

# Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Blackboys, on Tuesday, 28 January 2014 at 7.30pm

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## Present

Jeff Goggin (Chairman)  
Selina Allen  
Myran Eade  
Richard Brocklebank

Peter Friend  
John Mordaunt  
Rob Newton

Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC).

## 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 are invited to address the Parish Council if present.*

**Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC)** made the following report:

- ESCC are to raise their share of the Council Tax for 2014/15. There will be an increase of 1.95% after a freeze of four years. This equates to 43p a week to a Band D householder.
- ESCC spends £380m on services, 75% of these are for the vulnerable in the community (elderly, children etc).
- There has to be a further £60m of cuts but there is more cash for highways – repairs etc.
- There is also a £400m capital expenditure project on the Hastings/Bexhill relief road.
- The roll-out of superfast Broadband is on schedule with enhancement for Framfield residents in the next chunk of the work.
- Framfield School – there is to be a pilot scheme by the Wealden Safer Roads Group on road safety issues the week after the February half term. This follows on from a series of complaints from parents and residents alike. The Clerk commented that it would have been a nice gesture if the School had communicated with the Parish Council/herself about the pilot bearing in mind the amount of time that had been spent on liaising with residents on the various issues, particularly in the period running up to Christmas.

**Councillor Ann Newton (WDC)** made two points:

- WDC will be freezing their portion of the Council Tax for 2014/15.
- Following the debacle with the collection of refuse bins, WDC have negotiated with Kier a compensatory package for the residents of Wealden. An initial amount of £110,000 will be passed over to the District Councillors to spend within their respective wards. Approximately £2,000 will be passed over to Framfield and Ann was happy to take suggestions on how to spend this money. In subsequent years, the cash amounts handed over by Kier will be added to the Community Grants budget.

*(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

There were none. The Clerk reported that both Felicity Groves and Ian Paisley had unfortunately both had to step down from the Council through non-attendance at meetings. Ian was the longest standing Councillor and was thanked for his service to the Parish for the last 20 years and sent very best wishes for his health problems.

## 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 26 November 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.

- Framfield School – parking issues – as detailed above.

PC 088	Guideposts – update if available. The Clerk reported that she still had to meet with ESCC to licence the various areas where guideposts might be replaced by the Parish and/or sponsors. A plastic replacement sign is also still being sourced. <b>ACTION: PC 001 – CLERK.</b>
PC 089	Update on the progress of the refurbishment of the play areas/loan. Detailed under 'Finance' below.
PC 090	The Clerk was asked to enquire with local residents about pruning the overhanging branches from around the village sign in Framfield. The Clerk reported that the residents were happy that the Council prunes the offending branches. Rob Newton and Peter Friend would have a look and if they felt that they could not carry out the work, a contractor would be brought in. <b>ACTION: PC 002 – CLERK/PF/RN.</b>
PC 091	Relevant to Blackboys Trust agenda.
PC 092	Precept for 2014/15 to be put on January 2014 agenda. This had been done.
PC 093	Clerk to write to the professional advisor for clarification on VAT matters. This had been done a reply is awaited. <b>ACTION: PC 003 – CLERK.</b>
PC 094	John Mordaunt to furnish the Clerk with a local carpenter's details for the repair of the noticeboard in Palehouse Common. This had been done with the possibility of a replacement back board for the noticeboard in Blackboys as well. <b>ACTION: PC 004 – CLERK.</b>
PC 095	Clerk to pass on to Councillor Dowling a resident's wishes for bollards on the grass opposite the end of Tickerage Lane, Blackboys. The Clerk stated that this could possibly be looked at if a replacement guidepost is put opposite the end of Tickerage Lane. Comment was made about too much street furniture. <b>ACTION: PC 005 – CLERK.</b>

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

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

- ESCC: Process of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) for Shale Gas – information bulletin.
- ESCC – streetlights. The Clerk reported that two streetlights had been destroyed when the October storm hit the area. The poles they were attached to were knocked over by a tree and when UKPN replaced the poles the lights had gone. To reconnect the electricity and replace the lights would be at an approximate cost of £2,500 plus VAT. Following discussion the meeting felt that the area was still well lit and they would not at the current time replace the lights. The Clerk stated that she would advise ESCC. **ACTION: PC 006 – CLERK.**
- Woodland Trust. The Clerk advised that tree packs are available.
- Sandy Rogers. The Clerk stated that Sandy had written a letter of thanks for her 'send off' at the Market and wished the Council well for the future. She also thanked the Council for not charging the Monday Club for the use of the Memorial Hall which saved them £165.00 last year.
- Selina Allen – a letter thanking the Council for allowing her to put a Christmas tree at the front of the Memorial Hall again. £196.00 was raised for MacMillan Nurses.

#### 6. Finance and General Purposes:

- **Resolve to instruct the Clerk to apply for borrowing approval to obtain a £80,000 loan with a repayment period of twenty years.** The loan is to enable the Council to refurbish the three Parish play areas. All Councillors were in receipt of the current annual budget including a forecasted spend to the end of the financial year. Also a budget proposal for 2014/15 and a report which will form part of the borrowing approval application. Following discussion the Council stated that they were happy to adopt the report and budgets and agreed to ask the Clerk to apply for borrowing approval as detailed. This was proposed for approval by Peter Friend, seconded by Richard Brocklebank – all voted in favour of the proposal except Myran Eade. **ACTION: PC 007 – CLERK.**
- **Resolve to set the Budget and Precept for 2014/15.** The Clerk explained the extra funds required to cover the cost of the loan as detailed in the aforementioned report if

the Council chose to go-ahead with it. Following discussion the meeting resolved to set the budget at £52,065 with a precept of £50,198. (Proposed by Jeff Goggin, seconded by John Mordaunt and agreed by all present). Clerk to advise WDC.

**ACTION: PC 008 – CLERK.**

- **Resolve to award the contract to the preferred contractor for the refurbishment of the three play areas subject to the application for borrowing approval and subsequently for the loan being granted.** Selina Allen reported that she had met with Jeff Goggin, Rob Newton and the Clerk and her recommendation as the preferred contractor was Wicksteed Playscapes. They had provided the original specification for Framfield play area which the Pre-school and School preferred. The three contractors who provided quotes were asked to revise the original quotations with a specific budget of £50,000. This they had done and Wicksteed had provided the most innovative play area for the best price. They had also offered a 'package' including two options for Framfield and an overall reduction in the cost of the refurbishment of both Palehouse Common and Blackboys play areas if they were awarded the entire contract. The cheaper, option two, was recommended for Framfield by Selina. Selina stated that she felt that Wicksteed had a very good reputation nationally and locally and indeed had worked for the Parish Council before. Each Councillor had full details of all the costs in the report held and subsequently agreed to award the contract to Wicksteed Playscapes (proposed by Peter Friend and seconded by Richard Brocklebank). **ACTION: PC 009 – CLERK.**
- **Resolve to revise the Member Code of Conduct to include the revised 'Principles of Public Life'.** The Clerk explained that the WDC Standards Committee had made changes to the Principles of Public Life and recommended that parishes adopt the same. This was duly agreed, proposed by Rob Newton, seconded by Selina Allen and agreed by all. Clerk to pass the details to WDC. **ACTION: PC 010 – CLERK.**
- Resolve to revise the Standing Orders in light of the revisions to the Code of Conduct. The Clerk explained that this needed to be done following on from the adoption of the revised Code. The Clerk would do the necessary work and bring it back to full Council for recommendation. **ACTION: PC 011 – CLERK.**
- Schedule of expenditure as at 31 December 2013 – this was adopted as read. (SA/RN).
- Formal agreement of the December 2013/January 2014 payments/disbursements – itemised below. This was agreed for payment by Selina Allen, seconded by Peter Friend and agreed by all present.

<u>Payments made in December</u>	£
Framfield Trust (Hall hire)	18.75
Blackboys Trust (Hall hire)	12.00
Jan Riddle, RFO	XX.XX
Ann Newton, Clerk	XX.XX
HMRC: December tax and NI payments for Clerk/RFO	XX.XX

<u>Payments made in January</u>	£
Compact Cutting (grounds maintenance)	1,824.00
WDC (dog bin emptying – (Oct/Dec 2013)	279.18
Barry Richardson (annual website maintenance)	200.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP (external audit fee – replacement cheque)	240.00
Blackboys Trust (dividend transfer)	293.12
Jan Riddle, RFO	XX.XX
Ann Newton, Clerk	XX.XX
HMRC: January tax and NI payments for Clerk/RFO	XX.XX
Custom Gardens (tree works at rear of Pre-school)	400.00

Cheques received

East Hoathly with Halland PC - £71.83 – share of telephone account.  
Charity Dividends - £293.12.

Bank Balances as at 31 December 2013

Current Account £29,355.95  
Deposit Account £107.72.

## 7. Reports from Committees

- **Planning** - the Planning Committee minutes for the last meeting would have been adopted at the meeting prior to full Council.
  - Presentation on the Delivery and Site Allocations Local Plan (D&SALP) – WDC – prior to the next full Council meeting as detailed at the Planning Committee as follows: members of the WDC Planning Policy Team will be attending to make a presentation on the D&SALP. Although Framfield Parish will not be directly affected by the review of development boundaries or specific allocations for residential/retail development, Framfield will be affected by the review of the Conservation Area. Also development management policies are to be reviewed which has implications for commenting on planning applications. The presentation will start at about 6.30 pm for about 15 minutes.

## 8. Reports from Representatives

- **Schools:**
  - Framfield – Selina Allen informed the Council that she would be stepping down as a Governor and as a Director of the Pre-school. The Clerk reported that she had been requested by the Clerk to the Governors to see if any other Councillor would like to fill the role of Governor at the School. The Clerk was asked to inform the School that they would let them know in due course.  
**ACTION: PC 012 – CLERK.**
  - Blackboys – the Clerk stated that she had attended a recent Governors' meeting.
- **Police Panel meeting** – Selina Allen reported that there had been a Police meeting in January where various other meetings had been amalgamated into one – Local Action Team. Speeding and anti-social behaviour were top of the agenda. Selina further reported on the Police Property Fund, findings of JAC meetings and the Community Messaging System.
- **WDALC** – the Clerk stated that she had circulated the minutes of the last meeting.

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

- Parish Magazine – update. The Clerk reported that she was having a good response to her invitation to advertisers to renew their adverts. Derek Thorogood had also advised that he will be standing down as the Framfield main distributor. The Clerk commented that it might be a good idea for someone with a link to the Church to take over and John Mordaunt was subsequently asked. *[Post meeting note: Barbara Trickey has very kindly volunteered to fill the role].* **ACTION: PC 013 – CLERK/JM.**
- Village Markets – Selina Allen stated that she had attended a recent event on the promotion of village markets hosted by WDC. Various methods of attracting more customers/stall holders were discussed and the suggestion of drawing up a list of rules was mooted. The Clerk had provided everyone with a list of market dates and reminded everyone that this was now a Council project whereby all Councillors needed to assist. **ACTION: PC 014 – CLERK/SA/ALL.**
- Myran Eade asked for the removal of the tree debris on Framfield recreation ground behind the property adjacent to his. The Clerk was asked to contact the contractor or handyman. **ACTION: PC 015 – CLERK.**

*The meeting closed at 9 pm.*

**Chairman**.....

**Date** .....

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, 25 February  
2014, at the Memorial Hall, Framfield,  
commencing at 7.30 pm.**

