

**FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council (PC) held at the Village Hall, Blackboys, on Tuesday, 26 March 2024 at 5 pm.**

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

**Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC)** gave the following update:

Local Issues

- Blackboys Road, Framfield, potholes – The Chairman reported to the meeting that these form part of the formal complaint to ESCC. A completely unsatisfactory reply to his ‘enquiry’ has been received and he is considering escalating it to the Government Ombudsman. In the meantime, the repairs to the potholes are already breaking down.
- Beechy Road, Blackboys, potholes – CD advised that these are to be repaired in 28 days from 28 February 2024 and some have already been done.
- Pavements in The Street, Framfield– repairs are scheduled but with no date.
- Route survey, B2192 Lewes Road, Blackboys – work to be done in summer, date to be confirmed.
- Re-position directional sign on B2192/ B2102 Lewes Road, Blackboys junction – awaiting reply from ESCC. It was hoped that this work could be included with the route survey work.
- Sandy Lane, Framfield, potholes – temporary repairs to be chased.
- Community Match Funding (CMF), Lewes Road, Blackboys – ESCC have advised that the work is to be programmed for October to December 2024. Clerk to email CD asking for the costings.
- Framfield School, road safety – CD waiting for follow up from School/ parents meeting held on 12 March 2024. The Clerk advised that she had written to the Chair of the Governors with the updates requested.
- Gun Road, Blackboys, bridge repair work – Highways advise the work is on schedule.
- Etchingwood Lane, Framfield – the potholes have been reported.

General

- 23,000 potholes were filled since May 2023 but work this year has been delayed by the wettest February on record.
- A red ‘T’ is now to be painted on any temporary repair work on the roads.
- With ESCC Children’s Services (a statutory service) being £25m over budget, this puts any repairs to the highway, which is not a statutory service, in a difficult light.
- The Clerk detailed an email received from a Palehouse Common resident concerned that the children from the Squires estate have nowhere to wait for the School bus other than the busy Palehouse Common road.

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

- Local Plan Regulation 18 is now out for consultation – 15 March to 10 May 2024.
- Licensing consultation – the new Licencing Framework has been agreed by WDC and within it has been included that anyone running an outdoor event will be encouraged to ensure that the event is carbon neutral.
- Refuse collections – these will be changing in many places from 15 April 2024 but with no details yet.

A resident asked that the Parish Council object to any applications which don’t include air source heat pumps, solar panels and battery charging systems. The Chairman pointed out that planning decisions are made by WDC and unless there is a policy in place, applications cannot be refused on these grounds. This is also a matter of personal opinion.

(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 January 2024)

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 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

All other items are included elsewhere in the minutes.

- Parish Streetlighting – update. The Chairman and Clerk attended a further meeting to discuss the disclaimer/agreement. Further changes have been made and it is hoped to reach agreement soon. ESCC are now sending the Clerk weekly updates on work required.
- Stiles – Sandy Lane to the rear of Framfield recreation ground – update. A complaint was received about the stiles (that they were too high) and the matter is now between the landowner and ESCC Rights of Way.
- John Dann Close – conditions of tenancy – update. The matter is still with WDC Legal Department.
- Clerk to write to WDC regarding the Cluster and Parish Panel meetings. The Cluster meetings have re-started but there is still no sign of the Parish Panel meetings.

## 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.*

- ESCC:
  - A22 North of Hailsham - Major Route Network Study - Stakeholder engagement. The Chairman attended the meeting primarily to see if there is any opportunity to steer through traffic away from the Parish and onto the A22.
  - Formal complaint. The Chairman reported that although some of the items have been attended to, some haven't and as above he will, if necessary, escalate it to the Government Ombudsman.
- WDC:
  - Wealden Draft Local Plan Consultation – dates released – 15 March/10 May 2024.
  - Dog and Litter Bin Charges from 1 April 2024. There is an increase of £11.00 per bin per year.
- Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance Charity – request for a donation of £350.00. The meeting agreed to donate £200.00, the same as last year. As proposed by Trishia Blewitt and seconded by Tony Hall.
- Wealden Citizens' Advice – request for a donation. The meeting agreed to donate £200.00. As proposed by David Jenner and seconded by Tony Hall.
- Framfield & Blackboys Horticultural Society Summer Show – 17 August 2024. The Clerk reported that the usual permissions had been given for the Show but that a request had been received to review the hire charges. Detailed below under 'Halls'.
- National Grid – Electricity Substation – Little Horsted. The work is due to complete in December 2025.

## 6. Finance and General Purposes:

- a) Bank account – potential changes. The meeting agreed that the RFO should open accounts with Unity Bank keeping the accounts at Barclays open for the short/medium term. Ongoing.
- b) 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. (DJ/TB).
- c) Resolve to agree the since the January 2024 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 (DJ/TH).
- d) Any other financial matters: there were none.
  - CIL funds – Clerk to write to WDC – update. The Clerk reported that the two funds due to expire in April and October 2024 have been extended by one year because their use has been delayed by matters outside the PC's control, ie primarily the delays in the CMF works.

## 7. Planning Committee.

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

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

- Liaison with ESCC on highway matters – all as detailed above.
- SLR meetings – no further meetings scheduled.
- Clerk – report on any other items not recorded elsewhere in the agenda – there were none.
  - Query regarding the safety of the junction of the B2102 with Brookhouse Lane – sent to ESCC. ESCC have no evidence to lead them to believe that the junction is unsafe but have agreed to repaint the lines.
  - Drains in School Lane, Blackboys – sent to ESCC. ESCC have agreed to pump out the initial drain with the problem within six months. Any further drains will be done at a later date!

## 9. 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)** – the meetings seem to have ceased.
- **Cluster meetings – WDC Planning/Local Plan (Chairman/Clerk)** – meeting to be held on 27 March 2024.

## 10. Items for reporting/discussion/ratification from the Trusts for which the Parish Council is Sole Trustee

A: General

### Halls

- Future works –update. Two potential contractors are now on board.
- Electrical works. The works to the Village Hall, Blackboys, are complete with the works to the Memorial Hall scheduled for the Easter School holidays. Works have also been completed at the Pavilion.
- Hire charges – following discussion the meeting agreed to extend the section for 'Charity Events/Not for Profit Groups' to cover a seven-day week for local Parish groups only.

### Recreation Grounds

- New litter/dog bins. Bins to be ordered, to be funded by CIL.

B: Framfield Trust – Charity Registration No. 305228

### Memorial Hall

- Update on the claim/drainage works. Progress is being made on the works to be carried out to the surface water drainage system etc but in the meanwhile, the insurance company has written giving a 21-day deadline for the completion of the works. The Clerk has challenged this as there was no warning.
- Repairs to the boiler. The boiler broke down in the middle of the half term week when The Stagers were showing their Pantomime. Repairs were carried out but the cost challenged and partly reduced. David Jenner asked that thanks be given to the Chairman for the time he spent at the Hall.
- Framfield School:
  - Meeting held with the headteacher. The Chairman and Clerk attended a meeting with the headteacher where various issues were discussed although some are still ongoing. These have been revisited.
  - Meeting held with the Chairman of the Governors. As above on road safety following a request from several parents. The Chairman and Clerk attended and the ball is still very much in the School's court. The Clerk advised that she had written to the Chair of the Governors with the updates requested.
    - Request to extend day time usage hours. ESCC have confirmed that the School wish to extend their day to 7.30 am/4.30 pm (previously 8/4). The meeting agreed that this must come with some caveats especially over the use of the car park and the need to vacate all cars by 5 pm every day. The Chairman and Clerk are to re-visit the annexe to the licence agreement to update and include this stipulation.
    - The usual review of the hire fee is also under way – Maria Naylor/RFO.

### Recreation Ground

- Two tree stumps to be removed on the eastern side – works completed.

- Potential tree works. A complaint has been received by a resident regarding an overhanging tree. The tree has been looked at and a quote for the work to prune the tree is awaited. A Conservation Area application will have to be made to WDC.
- Use of the ancient woodlands by the School. The meeting agreed that although they are aware that the School children use the woodland they must respect that the fact that it is precious ancient woodland and they should be directed to the relevant legislation. The meeting did not agree to the request to install picnic tables – Clerk to advise School.

C: Blackboys Trust – Charity Registration No. 305225

Village Hall

- New bookings. The Clerk reported that two new regular hirers would be using the Hall on a Saturday morning during term time and potentially on a Monday and Tuesday morning.
- The Stagers have been given permission to use part of the ex-Pre-school storage room.

Recreation Ground

- Wicket – request from the Cricket Club to hang advertising banners from the ropes for sponsorship purposes. The meeting did not give permission for the banners. They stated that they felt they were not appropriate in a rural location. (KB/TH).

Pavilion

- Renewal of Cricket Club's subscription – 1 April 2024. The paperwork has been completed.

Allotments

- Renewal of tenancy agreements – 1 April 2024 – the renewals have been sent out.

D: Framfield Allotment Garden Trust – Charity Registration No. 296468

- Renewal of tenancy agreements – 1 April 2024 – the renewals have been sent out.

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

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.50 pm.*

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (the AGM) will be held on Tuesday, 28 May 2024 commencing at 5 pm in the Village Hall, Blackboys. On the rising of this meeting, it will be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting.**

### Income and Expenditure Jan/Feb and March 2024

Invoice Date	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Comments	Pre VAT	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
04/03/2024	Tfr	To ****6278	Bank Interest	330.97		330.97
05/03/2024	Inc	Other	Lottery	14.00		14.00
13/02/2024	Inc	Other	Lottery	17.50		17.50
Invoice Date	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Comments	Pre VAT VALUE (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
04/03/2024	Exp	Dog Bins	Wealden DC	343.75	68.75	412.50
28/02/2024	Exp	Website	Ionos	23.50	4.70	28.20
16/02/2024	Exp	NI & Paye	WG Accounting	852.68		852.68
28/02/2024	Exp	Telephone/Internet	BT	144.48	28.89	173.37
26/02/2024	Exp	Pension	NEST	309.73		309.73
16/03/2024	Exp	Staff Costs	Staff Costs	2,852.14		2,852.14
21/02/2024	Exp	Pension	NEST	309.73		309.73
13/02/2024	Exp	Streetlighting	East Sussex County Council	3,517.06	703.41	4,220.47
28/01/2024	Exp	Website	Ionos	23.50	4.70	28.20
19/01/2024	Exp	NI & Paye	WG Accounting	852.48		852.48
31/01/2024	Exp	Hall Hire	Blackboys Hall Hire	24.00		24.00
25/01/2024	Exp	Stationery/Copying	Post Office Counters	32.00		32.00
21/02/2024	Exp	Staff Costs	Trans FFT	2,854.34		2,854.34