

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council (PC) held at the Village Hall,
Blackboys, on Tuesday, 25 March 2025 at 6 pm.

Present	Councillors	Keith Brandon (Chairman) Trishia Blewitt Maria Naylor	David Jenner (Vice Chairman) Linda Jenner
		Councillor Ann Newton (WDC) Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC)	

In attendance	Ann Newton - Clerk	Members of the Public – none.
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(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).

Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC) made the following report:

Highways-related matters:

- B2102 – vicinity of Pound Hill – there are still some footpath works to be carried out.
- Gatehouse Lane/Sandy Lane – ESCC will not cover the cost of installing bollards to stop large vehicles mounting the grass. The Parish Council could apply through ESCC and cover the costs.
- 50-house housing site – further works to the access were due to start this week with traffic management although the contractor has been asked to consider the impact of the traffic management on the residents across the road.

General matter:

- ESCC have set the budget and reserves will be visited for the second year running. 76% of the revenue is spent on adult and children's care.
- Devolution – the Chairman commented on the lack of information coming from ESCC.

Councillor Ann Newton (WDC) reported on:

- Devolution – Ann had furnished all councillors with an explanation on what was happening to date. It was generally felt that there was lack of information and/or support for parish councils.
- Local Plan – Ann had sent all councillors details of a recent presentation with the new timetable.

1. Apologies for Absence

Marie Owen - RFO.

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 (28 January 2025)

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2025, 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 stated that repairs and maintenance were now well in hand with the new company totally up to speed. A full structural report of the lights is being drawn up. The supply of energy has been more problematic as the amount of energy currently used seems to be unknown! This is hoped to be sorted out soon.
- Step Up Sports – update. The meeting agreed that the survey should be sent out by an appropriate company.
- John Dann Close – signage – update. Much of the signage has been removed with neither Clarion or ESCC seeming to know who has done what!
- Parish Magazine – the Chairman and Clerk to meet with the Church to discuss delivery areas.

- Sandy Lane – reflective bollards – as detailed above.
- Devolution – as detailed above.

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.

- Wealden Citizen Advice – Grant 2025/26. The meeting agreed to give £200.00 (DJ/TB).
- Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance Charity – request for a grant. The meeting agreed to give £200.00 (LJ/KB). Discussion arose around the wish to be able to grant funds to local organisations as well as non-Parish and the meeting agreed to increase the budget to £1,000 for the 2025/26 year.
- UK Power Networks – Proposal to install a new underground electricity connection on the land at Framfield Road, Uckfield TN22 5LR. It was thought that the line would cross land at the front of the recreation ground, hence the notification.

6. Finance and General Purposes:

- Resolve to agree the minutes from the FGP meeting held on 20 March 2025 and the recommendations made therein. These were agreed as read (KB/DJ).
- CIL4 –£3861.58 – April 2025. WDC have agreed to extend this for one year due to the delay in the CMF (Community Match Funding) works by ESCC.
- 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 January 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/general purposes matters:
 - Purchase of laptops for Councillors. The meeting agreed that all Councillors should be given laptops for their Parish Council work (TB/DJ).
 - Meetings in May and July. It was agreed to slightly re-arrange the timing of the May and July meetings due to the extra meetings required. Linda Jenner gave her apologies in advance.
 - As detailed at the previous meeting, the RFO has set up an alternative saving facility and the meeting agreed that any interest should be transferred to the Barclays account. Councillors would need to complete the application forms.

7. Planning Committee.

- The minutes/delegated comments since the last Parish Council meeting were agreed as read.
- Land South of Framfield Road, Blackboys. Groundworks are underway.
- Land at the Old Nursery House, Framfield. The PC's comments have been sent into WDC.
- Land North of the Eastbourne Road, Framfield (Cysleys Farm). Following on from the refusal of the original application by WDC Committee, the identical application was also refused but the decision quashed due to invalid reasons for refusal. It is to be reheard by Committee on 27 March 2025. An appeal has also been lodged on the first application.
- Notice of Appeal – WD/2024/1799/MAO: Bird in Eye Farm, South of Bird-in-Eye Hill. The applicant is appealing for non-determination (validation) of the application and comments from the Parish Council have been sent onto WDC and the Planning Inspectorate. This has now been delayed until July so that the applicant can submit further information.

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

Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC) had already updated Councillors on many of the items as detailed at the start of the minutes.

- Lewes Road, Blackboys - update on CMF(Community Match Funding)/ Route Survey Work – clarification has been sought as to the final costing for the CMF work and as to what work has actually been carried out to date.
- High Street, Blackboys – update on discussions to lower the speed limit to 30-mph. The meeting agreed to look at potential CMF in the new financial year when the works under the CMF scheme for the Lewes Road are complete.
- High Street, Framfield – uneven pavement/disability access.
- SLR meetings – in abeyance.
- Clerk – report on any other items not recorded elsewhere in the agenda:

- Grass cutting – junction of Becketts Way and The Street, Framfield. Three quotes were obtained for the grass cutting and a meeting held with the residents. Agreement has been reached on the cost/charging and the first cut will be the following week.
- Deer warning signs – B2102 in the vicinity of the Farm entrance to New Place. ESCC have agreed to erect some signs only on available posts of which there seems to be few.

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/vacant)** – the Clerk reported that WDC have confirmed that the meetings will recommence early this year. No further news.
- **Cluster meetings – WDC Planning/Local Plan (Chairman/Clerk)** – 19 March 2025. Notes have been distributed.

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.05 pm.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (the AGM) will be held on Tuesday, 27 May 2025 commencing at 6 pm in the Village Hall, Blackboys. This will be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 6.30 pm.

Income and Expenditure January, February and March 2025

Invoice Date	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Comments	Pre VAT	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
17/03/2025	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	Vince Taylor Toff	130.00		130.00
13/03/2025	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	CWH Funerals	260.00		260.00
03/03/2025	Inc	Interest	Bank Interest	442.61		442.61
07/03/2025	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	James Batten	130.00		130.00
07/03/2025	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	Da Hart Sol	260.00		260.00
11/03/2025	Inc	Other	Lottery	16.00		16.00
27/02/2025	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	Downslands Design	150.00		150.00
24/02/2025	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	Richard Green	85.00		85.00
24/02/2025	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	J Ward	85.00		85.00
20/02/2025	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	Keith Brandon	65.00		65.00
20/02/2025	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	D Thorogood	85.00		85.00
20/02/2025	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	D F Tourle	150.00		150.00
19/02/2025	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	Stephen Wood	150.00		150.00
18/02/2025	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	298 Ltd	65.00		65.00
17/02/2025	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	Forrma Management	280.00		280.00
17/02/2025	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	MD Locks	85.00		85.00
17/02/2025	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	Steven Seear	65.00		65.00
17/02/2025	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	Beeney & Co	65.00		65.00
13/02/2025	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	Hendall Manor	65.00		65.00
11/02/2025	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	Optimal Stra	130.00		130.00
11/02/2025	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	Lonebay Ltd	150.00		150.00
11/02/2025	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	Parker & Sons	150.00		150.00
11/02/2025	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	CP Domestic	65.00		65.00
11/02/2025	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	Kyoto	150.00		150.00
07/02/2025	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	Bargai F Ltd	85.00		85.00
07/02/2025	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	Bignose & Beady	150.00		150.00
07/02/2025	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	Jospeh Cowen	65.00		65.00
06/02/2025	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	Go Pest	65.00		65.00
05/02/2025	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	Marten Investments	130.00		130.00
11/02/2025	Inc	Other	Lottery	18.00		18.00
Invoice Date	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Comments	Pre VAT VALUE (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
12/03/2025	Exp	Recreation Grounds	Universal Supply Group Limited	150.15	30.03	180.18
07/03/2025	Exp	Stationery/Copying	WH Smiths	13.60		13.60
27/02/2025	Exp	Telephone/Internet	Ionos	24.50	4.90	29.40
03/03/2025	Exp	Dog Bins	Wealden DC	357.50	71.50	429.00
27/02/2025	Exp	Streetlighting Maintenance	Streetlights	96.25	19.25	115.50
28/02/2025	Exp	Hall Hire	Trans BBT	12.00		12.00
20/02/2025	Exp	Telephone/Internet	BT	155.88	31.17	187.05
24/02/2025	Exp	Staff Costs	Staff Costs	2,937.22		2,937.22
20/02/2025	Exp	Pension	NEST	319.54		319.54
14/02/2025	Exp	Office equipment	Keith Brandon	340.79		340.79
31/01/2025	Exp	Recreation Grounds	Barcombe Landscapes Ltd	930.00	186.00	1,116.00
23/01/2025	Exp	Parish Magazine	B Richardson	150.00		150.00
23/01/2025	Exp	Parish Magazine	Print Matters	556.50		556.50
06/02/2025	Exp	Stationery/Copying	Amazon	23.45	4.69	28.14
19/01/2025	Exp	NI & Paye	WG Accounting	914.84		914.84
28/01/2025	Exp	Website	Ionos	28.50	5.70	34.20
31/01/2025	Exp	Hall Hire	Blackboys Hall Hire	24.00		24.00
31/01/2025	Exp	Hall Hire	Framfield Trust	48.00		48.00
30/01/2025	Exp	Office equipment	Amazon	24.26	4.86	29.12
30/01/2025	Exp	Office equipment	Amazon	699.98	140.00	839.98
27/01/2025	Exp	Stationery/Copying	Amazon	27.00	5.40	32.40
28/01/2025	Exp	Training	Action in Rural Sussex	7.80		7.80
24/01/2025	Exp	Staff Costs	Staff Costs	2,937.19		2,937.19
22/01/2025	Exp	Pension	NEST	397.87		397.87
06/01/2025	Exp	IA Fee/GDPR	WG Accounting	140.00		140.00
14/01/2025	Exp	Streetlighting Maintenance	Streetlights	96.25	19.25	115.50

Signed

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Date