

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

Present	Councillors	Keith Brandon (Chairman) Trishia Blewitt	David Jenner (Vice Chairman) Linda Jenner
		Councillor Ann Newton (WDC) Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC)	
In attendance	Ann Newton - Clerk Marie Owen - RFO		Members of the Public – none.

(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 (1 October 2024)

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2024, having been circulated, as a true and accurate record as proposed by Keith Brandon and seconded by Trishia Blewitt.

4. Co-option of Parish Councillors

Trishia Blewitt proposed and Keith Brandon seconded that Linda Jenner be co-opted onto the Parish Council. She duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance. She was welcomed on board.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

All other items are included elsewhere in the minutes.

- Parish Streetlighting – update. The new company have already carried out some of the easier repairs and an inventory of the lights has been drawn up. It is expected any links with ESCC will be severed shortly in the New Year when a new energy supplier has been sourced.
- Meeting with Wealden Town/Parish Councils – 25 September 2024. The Clerk said that she had been very disappointed in the dis-jointed approach other councils had over the problems mainly whom either didn't reply and/or attend the meeting. A couple were still on board but now that a new streetlighting contractor has been sourced, the impetus has very much gone although the PC is still happy to work with any other council going forwards. ESALC also seemed to have taken over so it was felt that they could get on with it!
- Step Up Sports – update. The initial survey has been drafted and needs fine-tuning. The Chairman asked if anyone would be prepared to take it on and Trishia Blewitt offered. Both the Chairman and the Clerk would liaise with her.
- John Dann Close – signage – update. The issue is with ESCC Enforcement.

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.

- ESCC – Urban Grass Cutting 2025. The meeting agreed to continue as previous years and cover the cost of four extra cuts with ESCC (KB/TB).
- ESCC – Consultation on introducing a booking system for the waste recycling sites – closes 22 December 2024.
- ESCC – Rights of Way – Framfield 62 – Claimed public right of way – the decision of refusal has been appealed by the applicant – Chris Smith of the Open Spaces Society.

- WDC – Local Government Boundary Commission for England - review of the District Ward boundaries.
- NALC – Government consultation on remote attendance at meetings.
- James McLeary MP – lobby to reduce the speed limits on unclassified roads.

7. Finance and General Purposes:

- Budget discussion – 2025/26 – the draft budget and report had been circulated to all councillors. The RFO reported that the budget as presented had altered slightly because of the changes and increase in Employers’ NI contributions which added approximately £1,600.00 per annum if taking into account potential salary increases. Otherwise, expenditure had been as expected during the year.
- Resolve to agree the budget and precept for 2025/26:
 - The budget was agreed at £84,464.24 plus the increase detailed above (exact figure to be noted when known). This was proposed for agreement by Keith Brandon, seconded by David Jenner and agreed by all.
 - Following discussion the PC agreed to keep the precept the same as this year (£81,805.00) and cover the increase in budget with reserves. The meeting agreed that in forthcoming years, it might be more prudent to increase the precept when some of the approved housing sites had been built out to spread any increase across those additional dwellings. This was proposed by Keith Brandon, seconded by Trishia Blewitt and agreed by all.
- Reserves/CIL – an additional CIL payment received of £7,000.
- Resolve to agree the revised Standing Orders – slight change.
- Resolve to agree the revised Financial Regulations – completely new.
- Resolve to agree the subscription to AIRS (Action in Rural Sussex).
- Resolve to agree the subscription to WDALC.
Points c-g were agreed on-bloc as proposed by David Jenner, seconded by Keith Brandon and agreed by all.
- 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).
- Resolve to agree the payments/disbursements since the October meeting as detailed on the report as circulated. These were agreed and detailed at the end of the minutes. These were agreed (DJ/TB).
- Any other financial matters: there were none.
 - There were none.

8. Planning Committee.

- The minutes/delegated comments since the last Parish Council meeting were agreed as read.
- Land South of Framfield Road, Blackboys. The Chairman reported that although it was incredibly unfortunate that most of the hedge was removed or severely cut down, and without any warning, WDC and ESCC were working with the applicant to resolve the situation with regard to the visibility splays necessary for the entrance/speed limit. Replanting has to take place before occupation of any of the houses.
- Land North of the Eastbourne Road, Framfield (Cysleys Farm). The Clerk reported that this had been refused at WDC Committee.

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

- *Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC) was permitted to make his report at this juncture as he arrived late to the meeting.*
 - Lewes Road, Blackboys
 - Update on CMF – as above. It is expected that the works will commence early in 2025 although now a full road closure is required so may take a little longer to implement.
 - Update on Route Survey Work – no further news.
 - High Street, Blackboys – update on discussions to lower the speed limit to 30-mph. No further news.
 - Gatehouse/Sandy Lane – uneven pavement/disability access – some works are to be carried out sometime in the New Year.
 - High Street, Framfield – uneven pavement/disability access – some works are to be carried out sometime in the New Year.
 - Framfield Grange, B2102, Framfield – the works have been carried out. It was felt a shame that the entire stretch of road wasn’t done.
 - Pound Hill, Framfield – this is still being chased.
 - AFC Uckfield – CD reported that no one can/will do anything about the parking and the problem seems insolvable.

- SLR meetings – an invitation has come from ESCC for the re-introduction of meetings but it was not felt beneficial to take up their offer at the current time.
- Clerk – report on any other items not recorded elsewhere in the agenda:
 - Grass cutting – junction of Becketts Way and The Street, Framfield. The meeting agreed that the Clerk should liaise with the residents over a solution to the grass cutting of the square. Also to obtain a quote to wild flower the centre of the area.
 - Weed killing on the highway. Following suggestions that residents could take matters into their own hands following the potential failure of the annual weed killing exercise by ESCC, a further resident has raised concerns over the environmental impact of herbicides. The PC agreed that they would not support any such initiatives by the residents who would need public liability insurance of £10m, training etc to work on the highway.
 - Meeting dates for 2025 – to be sent out.

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/vacant)** – the Clerk reported that WDC have confirmed that the meetings will recommence early next year.
- **Cluster meetings – WDC Planning/Local Plan (Chairman/Clerk)** – the Clerk reported that WDC have confirmed that the meetings will recommence early next year.
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11. 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, 28 January 2025 commencing at 6 pm in the Village Hall, Blackboys.

Income and Expenditure September, October & November 2024

Invoice Date	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Comments	Pre VAT	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
12/11/2024	Inc	Other	Lottery	18.00		18.00
28/10/2024	Inc	Other	CL 8	7,187.67		7,187.67
15/10/2024	Inc	Other	Lottery	22.50		22.50
30/09/2024	Inc	Precept	Wealden DC	40,902.50		40,902.50
Invoice Date	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Comments	Pre VAT VALUE (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
15/11/2024	Exp	Pension	NEST	619.46		619.46
18/10/2024	Exp	Streetlighting Maintenance	Streetlights	900.50	180.10	1,080.60
31/10/2024	Exp	General	Nisbets	569.99	113.99	683.98
01/11/2024	Exp	Website	Ionos	24.50	4.90	29.40
30/10/2024	Exp	Hall Hire	Trans BBT	24.00		24.00
29/10/2024	Exp	Open spaces Grass	R Richards	325.00		325.00
20/10/2024	Exp	NI & Paye	WG Accounting	875.16		875.16
22/10/2024	Exp	Subscriptions	Sussex Rural Community Co	120.00	24.00	144.00
05/11/2024	Exp	Staff Costs	Staff Costs	2,826.44		2,826.44
10/10/2024	Exp	I A Fee/GDPR	WG Accounting	140.00		140.00
16/10/2024	Exp	Stationery/Copying	Microsoft	79.98		79.98
08/09/2024	Exp	Dog Bins	Wealden DC	357.50	71.50	429.00
27/09/2024	Exp	Parish Magazine	Print Matters	556.50		556.50
30/09/2024	Exp	Parish Magazine	B Richardson	150.00		150.00
07/10/2024	Exp	Website	Ionos	24.50	4.90	29.40
05/09/2024	Exp	Loan Interest	Public Works Loan	2,914.21		2,914.21
30/09/2024	Exp	Hall Hire	Trans BBT	24.00		24.00
02/09/2024	Exp	Recreation Grounds	Barcombe Landscapes Ltd	1,045.00	209.00	1,254.00
13/09/2024	Exp	Recreation Grounds	BioRegional Forestry Ltd	915.00	183.00	1,098.00
10/09/2024	Exp	NI & Paye	WG Accounting	805.56		805.56
25/09/2024	Exp	Staff Costs	Staff Costs	2,896.04		2,896.04