it was thought a review of the decision made in October was necessary. In brief for the year 2013/14 WDC is to protect Council Tax payers from being penalised under the Local Council Tax Support Scheme by way of a grant from the Government. This grant may not be available beyond 2013/14. Therefore, the current precept of £44,000 would have been initially reduced to £41,804 due to the changes in Council Tax Base created by the changes in Council Tax Support. WDC are however, providing a grant of £2,196 to fill the gap. However if the Parish Council wish to increase the money they need to spend and to protect 'the gap'

for the following year, the precept would need to rise by some 5%. This would mean setting a precept of £44,004 (an actual increase of 5.3%), meaning that a Band D household will have a rise of £2.53 per year (a raise from £48.10 to £50.63). The Government have stated that they will not be capping Town and Parish Councils for the coming year but that a raise in excess of 5% could be frowned upon when they review their decision next year. Following discussion the meeting thought that this suggested increase of 5.3% a reasonable compromise bearing in mind that some savings have also been made on the grounds maintenance contract. Maria Naylor proposed the motion to raise the precept to £44,004. This was seconded by Peter Friend and agreed by all present. The Clerk was asked to do the appropriate paperwork with WDC. **ACTION: PC 139 – CLERK.**

- FGP Meeting – the meeting agreed that an FGP meeting should be arranged where the email from Brian Hodge could be discussed along with other budgetary issues. Clerk to arrange. **ACTION: PC 140 – CLERK.**
- Request from the Framfield & Blackboys Monday Club for a donation. The Clerk explained that in liaising with Framfield School over their requirement to reimburse the Trust for some underpaid rent, it had been discovered that the Monday Club are charged for the use of the Hall, thus the Trust is receiving two payments for the same time. The meeting therefore agreed that the charges to the Monday Club should be stopped immediately and as there are nine or ten uses a year, this would save the Club £150.00 in rent as they are currently being charged £15.00 per session. Therefore a donation was not required. The Clerk was asked to convey this to Sandy Rogers. **ACTION: PC 141 – CLERK.**
- Parish Magazine. The Clerk reported that she was in process of sending out the renewal notices for the adverts and she had made the executive decision to keep the price of adverts the same as the bank balance was healthy. This was endorsed by all present.
- “Framfield & Blackboys Through the Ages” – the Clerk asked if the book price could be reduced to £5.00 – this was agreed.
- Schedule of expenditure as at 31 December 2012 – this was adopted as read. (JG/SA).
- Formal agreement of the December 2012/January 2013 payments/disbursements – itemised below. This was agreed for payment by Jeff Goggin, seconded by Peter Friend and agreed by all present.

	£
Selina Allen (lights for tree)	13.99
Blackboys Trust (Hall hire)	16.00
Framfield Trust (Hall hire)	37.50
Jan Riddle, RFO (December)	XX.XX
Ann Newton, Clerk (December)	XX.XX
<i>Both salaries paid net of deductions.</i>	
HMRC: December tax and NI payments for Clerk/RFO	XX.XX
Blackboys Trust (charity dividends)	296.01
Jan Riddle, RFO (January)	XX.XX
Ann Newton, Clerk (January)	XX.XX
<i>Both salaries paid net of deductions.</i>	
HMRC: January tax and NI payments for Clerk/RFO	XX.XX

Cheques received

Charity dividends (£296.01)

Bank Balances as at 31 December 2012

Current Account £21,017.84

Deposit Account £107.68

7. Reports from Committees

- **Planning** - the Planning Committee minutes for the meeting held on 27 November 2012 have been circulated.

8. Reports from Representatives

Schools:

- Framfield – Selina Allen thanked the Council for the excellent work to deep clean the Memorial Hall floor which had not gone un-noticed by the School!
- Blackboys – the Clerk reported that she had been re-elected as the Local Education Authority Governor for another four years.

9. Any Other Business at the Discretion of the Chairman

- Selina Allen reported that dog-walkers in Framfield had asked if a bag of chippings could be purchased to soak up the mud on the footpaths behind the Church in Framfield. The meeting thought that as the owner wasn't know this wasn't a good idea.
- Jeff Goggin asked if the Clerk could approach Chris Dowling over the erection of a deer sign at Hammonds Green as there have been further animals killed. **ACTION: PC 142 – CLERK.**
- The Clerk was asked to report to ESCC that the streetlights outside 1 Tudor Walk and 1 Willows Rise are not working again. **ACTION: PC 143 – CLERK.**
- Post meeting note: a new PCSO has been assigned to the Parish – PCSO Hannah Parks. She has been sent a list of meeting dates and asked to attend to introduce herself in February or March.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Chairman..... **Date**

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, 26 February 2013, at the Memorial Hall, Framfield, commencing at 7.30 pm.