

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council held remotely,
Tuesday, 24 November 2020 at 7.30pm

Present (Councillors): Keith Brandon (Chairman) Peter Friend
Maria Naylor Tony Hall (Vice Chairman)

Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC)

In attendance Ann Newton - Clerk Members of the Public – none.
Marie Owen – Responsible Financial Officer

(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).

On 4 April 2020, the Government brought the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020 into force to allow local authorities to conduct meetings remotely. Members of the public still have the right to attend and will be given the link for the meeting prior to the meeting. However, questions from the public should be received 2 days in advance of the meeting by email to the Parish Clerk.

Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC) had sent in a report for the meeting mentioning flooding issues, outstanding Planning matters and rural Broadband. Councillors were concerned at the length of time which ESCC seem to take to get anything done as many of the items in the report had been ongoing for some time.

Councillor Ann Newton (WDC) had also sent in a report focused on Planning matters and was questioned on some of the items. The Council would consider responding to the first Wealden Local Plan consultation document – ‘Direction of Travel’.

1. Apologies for Absence

There were none. The Council noted the resignation of Sam Sharples and that they are free to co-opt a replacement.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors to give notice of declarations of personal, prejudicial and pecuniary interests in respect of items on the agenda. There were none.

3. To accept the Minutes of the last meeting (29 September 2020)

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2020, having been circulated, as a true and accurate record of the meeting as proposed by Keith Brandon and seconded by Maria Naylor. The minutes will be signed by the Chairman at a later date.

4. Member’s Attendance at Meetings.

The Parish Council is asked to approve and authorise the absence of Councillor Peter Friend from attendance at Council meetings pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 for a further six-month period, due to Councillor Friend’s inability to attend remote meetings. This was not necessary as Peter Friend was in attendance.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

To receive updates or agree any further actions – all detailed elsewhere on the agenda.

- Village Signs – update. The oak posts are with the contractor and in the process of being re-installed.
- Play areas – the use of Zoona for a further three-month period (October-December) was agreed at the last meeting. As the original contractor met the price of the new one, the Council agreed to say with them and they were willing to continue to work on the basis of a three month contract instead of six.
- Grants Policy – update/ongoing.

- Bus shelters – repairs – Framfield/Eastbourne Road. The meeting agreed that once the village signs had been reinstated they would ask the contractor for a quote for the bus shelter works.

6. Correspondence received since the last meeting

Letters for noting/discussion (Including items that have been received after this agenda has been published) – most items were from pending matters and dealt with under separate headings.

WDC:

- SHELAA – ‘Strategic Housing Economic Land Availability Assessment’.
- ‘Changes to the Existing Planning System’.
- ‘Planning for Future’ White Paper.
- Wealden Local Plan – ‘Direction of Travel’ consultation
- Planning Validation Guide consultation.
- Independent Remuneration Panel - Members' Allowance 2021/22.

7. Finance and General Purposes:

FGP minutes for resolution – Councillors were in receipt of a copy of the draft minutes.

The Parish Council resolved to agree all the recommendations detailed in the FGP minutes from the meeting held on 10 November 2020 – in particular:

- a. ESCC: Urban Grass-cutting 2021-22.
- b. Grounds Maintenance Contract 2021-23.
- c. Parish Magazine 2021-22 – *consideration to be given to take the funds out of reserves or to extend the precept*. The Clerk updated the meeting and stated that permission had been given to take the funds needed out of the generous donation received following the death of a well-known resident. Hence there would be no effect on the budget.
- d. Resolve to set the budget for the next financial year – 2021/22. The FGP Committee made a provisional recommendation to full Council that the budget/precept be set at £66,680. an increase of 8.5% or £5.61 per year to a Band D household. Recommendation is made to wait for a final conclusion until the tax base is known. This was agreed and would be placed on the agenda for the January 2021 Council meeting.
- e. Resolve to set the precept for the next financial year – 2021/22. See above ‘d’.
- f. General/Earmarked Reserves – as detailed on the finance report.

General:

- External Auditor’s Report 2019/20. There were no comments from the External Auditor other than they believed that the audit had not been advertised in the correct manner. The Clerk and RFO assured the Council that it had but before full approval by the Parish Council due to the fact that the May 2020 had been cancelled.
- Bank reconciliation, balances and accounts – all Councillors were in receipt of a copy of the financial sheets for comparison and agreement. The accounts were verified as correct by the Council. (MN/TN).
- Resolve to agree the since the September 2020 meeting the payments/disbursements as detailed on the report as circulated. These were agreed and detailed at the end of the minutes. These were agreed (TH/MN).
- Any other financial matters:

8. Planning Committee.

The minutes/delegated comments since the last Parish Council meeting were agreed as read.

9. Verbal Reports/updates from Council Members and the Clerk (if required).

- Liaison with ESCC on highway matters:
 - SLR meetings – none have been held.
- Clerk – report on any other items not recorded elsewhere in the agenda.
 - Parish drive around with Highways Steward detailing list of ‘hot spots’. Still to be done.
 - Play area inspections – Chairman/Grounds Manager to drive around to see what could be done in-house.

10. Reports from Representatives

- **WDALC** (Wealden District Association of Local Councils) – minutes to be sent out as and when received.
- **Parish Planning Panel (c/o Clerk/Tony Hall)** - minutes to be sent out as and when received.

11. Items for referral by Councillors to the next appropriate Council or Committee agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:
Tuesday, 26 January 2021
commencing at 7.30 pm.**

Income and Expenditure September/October/November 2020							
Invoice	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Payment	Comments	Pre VAT	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
24/09/2020	inc	Precept	OLB	Wealden DC Precept	31,160.00		31,160.00
Invoice Date	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Payment Ref	Comments	Pre VAT VALUE (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
03/11/2020	exp	Telephone/Intern	OLB	Zoom	11.99	2.40	14.39
04/11/2020	ACC	General	OLB	CIL	(600.00)		(600.00)
04/11/2020	exp	General	OLB	Willows Sawmill	600.00	120.00	720.00
28/10/2020	exp	Recreation Groun	OLB	HPS Services	345.00	69.00	414.00
16/10/2020	exp	NI & Paye	OLB	WG Accounting	493.94		493.94
03/11/2020	exp	subscriptions	OLB	WDALC	27.00		27.00
23/10/2020	exp	Staff Costs	OLB		2,495.27		2,495.27
07/10/2020	exp	subscriptions	OLB	Anti Virus	34.99		34.99
06/10/2020	exp	Telephone/Intern	OLB	Zoom	11.99	2.40	14.39
07/10/2020	exp	Recreation Groun	OLB	HPS Services	345.00	69.00	414.00
18/09/2020	exp	nl & Paye	OLB	WG Accounting	493.74		493.74
02/10/2020	exp	Loan Interest	OLB	Public Works Loan	2,914.21		2,914.21
01/10/2020	exp	Office equipment	OLB	Bookers	17.99	3.60	21.59
02/10/2020	exp	Recreation Groun	OLB	Amazon	31.67	6.33	38.00
30/09/2020	exp	Stationery/Copyir	OLB	Amazon	8.29	1.66	9.95
19/09/2020	exp	Staff Costs	OLB		2,431.27		2,431.27

