

(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. Trishia Blewitt declared a prejudicial pecuniary interest in any discussion on the potential increase in plots fees on Blackboys allotment as she is a tenant. Keith Brandon declared a prejudicial pecuniary interest in any discussion on the potential increase in plots fees on Framfield allotment as he is a tenant.

3. To accept the Minutes of the last meeting (28 November 2023)

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2023, having been circulated, as a true and accurate record as proposed by Keith Brandon and seconded by Maria Naylor.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

All other items are included elsewhere in the minutes.

- Parish Streetlighting – update. A further meeting is to be organised to discuss the disclaimer.
- Stiles – Sandy Lane to the rear of Framfield recreation ground – update. The Clerk reported that works have been completed.
- John Dann Close – conditions of tenancy – update. The Clerk reported that seemingly although the PC, relevant housing association and Charity Commission would never have agreed to building the houses if the local criteria hadn't been applied, this is now in doubt. The matter is with WDC Legal Department.

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:
 - Claimed Footpath 67b/68c – update – no changes to be made.
 - Rural Grass Cutting Service. The meeting agreed that they would opt for the standard option of two cuts a year.
- WDC:
 - Civility and Respect Pledge. The meeting did not agree to sign the pledge because they believe the Model Code of Conduct suffices although if the Standards Boards for England gave Standards Committees more power, this would be a great improvement. Clerk to inform WDC.
 - Wealden District Parish Conference: 14 March 2024, Hailsham Community Hall. Trishia Blewitt to attend.
 - Licensing/Environmental Health Consultation.
- WGOD:
 - Invitation to public meeting: 31 January 2024, 7 pm, Horam Village Hall. Chairman and Clerk to attend.
 - Letter asking all parish councils to respond to the Reg 18 consultation (part of the Local Plan process).

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.
- 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/TH).
- c) Resolve to agree the since the November 2023 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.
 - Reserves/CIL. The Clerk reported that two allocations of CIL payments could effectively expire in April and October this year totally £21,820. This could have been used towards the CMF work but it is now unlikely that the funds will be needed in this financial year. Work to

streetlights or halls could come into play. Clerk to write to WDC clarifying that the funds can be retained for earmarked projects.

7. Planning Committee.

- The minutes/delegated comments since the last Parish Council meeting were agreed as read.
- Land South of Framfield Road – update. The Clerk reported that site is on the market.
- Framfield Recreation Ground – revisions to telecommunications mast - application approved.

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

- Liaison with ESCC on highway matters – all mainly as detailed above.
 - 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 Clerk reported that seemingly a fee of £2.5-3k was required to commence the work to design and cost new streetlighting for any speed reduction scheme. The PC agreed to wait until a new developer for the 50-house site is on board. At which time they can meet with them and see if they will honour the contribution towards the scheme which Gold had promised.
 - Gun Road, Blackboys – bridge update – as above.
 - Leak to the east of Pump Lane – update – as above. It was thought that the pavement adjacent to Pound Hill which was reported as impassable due to overgrown grass has been rectified during the repair work. Although the pavement now needs repair following on from the second leak.
 - Gatehouse/Sandy Lane/High Street, Framfield – uneven pavement/disability access – as above.
 - Stonebridge Lane – as above.
- SLR meetings – no further meetings scheduled.
- Clerk – report on any other items not recorded elsewhere in the agenda – there were none.

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. Clerk to investigate.
- **CSAG – Police (Chairman/Clerk)** – the meetings are been suspended permanently.
- **Cluster meetings – WDC Planning/Local Plan (Chairman/Clerk)** - the meetings seem to have ceased. Clerk to investigate.

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

A: General

Halls

- Future works –update. A contractor is now on board.
- Electrical works – both halls – ratification to expenditure of £9,000 to upgrade the lighting network in both halls. This was agreed (MN/KB). The works to be funded by the Trusts.

Recreation Grounds

- New litter/dog bins – WDC have stated that they will empty the dog bins for no extra charge. Bins to be ordered, to be funded by CIL.
- Communication Boards – these are now in place. Thanks to the Chairman.

B: Framfield Trust – Charity Registration No. 305228

Memorial Hall

- Update on the drainage works – specification sent to the contractor.
- Meeting to be held with the School. The Chairman stated that they discussed a variety of issues.

Recreation Ground

- Two tree stumps need to be removed from the eastern side of the ground. Clerk to chase grounds maintenance contractor.

- Oil spillage. Oil appears to be coming from land belonging to a property in Sandy Lane which is spilling into the field behind the recreation ground. The owner of the field has been notified and is liaising with their insurers.

C: Blackboys Trust – Charity Registration No. 305225

Village Hall

- Nothing to report.

Recreation Ground

- Nothing to report.

Pavilion

- Renewal of Cricket Club’s subscription – 1 April 2024. Review of cost, currently £500 per year. The meeting agreed that the fee should remain the same. The Clerk also voiced a request from Buxted Cricket Club to play one match at the ground – the meeting agreed.
- Smart meter fitted. The Chairman reported that both the halls and pavilion now had smart meters.

Allotments

- Renewal of tenancy agreements – 1 April 2024 – current charge £30.00 per plot. No increase this year. Review of charge for 2025/26? The meeting agreed that the charge for 2025/26 should be increased to £35.00. (TB took no part in the discussion). TB to let the Clerk have a list of unworked plots by the middle of March.
- The Clerk reported that there are several spare plots.

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

- Renewal of tenancy agreements – 1 April 2024 – current charge £30.00 per plot. No increase this year. Review of charge for 2025/26? The meeting agreed that the charge for 2025/26 should be increased to £35.00. (KB took no part in the discussion).

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.30 pm.

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

Income and Expenditure Nov 2023/Dec 2023 & Jan 2024

Invoice	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Comments	Pre VAT	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
09/01/2024	Inc	Other	Lottery	14.00		14.00
04/12/2023	Tfr	To ****6278	Bank Interest	(307.11)		(307.11)
04/12/2023	Inc	Interest	Bank Interest	307.11		307.11
12/12/2023	Inc	Other	Lottery	16.50		16.50
Invoice Date	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Comments	Pre VAT VALUE (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
17/01/2024	Exp	Stationery/Copying	Amazon	17.99	3.60	21.59
31/12/2023	Exp	Recreation Grounds	Barcombe Landscapes Ltd	1,790.00	358.00	2,148.00
09/01/2024	Exp	Website	Mr B Richardson	300.00		300.00
08/01/2024	Exp	Recreation Grounds	Universal Supply Group Lim	150.17	30.03	180.20
31/12/2023	Exp	I A Fee/GDPR	WG Accounting	120.00		120.00
09/01/2024	Exp	Pension	NEST	415.81		415.81
02/01/2024	Exp	Website	Ionos	24.00	4.80	28.80
17/12/2023	Exp	Staff Costs	Staff Costs	3,812.77		3,812.77
17/12/2023	Exp	NI & Paye	WG Accounting	1,518.29		1,518.29
07/12/2023	Exp	Stationery/Copying	Amazon	8.32	1.67	9.99
01/12/2023	Exp	Dog Bins	Wealden DC	343.75	68.75	412.50
28/11/2023	Exp	Website	Ionos	23.00	4.60	27.60
30/11/2023	Exp	Hall Hire	Blackboys Hall Hire	24.00		24.00
29/12/2023	Exp	Recreation Grounds	G Leckie	278.00		278.00
20/11/2023	Exp	NI & Paye	WG Accounting	802.22		802.22
20/11/2023	Exp	Telephone/Internet	BT	144.48	28.89	173.37
02/01/2024	Exp	Staff Costs	Staff Costs	2,703.31		2,703.31
06/11/2023	Exp	Open spaces Grass	Mr R Richards	250.00		250.00
23/11/2023	Exp	Recreation Grounds	Amazon	31.44	6.29	37.73
23/11/2023	Exp	Pension	NEST	296.48		296.48