

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council (PC) held at the Village Hall,
Blackboys, on Tuesday, 1 October 2024 at 5 pm.

Present	Councillors	Keith Brandon (Chairman)	David Jenner (Vice Chairman)
		Trishia Blewitt	Maria Naylor
	Councillor Ann Newton (WDC)		
	Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC)		
In attendance	Ann Newton - Clerk		Members of the Public – one.
	Marie Owen - RFO		

Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC) reported on outstanding highway issues:

- B2192 route survey – ESCC have advised that the contractor costs for the work are much more than the original budget and require review.
- Update on CMF, Lewes Road speed limit – the consultation has been completed with no objections but there is no indication of timescales. Although as minuted last time, confirmation has been given that any costs above £30k will be met by ESCC.
- Gun Road bridge – the new bridge has been completed.
- Gatehouse Lane/ Sandy Lane/ High Street pavements - continues to chase.
- Framfield Grange, B2102, Framfield – drainage investigation (5 August)/remedial works (7-9 October).
- Palehouse crossroads – the road markings have been re-done.
- Pound Hill and Hammonds Green areas – overgrown vegetation is very bad and has been reported.
- Chris is meeting with the Highways Steward on site to discuss various issues and a Road Safety Officer later in the month. The Chairman offered to join the first meeting.
- Bird-in-Eye Hill – recent crash; Chris is looking into the reason why a resident's request was closed down.
- AFC Uckfield – the Clerk had passed onto Chris the issues the Barley Mow Park are having with parking during football matches.
- John Dann Close – the Chairman has written to ESCC regarding the new signage on which the PC were not consulted.

General

Budget pressure will mean £4m in further cuts. Social care (children and adults) costs are enormous and are £20m overdrawn. There is to be a consultation on the number of cuts.

Councillor Ann Newton (WDC) – gave the following update:

- Local Plan Regulation – there has been no decision yet on whether to continue with the recently published draft Local Plan bearing in mind the proposed changes to housing numbers within the NPPF.

(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).

1. Apologies for Absence

There were none.

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 (30 July 2024)

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2024, having been circulated, as a true and accurate record as proposed by Keith Brandon and seconded by Trishia Blewitt.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes (March and May)

All other items are included elsewhere in the minutes.

- Parish Streetlighting – update – resolve to switch to Streetlights.co.uk. The meeting agreed that the switch should be made. The complaint which was sent to the ESCC Chief Executive received an inadequate response from the Assistant Director although it has been confirmed that the PC does not have a formal contract with ESCC. The new contractor is currently assessing all the lights.
- Stile – Sandy Lane to the rear of Framfield recreation ground – update. This land is not in the ownership of the Parish Council and the landowner is liaising with ESCC over the compliance of one of the stiles.
- Meeting with Wealden Town/Parish Councils – 25 September 2024. The Chairman stated that this was attended by some six other parish councils, many of whom have the same issues. It was suggested that the item be put on the agenda for the next ESALC Chairman's Forum on 22 October 2024. The PC could take the lead in a similar way as WGod and write to all other councils by way of a letter asking them to sign up.
- Step Up Sports – update. The Chairman and Clerk have an online meeting to discuss a way forward potentially concentrating on Framfield recreation ground which is the largest of the three.

5. 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.

- DLUHC – Intimidation in public life. The Clerk stated that if anyone wished to have their address removed from the public domain they could let her know. It would mean completing a new Declaration of Interests form.
- ESCC – Urban grassing. A further letter is imminent as to what option the PC wish to opt for next year. Discussion ensued over the potential to self-serve.
- The Woodland Trust - Review of Kiln Wood Management Plan

6. Finance and General Purposes:

- a) Conclusion of the External Audit. This had been completed with no questions and has been advertised as concluded in the prescribed way.
- b) Resolve to agree the revised Standing Orders – slight change - postponed to November meeting.
- c) Resolve to agree the revised Financial Regulations – completely new – postponed to November meeting.
- d) Resolve to agree the Financial Risk Assessment – no changes. The meeting agreed the document (DJ/TB).
- e) Bank account – update. Removal of three signatories – Peter Friend, Selina Allen and Rob Newton.
- f) Three new litter/dog bins added to insurance policy and asset register.
- g) 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/TB).
- h) Resolve to agree the payments/disbursements since the July meeting as detailed on the report as circulated. These were agreed and detailed at the end of the minutes. These were agreed (DJ/TB).
- i) Any other financial matters: there were none.
 - The RFO stated that the second half of the precept had arrived.

7. Planning Committee.

- The minutes/delegated comments since the last Parish Council meeting were agreed as read.
- Bird in Eye Farm North – Uckfield Town Council have been contacted by the developer for this site.
- Oakleigh Garden Community – emails are being received from residents concerned about these proposals. None of the land is within Framfield Parish or the District Ward of Framfield & Cross in Hand.

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

- Liaison with ESCC on highway matters – as detailed above – further items below:
 - Lewes Road, Blackboys
 - Update on CMF – as above.
 - Update on Route Survey Work – as above.
 - High Street, Blackboys – update on discussions to lower the speed limit to 30-mph. The PC has written to the new owner of the 50-house to see if they would honour the agreement made by the

previous one to work with the PC and ESCC on proposals and cover 50% or £50,000 of the cost whichever is the lesser. A holding reply has been received.

- Gun Road, Blackboys – bridge update/trimming back of undergrowth. This was carried out before the bridge was opened.
 - Gatehouse/Sandy Lane – uneven pavement/disability access – as above.
 - High Street, Framfield – uneven pavement/disability access – as above. The Chairman commented that further representation had been made to the PC about the lack of dropped kerbs and a deep dip in the pavement opposite the Hare & Hounds.
 - Framfield Grange, B2102, Framfield – as above.
 - Brookhouse Lane, Framfield – re-painting of the road markings and 'Give Way' sign – as above.
- SLR meetings – no further meetings scheduled. These were felt to be a pointless exercise. A neighbouring PC recently held one and no one from ESCC attended with all the organisation for the meeting being carried out by the PC.
 - Clerk – report on any other items not recorded elsewhere in the agenda – there were none.
 - Parish Councillors – unfortunately due to ill health Tony Hall is no longer a councillor. Thanks were given to Tony for all his service.
 - Framfield footpath FRM/53/1 and stile S4475 – following a complaint, the matter was investigated and is now in the hands of ESCC Rights of Way.

9. Reports from Representatives

- **WDALC** (Wealden District Association of Local Councils) – minutes to be sent out as and when received. Resolve not to renew the subscription next year. The meeting agreed that with the potential of a campaign regarding ESCC it might be preferable to remain a member of WDALC for the time being.
- **Parish Planning Panel (c/o Clerk/vacant)** – the meetings seem to have ceased. Clerk to investigate if they are to be re-started.
- **Cluster meetings – WDC Planning/Local Plan (Chairman/Clerk)** – the last meeting was held on 27 March 2024. Clerk to investigate when the next one will be held.

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.55 pm.

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will be held on Tuesday, 26 November 2024
commencing at 5 pm in the Village Hall, Blackboys.**

Income and Expenditure July, August & September 2024

Invoice Date	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Comments	Pre VAT	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
03/09/2024	Inc	Other	Lottery	18.00		18.00
02/09/2024	Inc	Interest	Bank Interest	464.50		464.50
09/09/2024	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	Advertiser	36.00		36.00
30/08/2024	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	Advertiser	144.00		144.00
13/08/2024	Inc	Other	Lottery	22.50		22.50
Invoice Date	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Comments	Pre VAT VALUE (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
13/09/2024	Exp	Pension	NEST	309.73		309.73
20/08/2024	Exp	NI & Paye	WG Accounting	805.36		805.36
03/09/2024	Exp	Stationery/Copying	Amazon	9.64	1.92	11.56
01/09/2024	Exp	Recreation Grounds	Amazon	15.74	3.15	18.89
28/08/2024	Exp	Website	Ionos	24.50	4.90	29.40
20/08/2024	Exp	Telephone/Internet	BT	147.96	39.09	187.05
22/08/2024	Exp	Stationery/Copying	WH Smiths	11.48		11.48
23/08/2024	Exp	Staff Costs	Staff Costs	2,896.24		2,896.24
21/08/2024	Exp	Pension	NEST	619.46		619.46
17/08/2024	Exp	Recreation Grounds	Simplex Health	95.83	19.17	115.00
15/08/2024	Exp	Recreation Grounds	KBS Depot	2,700.00	540.00	3,240.00
29/07/2024	Exp	Parish Magazine	Print Matters	556.50		556.50
29/07/2024	Exp	Parish Magazine	B Richardson	150.00		150.00
10/08/2024	Exp	Recreation Grounds	Keith Brandon	19.47		19.47
12/08/2024	Exp	Stationery/Copying	Amazon	7.46	1.49	8.95
10/08/2024	Exp	Recreation Grounds	Wickes	53.08	10.62	63.70
07/08/2024	Exp	Audit Fee	PKF Littlejohn	315.00	63.00	378.00
31/07/2024	Exp	Insurance	Gallagher Insurance	4,988.95		4,988.95
22/07/2024	Exp	NI & Paye	WG Accounting	805.56		805.56
28/07/2024	Exp	Website	Ionos	24.50	4.90	29.40
23/07/2024	Exp	Recreation Grounds	Universal Supply Group Lim	143.15	28.63	171.78
26/07/2024	Exp	Recreation Grounds	Alsford Timber	36.07	7.22	43.29
25/07/2024	Exp	Staff Costs	Staff Costs	2,896.04		2,896.04
22/07/2024	Exp	Stationery/Copying	Amazon	6.64	1.34	7.98
23/07/2024	Exp	Pension	NEST	309.73		309.73
28/06/2024	Exp	Recreation Grounds	Play Inspection Co	247.50	49.50	297.00

Signed

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Date