

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council (PC) held at the Village Hall,
Blackboys, on Tuesday, 28 January 2025 at 6 pm.

Present	Councillors	Keith Brandon (Chairman)	David Jenner (Vice Chairman)
		Trishia Blewitt	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).

Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC) made the following report:

Highways-related matters:

- Chris is meeting with the ESCC Highways Steward with the Chairman later that week to inspect some of the 'hot spots' in the Parish.
- Hammond Green – the line painting is scheduled in for 7 February 2025.
- John Dann Close – ESCC Enforcement are dealing with the unauthorised signage.
- Building site adjacent to Blackboys recreation ground – the issue with deliberate pumped water run-off will be highlighted to the Highways Steward. The Chairman stated that WDC seemed to have washed their hands of the site – water run-off and accumulation of rubbish.
- Lewes Road, Blackboys – CMF to reduce the speed limit between Hollow Lane and Brownings Farm – the works are scheduled to be carried out between 3 and 29 March 2025. It is thought that any works associated with the Route Survey Work in the same area will be done at the same time.
- AFC Uckfield – Chris is endeavouring to meet with the Club Manager to discuss the on-street car parking issues when there is a match.
- Bird-in-Eye Hill – there was another road traffic accident in recent days. The Chairman commented at what point does ESCC look at accident black spots in more depth with particular relevance to the number of accidents on the B2102 at Pound Hill in recent weeks.

Chris stated it is budget time and there is very likely to be an increase in Council Tax with a cut in services.

Councillor Ann Newton (WDC) reported on:

- Council Tax – over the Christmas period some residents' Council Tax was taken earlier than it should have been. Residents should contact WDC if any have incurred bank charges etc. An investigation has been held into the reasons that it happened and a review is under way around the lack of communication on the issue.
- Public Inquiry – Ann attended that day an Inquiry instigated by a developer wishing to remove two conditions on a planning approval restricting occupation until the mains sewer is connected. A very important case for the District.
- Devolution – Ann had furnished all councillors with an explanation on what was happening to date. The decision from Government will be known shortly.

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Maria Naylor.

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 (26 November 2024)

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 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 new company have already carried out some of the simpler 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.
- Step Up Sports – update. The Clerk was asked to circulate the survey which Trishia has kindly edited.
- John Dann Close – signage – update. The issue is with ESCC Enforcement.

5. Devolution

Brief discussion revolved around if parish/town councils would be given more responsibilities and funding. A copy of the note on devolution has also been placed in the Parish Magazine.

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.

- WDC: Wealden Electoral Review – January consultation postponed until the decision on the devolution White Paper is known.
- ESCC: East Sussex Rights of Way Access Plan – to be passed to David Jenner.

7. Finance and General Purposes:

- a) Resolve to purchase two new laptops, one for the Parish Clerk and RFO – sufficient funds are within the 2024/25 budget. The meeting agreed the expenditure (TB/DJ).
- b) Chairman/Clerk to be given the authority to change the Parish telephone line/internet to provide a more value for money service. Councillors agreed the proposal (KB/TB).
- c) Ratification of the decision to increase the Parish Clerk's and RFO's salaries in line with the NALC recommendations for 2024/25 from 1 April 2024. Email sent to the Chairman of NALC (a response is awaited). Councillors agreed the ratification (KB/TB).
- d) Agree to proceed to .gov.uk domains for website and email. The Chairman explained that this wasn't currently mandatory but could become so. The meeting agreed to wait to see what happens at the current time.
- e) 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).
- f) Resolve to agree the payments/disbursements since the November meeting as detailed on the report as circulated. These were agreed and detailed at the end of the minutes. These were agreed (DJ/TB).
- g) Any other financial/general purposes matters:
 - Sandy Lane – reflective posts/bollards. The meeting agreed that these would be a good idea but asked the Clerk to contact ESCC regarding the potential and costings.
 - Beechy Road/Hollow Lane – passing places. Councillors agreed that all the passing places should be removed with the possibility of one being kept below Brinkburn just before the corner which does allow oncoming traffic a safe area to move over.

8. Planning Committee.

- The minutes/delegated comments since the last Parish Council meeting were agreed as read.
- Land South of Framfield Road, Blackboys. Ground works 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, an identical application has been submitted by the applicant due to inconsistencies of approach by ESCC on their application and to one on a nearby site which has been approved. Comments from the PC have been sent onto WDC.
- 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.

9. 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 – as above.

- 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.
- Gatehouse/Sandy Lane – uneven pavement/disability access – works completed.
- High Street, Framfield – uneven pavement/disability access.
- Framfield Grange, B2102, Framfield – the works have been carried out.
- Pound Hill, Framfield – some of the works have been done.
- 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. A quote has been obtained for planting an area of the grass with wildflower turf. A letter has been sent to all residents and a meeting would be arranged. The Clerk was asked to approach the PC grounds maintenance contractor for some prices.
 - Deer warning signs – B2102 in the vicinity of the Farm entrance to New Place. Chris Dowling was asked to chase.
 - Parish Magazine – the Clerk stated that she had been advised that potentially 100 extra copies were now needed. The meeting agreed that a full update on the Magazine would be ideal from all parties. Clerk to pursue.

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

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.25 pm.

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will be held on Tuesday, 25 March 2025
commencing at 6 pm in the Village Hall, Blackboys.**

Income and Expenditure November 2024, December 2024 & January 2025

Invoice Date	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Comments	Pre VAT	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
14/01/2025	Inc	Other	Lottery	22.50		22.50
02/12/2024	Inc	Interest	Bank Interest	466.24		466.24
19/11/2024	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	Millbrook Glass	130.00		130.00
03/12/2024	Inc	Other	Lottery	18.00		18.00
Invoice Date	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Comments	Pre VAT VALUE (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
31/12/2024	Exp	Website	Mr B Richardson	300.00		300.00
19/12/2024	Exp	NI & Paye	WG Accounting	1,355.74		1,355.74
28/12/2024	Exp	Website	Ionos	24.50	4.90	29.40
29/12/2024	Exp	Stationery/Copying	Amazon	9.16	1.83	10.99
24/12/2024	Exp	Staff Costs	Staff Costs	3,699.81		3,699.81
21/12/2024	Exp	Streetlighting Maintenance	Streetlights	1,241.62	248.32	1,489.94
17/12/2024	Exp	Streetlighting Maintenance	Streetlights	152.75	30.55	183.30
17/12/2024	Exp	General	Stephen Davis	3,269.00		3,269.00
18/12/2024	Exp	General	NEP	14,689.00		14,689.00
28/11/2024	Exp	Parish Magazine	Print Matters	556.50		556.50
04/12/2024	Exp	Parish Magazine	B Richardson	150.00		150.00
10/12/2024	Exp	Stationery/Copying	Amazon	19.57	3.92	23.49
08/12/2024	Exp	General	Amazon	(26.61)	(5.32)	(31.93)
08/12/2024	Exp	General	Amazon	(26.61)	(5.32)	(31.93)
08/12/2024	Exp	General	Amazon	(26.61)	(5.32)	(31.93)
08/12/2024	Exp	General	Amazon	(26.61)	(5.32)	(31.93)
09/12/2024	Exp	General	Amazon	79.98	16.00	95.98
09/12/2024	Exp	General	Amazon	13.32	2.67	15.99
05/12/2024	Exp	General	Amazon	49.73	9.95	59.68
04/12/2024	Exp	General	Amazon	14.93	2.99	17.92
04/12/2024	Exp	General	Amazon	44.81	8.96	53.77
29/11/2024	Exp	Dog Bins	Wealden DC	357.50	71.50	429.00
04/12/2024	Exp	Subscriptions	WDAOLC	27.63		27.63
18/11/2024	Exp	NI & Paye	WG Accounting	875.36		875.36
03/12/2024	Exp	General	Amazon	40.83	8.17	49.00
03/12/2024	Exp	Hall Hire	Blackboys Hall Hire	24.00		24.00
28/11/2024	Exp	Website	Ionos	24.50	4.90	29.40
20/11/2024	Exp	Telephone/Internet	BT	155.88	31.17	187.05
27/11/2024	Exp	General	Amazon	26.61	5.32	31.93
26/11/2024	Exp	General	Amazon	1.56	0.31	1.87
26/11/2024	Exp	General	Amazon	7.48	1.50	8.98
26/11/2024	Exp	General	Amazon	53.95	10.79	64.74
27/11/2024	Exp	General	Amazon	31.66	6.33	37.99
27/11/2024	Exp	General	Amazon	26.61	5.32	31.93
27/11/2024	Exp	General	Amazon	36.06	7.22	43.28
27/11/2024	Exp	General	Amazon	26.61	5.32	31.93
12/12/2024	Exp	Staff Costs	Staff Costs	3,433.16		3,433.16
18/11/2024	Exp	General	BG Flooring	1,404.17	280.83	1,685.00
07/11/2024	Exp	Streetlighting Maintenance	Streetlights	405.00	81.00	486.00
25/10/2024	Exp	Recreation Grounds	Step Up Sports Consultancy	275.00		275.00

Signed

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Date