

# Minutes of the Annual Assembly of Framfield Parish held at the Village Hall, Blackboys, on Tuesday, 14 May 2019 at 8 pm

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**Present** Keith Brandon (Chairman) Danny Gallagher  
Sam Sharples (Vice Chairman) Tony Hall  
Peter Friend Sam Sharples

**In attendance** Ann Newton - Clerk Members of the public - one

## 1. Apologies for Absence

There were none.

## 2. Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 29 May 2018

It was agreed that the minutes from the Annual Assembly held on 29 May 2018 having been circulated, be approved, adopted and signed as a correct record (SS/KB).

## 3. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

Keith Brandon read out his report which is attached to the minutes and will be placed on the website and in the Parish Magazine.

Sam Sharples asked for a round of thanks to be given to Keith for all his hard work on the Council for the residents of the Parish.

## 4. Report from District and County Representatives

Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC) made the following report:

- Congratulations were offered to Councillor Ann Newton following her re-election onto Wealden District Council.
- Chris had recently attended Full Council where a new Chairman had been elected along with a Cabinet re-shuffle. The budget for next year was discussed along with the anticipated Government Green Paper on Adult Social Care.
- Chris is still having dialogue with ESCC Planning Officers over the two current planning applications at Squires farm, one for a tyre re-processing plant; the other a variation to works in Holleys' yard.
- There is a site meeting in Pump Lane shortly with the ESCC Highways Steward to try and insist that the entire Lane needs re-surfacing. There is also an SLR ('Strengthening Local Relationships') meeting with ESCC where the subject will be raised again.
- He has been liaising with a resident over overgrown pavements in the Lewes Road, Blackboys.

Councillor Ann Newton (ESCC) made the following report:

- Ann stated that she was pleased to be re-elected and had retained her Cabinet post as Planning & Development Portfolio Holder. She was also Deputy Leader.
- Her Ward no longer includes Waldron but instead Cross in Hand making it slightly bigger and in line with the ESCC Ward boundaries. This was necessary due to the reduction overall in District Councillors from 55 to 45.
- The Council Tax had been agreed with an increase of 2.7% (£5.00 to a Band D tax payer) for another year.
- The Crematorium was now open and funerals were being held there.
- The Wealden Local Plan will go before a Government Inspector (EIP – Examination in Public) later in the month.
- The new waste contractor, Biffa, would be commencing operations at the end of June.

## 5. Any Other Parish Business and Questions

A Blackboys resident was in attendance commenting on the terrible condition of the road in Mount Pleasant. Councillor Dowling and the Clerk stated it was on the agenda (and had been for some time) at the SLR meetings and would be discussed again shortly.

The resident also commented on the speed of traffic through the two roads in Blackboys and what could be done about it. The Clerk explained that there had been a campaign for a long time to reduce the speed limit on the Lewes Road and indeed was the major objection to the planning application for the Service Station although there was no objection unfortunately from ESCC at the time because their views were that a housing site would generate less traffic than the current use. ESCC and the PC have agreed to wait until the full safety audits have been done and when the housing is complete/occupied.

With regards to the High Street – the Clerk explained that ESCC had drawn up some measures to reduce the central speed limit to 30 mph some years ago but because of the failure to meet the criteria for a reduction in speed limit (number of house frontages onto the road), traffic calming would be needed. This would have taken the form of build-outs with lit bollards and extra streetlights which required. Following on from a survey at the time, residents did not want to urbanise the village by having potential ‘build outs’ with lit bollards and extra street-lighting. They also believed these would cause some drivers to attempt to race through the restrictions causing further concerns. Parish Councils are now responsible for paying for any such works including surveys to start off any projects and the most they can expect in the way of match funding is 50% from the County Council. A recent exercise for Bird-in-Eye in Framfield resulted in a potential £100k cost to the Council to reduce the speed limit to 30 mph. ESCC has to always agree that any works fit within their criteria and the Police have to be consulted and agree.

The Clerk stated that the seemingly odd workings of the flashing sign on the High Street were on the agenda for a meeting with ESCC shortly.

All were sympathetic to the issues.

*The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.*

**Chairman**.....

**Date** .....