

Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Blackboys, on Tuesday, 29 October 2013 at 7.30pm

Present	Jeff Goggin (Chairman) Selina Allen Richard Brocklebank Myran Eade	Peter Friend John Mordaunt Maria Naylor (Vice Chairman) Rob Newton
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In attendance	Ann Newton - Clerk	Members of the Public – two. Members of the Press – none.
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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).

Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC) made the following report:

- Guideposts – Chris said the progress seemed to be slow, although the Clerk stated that she had made progress with Tim Guyton, the ESCC Licensing Officer, who she would discuss the provision of licences so that the Council with the support of sponsors could replace some of the prominent posts. Parish ownership will mean that they can be insured. ESCC were also trying to source a plastic alternative.
- Chris further reported on a follow-up to some correspondence he had received from a parent at Framfield School concerned about the parking along The Street during school opening and closing times. ESCC are unable to consider any further speed limit repeater signs on posts or painted roundels on the road as the 30mph limit is there by virtue of the presence of street lights and they are not permitted to implement these features in such situations
- Operation Crackdown – Chris explained the newly enhanced service and handed out some leaflets encouraging residents to report unacceptable driving practices.

1. Apologies for Absence

Felicity Groves and Ian Paisley.

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 24 September 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 074	Guideposts – update. As detailed above. ACTION: PC 080 – CLERK.
PC 075	Framfield School – Selina Allen to ask the School to ask the dinner lady to remove her bucket and pail each day. The Clerk reported that she had sent a list of issues to the School and had liaised with Jacqueline Davies over the various items.
PC 076	Letter from Blackboys resident Sue Davies asking for footway improvements along the B2102 to The Grove to be passed to Chris Dowling. It seemed as though the footway had been ‘scraped back’ giving pedestrians more space to walk.

PC 077	Letter from Framfield resident Daniel Roberts voicing his concerns over difficulties in crossing The Street at School time due to inconsiderately parked cars. As detailed above. Clerk to pass on the information to Mr Roberts and the School. <u>ACTION: PC 081 – CLERK.</u>
PC 078	The RFO was asked to reconfigure the finance spreadsheet prior to the next meeting. This had been done.
PC 079	The Clerk was given permission to attend a training course, time permitting. She would be attending the course on 8 November 2013.

5. Correspondence received since the last meeting

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

- ESCC: Street Lighting – Column Structural Testing.
- ESCC Supported Bus Services 54, 317, 318 and 355. The Clerk reported that Renown has given notice on the contracts for these services with ESCC. ESCC are seeking to provide replacement services from the last day of the current services (28 December 2013) but with particular reference to the 318 would possibly have to reduce the service potentially at the Etchingham end of the route. Residents were asked to send in their comments to ESCC. A note has been put on the website.

6. Finance and General Purposes:

- Update on the progress of the loan. The Clerk reported that until the final quotes for the play equipment are received the amount of loan cannot be calculated although if the end of year balance in the accounts stays healthy this may mean that one of the minor refurbishments could be done out of those funds reducing the loan amount. The Clerk would be asking Maria Naylor to do some serious ‘number crunching’ when the figures were known to see how much loan is required in the best case scenario for residents with regard to the number of years the loan is spread, thus reducing the impact on the Council Tax. **ACTION: PC 082 – CLERK/MN.**
- Completion of the Annual Return. The Clerk reported that this had been completed successfully.
- Budget discussions. Council Tax Support Grant - the Clerk advised the meeting that WDC last year covered the deficit with a 100% grant. This they would not be able to do this year as their funding from Government is to be cut by 15%. They are therefore thinking of reducing the grant to parish town/councils accordingly although this has not yet been finalised. This would mean a potential reduction in the overall precept including the grant of £300. The Clerk would provide an update when available. **ACTION: PC 083 – CLERK.**
- Schedule of expenditure as at 30 September 2013 – this was adopted as read. (MN/RN).
- Formal agreement of the October 2013 payments/disbursements – itemised below. This was agreed for payment by Maria Naylor, seconded by Peter Friend and agreed by all present.

<u>Payments made (October)</u>	£
Compact Cutting (grounds maintenance)	564.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP (external audit fee)	240.00
David Skinner (village signs)	4,965.00
SSALC Limited (fee for Clerks Course)	60.00
Framfield Trust (Hall hire)	18.75
Blackboys Trust (Hall hire)	12.00
Jan Riddle, RFO	XX.XX
Ann Newton, Clerk	XX.XX
<i>Both salaries paid net of deductions.</i>	
HMRC: October tax and NI payments for Clerk/RFO	XX.XX

Cheques received

East Hoathly with Halland PC – share of BT a/c - £90.00

Bank Balances as at 30 September 2013

Current Account £41,930.52

Deposit Account £107.71.

7. Reports from Committees

- **Planning** - the Planning Committee minutes for the meeting held on 24 September 2013 and October delegated comments had been circulated and adopted at the previous meeting.

8. Reports from Representatives

Schools:

- Framfield – two queries from the School:
 - Can they leave the piano in the main part of the Memorial Hall? The Clerk reported that in her discussions with the Headteacher agreement had been reached that the piano could remain in the main hall during term-time weekdays but that it should be removed to the front hall at the weekend and holidays.
 - Can they put an access gate into the woodlands at the rear of the recreation ground and use the woodland as a Forest School? During discussion the Council voiced their concerns over the School's use of the woodland which is a public area and has the usual hazards of any woodland, although realise that as a public area the School can use it and would seek to encourage outdoor play. However, the meeting agreed that they could not give permission for another gate from the School premises onto Trust land and instead if the School do want to use the recreation ground/woodland to use the current gate from the side of the School into the Memorial Hall car park. The Clerk was asked to advise the School accordingly. **ACTION: PC 084 – CLERK.**
- Blackboys – nothing to report.
- Police Panel meeting – Selina Allen reported that there was to be a meeting on 17 November 2013.
- WDALC – the Clerk reported that she was now attending most of the meetings and would pass any minutes on.

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

- Village signs. The meeting voiced their enthusiasm at the new signs and thanked David Skinner for his professional work. The Clerk was requested to investigate the possibility of pruning the tree which overhangs the sign in Framfield. **ACTION: PC 085 – CLERK.**
- The Clerk reported that Mr Saunders who has cut the grass square at the top of Becketts Way for many years has died but that an adjacent neighbour, Roger Richards, was happy to take over and had been helping out Mr Saunders for the past few months. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Richards in the affirmative. **ACTION: PC 086 – CLERK.**
- Selina Allen was given permission to once again put a Christmas tree up at the Memorial Hall. The service was to be held on Sunday, 1 December 2013. **ACTION: PC 087 SA.**
- Meeting dates for next year – all Councillors were in receipt of the list.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Chairman.....

Date

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