

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council (PC) held at the Village Hall,
Blackboys, on Tuesday, 25 November 2025 at 5.30 pm.

Present	Councillors	Keith Brandon (Chairman) Trishia Blewitt Robin Grainger	David Jenner (Vice Chairman) Penny Grainger Maria Naylor
		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).

Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC) reported on the following items plus the items detailed in section 9:

- Traffic lights on the Framfield Road, Blackboys – following a complaint, it now seemed as if everything was as it should be.
- Eastbourne Road, Framfield/Uckfield – the Chairman voiced is irritation at the confusing information regarding this road closure. He was still awaiting an answer from ESCC.
- Drainage outside ‘Holly Grove’ – there was no further news.

Councillor Ann Newton (WDC) reported on:

- Local Government Reorganisation – Ann reported that Wealden District Council (WDC) is the only council out of the five districts/boroughs in East Sussex who chose not to make a decision on which bid they were to support. Government have now put out the proposals for consultation.
- Crowborough Camp – as will have been seen from media reports, residents have been very active in the protests against the housing of potential illegal entrants at the site.

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 September 2025)

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 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 supply of energy is still a seemingly unsolvable conundrum at the moment and is still being supplied by ESCC. The meeting agreed to go-ahead with all the work detailed in the service inspection report totalling £37,520.00 + vat which would be paid for out of CIL as proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Councillor Trishia Blewitt.
- Step Up Sports – update on the potential survey. The Chairman thanked Councillor Trishia Blewitt for all her work on the survey which will be launched in the New Year electronically and via the Parish Magazine in the February/March 2026 edition.
- Litter bins – Wealden District Council are now emptying all of the bins, 50% at their cost. The charges will not start until January 2026.
- AED training courses – update – Wednesday, 25 February 2026 6-8 pm and Saturday, 28 February 2026 2-4 pm, Memorial Hall – interested parties should contact the Clerk.

- Police 'street' meetings – further date – 19 February 2026, 10-12 noon, Framfield Memorial Hall. The Police had asked if there were any other priorities other than speeding and car parking.
- Purchase of laptops for Councillors – this had been done.
- Replacement bus shelter – the meeting agreed to approach contractors who are approved by ESCC for work on the highway for quotes.
- Relocation of the Blackboys Village sign to the triangle of grass at the top of School Lane/B2102 on the south western side – update. The costs provided by ESCC were deemed to be prohibitive and additionally planning permission may be required. The meeting agreed to approach Barcombe Landscapes about cutting back the foliage around the sign.
- Cyber Crime training – to be arranged for all councillors.

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.

WDC

- ESCC: Urban Grass cutting 2026/27 – the meeting agreed to go with the four extra cuts by ESCC as in previous years.
- WDC: Casual Vacancy – the Clerk stated that there was no call for an election so that the Parish Council is free to co-opt.
- East Sussex Vision Support – request for a donation. The Clerk was asked to write to ESVS stating that they would consider the request along with others at the end of the financial year when details of any available funds are clearer.

6. Finance and General Purposes:

- Resolve to agree the items detailed in the FGP minutes – these were agreed.
- Street lighting – repairs/refurbishment. Resolve to agree to the works whether as a one-off cost or in phases – as detailed above.
- Resolve to agree the appointment of a grounds maintenance contractor for the next three years – 2026-28. The Clerk detailed the three tenders submitted and the meeting appointed the contract to the lowest tender, the current contractor. The Clerk to advise all parties.
- Budget discussion – 2026/27 – all Councillors were in receipt of the draft budget and report for consideration and discussion.
- Resolve to agree the budget and precept for 2026/27:
 - The budget was agreed at £88,072.00. This was proposed for agreement by Keith Brandon, seconded by David Jenner and agreed by all.
 - Following discussion the PC agreed to set the precept at £88,000.00 to almost entirely cover the expected budget. There had been no increase last year and it seemed unsound to continue to cover the increase in budget with reserves bearing in mind how much anticipated expenditure there could be in the forthcoming year. This was proposed by Keith Brandon, seconded by Trishia Blewitt and agreed by all. This proposal is subject to any implications in the UK Parliament Budget which might have a detrimental effect on that of the Parish Council, leaving the final decision to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
- Reserves/CIL – additional CIL payment received - £19,551.66.
- Valuations of assets (halls/pavilion) for insurance purposes. The Chairman stated that he has been analysing the reports and querying some of the statements. The increase in value across the board will no doubt increase the overall insurance premium.
- 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 September 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:
 - The RFO stated that she was have issues gaining access to the Castle Water invoices online.

7. Planning Committee.

- The minutes/delegated comments since the last Parish Council meeting were agreed as read.
- Briefing from the potential developer of Bird in Eye North – the Clerk stated that there is currently no planning application but a consultation underway.
- Land at Old Nursery House, Framfield – reserved matters application approved. The Chairman read out a statement that he had written regarding his views on the current status of WDC Planning which he would publish – the meeting agreed.

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

- Liaison with ESCC on highway matters from Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC) who recommended that himself and the Chairman with a list have another drive around to remind themselves what issues are still outstanding.
 - Lewes Road, Blackboys
 - Update on CMF – works completed.
 - High Street, Blackboys – update – Councillor Dowling was still trying to source a meeting. The Clerk stated that she has re-written to the developer of the 50-house site to see if they wished to honour the agreement with the previous owners, Gold Developments.
 - Bird in Eye Hill – additional signage. There seemed to be conflicting views on what exactly was to be done.
 - Palehouse Common – lorry routing signs – the Clerk had furnished ESCC with the details of the two owners of the business parks. It was hoped that there would be a meeting convened.
 - Footpath between Framfield and Blackboys – this was worsening but thought that some work by ESCC would go-ahead at some time!
 - Sandy/Gatehouse Lane, Framfield – overgrown signage – update. Councillor Dowling stated that some of the signs had been cleared and one owner was to carry out work around one of the signs.
- Clerk – report on any other items not recorded elsewhere in the agenda.
 - Programme of bench maintenance/staining – this has to be put on hold.
 - 2026 Meeting dates.

9. Reports from Representatives

- **WDALC** (Wealden District Association of Local Councils) – minutes to be sent out as and when received. Keith Stevens.
- **Cluster meetings – WDC Planning/Local Plan (Chairman/Clerk)** – nothing to report.

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

- The Chairman asked that an item on staffing hours be included in the January 2026 agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 18.55.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will be held on Tuesday, 27 January 2026 commencing at 5.30 pm in the Village Hall, Blackboys.

Income and Expenditure September, October and November 2025

Invoice Date	Folio	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Comments	Pre VAT	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
30/10/2025		Inc	Interest	Bank Interest	274.71		274.71
06/11/2025		Inc	Income-Parish Mag	Burtenshaw	24.00		24.00
06/11/2025		Inc	Other	Lottery	10.00		10.00
27/10/2025		Inc	Other	Cil 10	19551.66		19,551.66
30/09/2025		Inc	Interest	Bank Interest	265.02		265.02
07/10/2025		Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OJH Roofing	24.00		24.00
03/10/2025		Inc	Income-Parish Mag	Allen	24.00		24.00
29/09/2025		Inc	Income-Parish Mag	Treewise	65.00		65.00
08/10/2025		Inc	Other	Lottery	15.00		15.00
30/09/2025		Inc	Precept	Wealden DC	40902.50		40,902.50
Invoice Date	Folio	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Comments	Pre VAT VALUE (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
13/11/2025		Exp	Pension	NEST	398.40		398.40
05/11/2025	3204	Exp	Stationery/Copying	Amazon	22.91	4.58	27.49
18/10/2025	3203	Exp	NI & Paye	WG Accounting	1886.44		1,886.44
28/10/2025	3202	Exp	Website	Ionos	27.50	5.50	33.00
22/10/2025	3201	Exp	Streetlighting	Streetlights	1241.62	248.32	1,489.94
27/10/2025	3200	Exp	Subscriptions	WDALC	27.63		27.63
24/10/2025	3199	Exp	Staff Costs	Staff Costs	3935.73		3,935.73
06/10/2025	3193	Exp	Parish Magazine	Print Matters	566.50		566.50
06/10/2025	3192	Exp	Parish Magazine	Barry Richardson	150.00		150.00
20/10/2025	3191	Exp	Office equipment	Amazon	179.00		179.00
14/10/2025	3188	Exp	Recreation Grounds	Step Up Sports Consultancy	440.00		440.00
16/10/2025		Exp	Pension	NEST	319.54		319.54
10/10/2025	3186	Exp	Recreation Grounds	Universal Supply Group Limite	69.06	13.81	82.87
01/10/2025	3185	Exp	I A Fee/GDPR	WG Accounting	140.00		140.00
20/09/2025	3184	Exp	NI & Paye	WG Accounting	1438.47		1,438.47
03/10/2025	3183	Exp	Loan Interest	Public Works Loan	2914.21		2,914.21
28/09/2025	3182	Exp	Website	Ionos	27.50	5.50	33.00
30/09/2025	3181	Exp	Hall Hire	BBT	24.00		24.00
30/09/2025	3180	Exp	Stationery/Copying	Amazon	4.16	0.83	4.99
24/09/2025	3179	Exp	Telephone/Internet	Zoom	13.99	2.80	16.79
24/09/2025	3177	Exp	Staff Costs	Staff Costs	2545.59		2,545.59
15/09/2025	3173	Exp	Dog Bins	Wealden DC	375.00	75.00	450.00

Signed

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Date