

# Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall, Framfield, on Tuesday, 26 November 2013 at 7.30pm

---

<b>Present</b>	Jeff Goggin (Chairman) Selina Allen Myran Eade	Peter Friend John Mordaunt Rob Newton
----------------	--	---

<b>In attendance</b>	Ann Newton - Clerk	Members of the Public – six. 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.*

**Three members of FPAG (Framfield Playground Action Group)** were in attendance and Keith Brandon read out a statement to the Council detailing the initiation of the Group to progress the renewal/refurbishment of Framfield play area. Keith made comments on the request to the Council to have a link to the FPAG website; the recent article in the Parish Magazine regarding the proposed loan for the project without any mention of FPAG and the Council's decision to take over the Village Market on Sandy's 'retirement'. The Clerk clarified all points as follows: FPAG had been advised that until the Group removed the derogatory remarks about the Council/Trust from their website, permission could not be given for a link from the Council to the FPAG website; Parish Magazine – the Clerk stated that a very clear, audit trail needs to be left, independent of any other matter, hence the article was purely about the loan. In the soon to be published edition there will be a general Council bulletin and a paragraph is included about the Group. Village Market – the Clerk stated that Sandy Rogers started the markets with the intention that the entire proceeds go towards the refurbishment of the Hall and she has always worked with the Parish Council towards that end. The Council took over the Markets to keep her ideals going forward and for the benefit of the Hall. Other members reminded the Group that Selina Allen had started the play area project going by obtaining the initial quotes and trying for a lottery grant. The Clerk read out a paragraph from the minutes of the Annual Assembly whereby Jean and Julie (members of FPAG) had offered their support to the Council in their attempt to apply for a loan to cover the cost of the refurbishment of all the play areas and that Jean was confirmed as the link to the Parish Council. Following discussion the Parish Council confirmed that any funds raised by the Group would be a welcome contribution to the funds the Council has obtained and will enable extra enhancements of the play area in Framfield. The Clerk stated that the Group would find it very difficult to apply for grants on land which they don't own and indeed the Council were about to embark on applying for a lottery grant to refurbish the Hall which was in the same Trust as Framfield play area and would not want the Group to reduce the opportunities the Hall might have in that respect. The Council agreed that a meeting should be held to continue discussions – Keith was asked to let the Clerk have some dates.

*(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, Maria Naylor (Vice Chairman) and Ian Paisley. Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC).

## **2. Declarations of Interest**

*Councillors to give notice of declarations of personal, prejudicial and pecuniary interests in respect of items on the agenda.* Rob Newton declared a prejudicial pecuniary 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 29 October 2013 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 080	Guideposts – update – ongoing. <b>ACTION: PC 088 – CLERK.</b>
PC 081	Clerk to contact Daniel Roberts and the School with ESCC's reply regarding the parking problems. This had been done and the suggestion made that the School consider asking our PCSO to monitor the situation at regular opening/closing times of the School. ESCC are also having a further look at the situation.
PC 082	Update on the progress of the refurbishment of the play areas/loan. The Clerk reported that she now had three quotes for each of the play areas. She was asked to work with two of the potential contractors to take the matter forward. She stated that she could bring a full report to the January Council meeting with the details of the loan and therefore potential rise in precept and final specifications for the play areas. The meeting agreed that she should work with Selina Allen and that the appropriate items should be put on the January 2014 agenda. <b>ACTION: PC 089 – CLERK/SA.</b>
PC 083	Council Tax Support Grant – update if available. The Clerk stated that there was no update although she anticipated there to be no change.
PC 084	Clerk to advise Framfield School that they are not authorised to put a gate from the School to the woodland area on the recreation ground. This had been done.
PC 085	The Clerk was asked to find out about pruning the overhanging branches from around the village sign in Framfield. The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Mr Richards who was now cutting the grass at the top of Becketts Way to see if anyone would have any objection to the trimming of a few branches. <b>ACTION: PC 090 – CLERK.</b>
PC 086	The Clerk was asked to advise Mr Richards that he could continue cutting the grass at the top of Becketts Way. This had been done.
PC 087	Selina Allen was given permission to put a Christmas tree at the Memorial Hall again this year.

#### 5. Correspondence received since the last meeting

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

- Letter from Mr Jim Horn. The meeting agreed the payment of Mr Horn's invoice for the cutting of the top of the hedge to the rear of the allotments adjacent to his land but asked the Clerk to clarify with him what the charges would be in future years. **ACTION: PC 091 – CLERK.**
- WDALC – WDC are offering sandbags to anyone who needs them.
- Countryside Voice.

#### 6. Finance and General Purposes:

- Precept for 2014/15. The meeting stated that the item should as usual be put on the January agenda and would depend on the details of the loan. **ACTION: PC 092 – CLERK.**
- VAT advice. The Clerk stated that she had received conflicting advice at the recent SALC Clerks' Course she attended from what the PC had received. The Clerk was asked to clarify the situation with the professional advisor. **ACTION: PC 093 – CLERK.**
- The meeting agreed that Jeff Goggin should be added to the bank mandate as a signatory.
- Schedule of expenditure as at 31 October 2013 – this was adopted as read. (SA/RN).
- Formal agreement of the November 2013 payments/disbursements – itemised below. This was agreed for payment by Selina Allen, seconded by Peter Friend and agreed by all present.

<u>Payments made (November)</u>	£
WDC (dog bin emptying July/September)	302.94
Mr R A Richards (grass-cutting, Becketts Way)	80.00
SLCC (contribution towards subscription)	£100.00
British Telecom plc (office a/c to be shared with EHWHPC [paid by DD])	207.78

Jan Riddle, RFO	XX.XX
Ann Newton, Clerk	XX.XX
<i>Both salaries paid net of deductions.</i>	
HMRC: November tax and NI payments for Clerk/RFO	XX.XX

Bank Balances as at 31 October 2013

Current Account £36,722.57  
 Deposit Account £107.71.

**7. Reports from Committees**

- **Planning** - the Planning Committee minutes for the meeting held on 29 October 2013 had been circulated and adopted at the previous meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 28 January 2014 unless advised to the contrary.

**8. Reports from Representatives**

- **Schools:**
  - Framfield – nothing to report.
  - Blackboys – the Clerk stated that she had attended a recent Governors’ meeting.
- **Police Panel meeting** – Selina Allen reported that there had been a meeting on 17 November 2013 where local burglaries were reported. The next meeting is in three months time.
- **WDALC** – the Clerk reported that there had not been a meeting.

**9. Any Other matters for reporting at the Discretion of the Chairman**

- SALC Course. The Clerk thanked the Council for allowing her to go on the Course which she had found reasonably useful – on the legal front (dealing with difficult ‘customers’) and finance where she obtained the conflicting information on VAT.
- Noticeboard in Palehouse Common. The Clerk stated that the board is either in need of repair or replacement. John Mordaunt stated that he would give her details of a local carpenter. **ACTION: PC 094 – JM/CLERK.**
- The Clerk reported on her attendance at a recent Clerks’ meeting in Polegate where Rupert Clubb, Head of Transport and Environment at ESCC made a presentation on all aspects of his work.
- The Clerk stated that she would contact Councillor Dowling regarding a resident’s wishes for bollards opposite the end of Tickerage Lane, Blackboys. **ACTION: PC 095 – CLERK.**

*The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.*

**Chairman**..... **Date** .....

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, 28 January 2014, at the Village Hall, Blackboys, commencing at 7.30 pm.**