

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council (PC) held at the Village Hall,
Blackboys, on Tuesday, 30 September 2025 at 6 pm.

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

(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 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. Although they had been working with East Sussex County Council on the One East Sussex Bid, they dithered due to the very late publication of a bid from Brighton & Hove which was incomplete and unfinanced and effectively split Wealden in half pushing half of it into Mid-Sussex (West Sussex) which is not what we have been asked to do. The Hastings bid very much kept the status quo with five smaller unitary authorities – possibly well meant but the council themselves didn't even support it! So Wealden could be very much out in the cold when it comes to further negotiations.
- An allocation of £10k per Ward Councillor has been set aside for local projects. Organisations should contact Ann. Details have been put in the Parish Magazine, website and Facebook.

1. Apologies for Absence

There were none. *Linda Jenner, having not attended a meeting for six months unfortunately ceases to be a councillor. The Clerk will advise Wealden District Council in line with the regulations.*

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 (29 July 2025)

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2025, 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

Robin and Penny Grainger were co-opted onto the Parish Council as proposed by Keith Brandon, seconded by David Jenner and agreed by those present. They were welcomed on board. Both signed their Declarations of Acceptance and handed over their completed Registers of Interest. The Clerk said she would liaise with Wealden District Council as appropriate.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes (25 March 2025)

All other items are included elsewhere in the minutes.

- Parish Streetlighting – update. The Chairman reported that completion of the survey reports are ongoing although repairs are being carried out. The supply of energy is still a seemingly unsolvable conundrum at the moment and is still being supplied by ESCC.
- Step Up Sports – update. Following a meeting with the facilitator, the survey has been finalised. The meeting agreed that it should be launched in February 2026 online with a note in the magazine whereby residents can ask for a hard copy.

- Ground maintenance contract – update. The tender process has begun – advertised in the Parish Magazine, website and Facebook. Tenders should be received by the end of October. The Chairman stated that the Parish work has been rationalised to include all the areas of grass within the Parish some of which are currently cut by the grounds manager.
- Litter bins – review of the number of litter bins and resolve to request that WDC empty them - update. The meeting agreed to remove two of the bins (by the bench on the village green outside the Hare & Hounds, Framfield, and the bin in the Memorial Hall car park, Framfield. The Clerk to reply to WDC accepting their offer to cover the cost of 6 of the bins; the Parish Council will pay for the rest (5) (£300.00 per annum per bin for as many empties as required).
- Post Mill Close, Blackboys – street name confirmed.
- AED training course – update. The new cabinets which had been purchased by the Chairman for much less than anticipated. The Clerk was asked to look at setting up some training sessions and asking for interest via the various outlets.
- Police 'street' meetings – further date – 3 November 2025, Framfield Memorial Hall.

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

- Councillor Ward Budgets – the Council was asked to think if any funds could be applied for.
- Parish Conference – 21 October 2025 – Councillors David Jenner and Trishia Blewitt to attend. Clerk to see if there are any further places.
- Local Government Re-organisation – explained at the start of the meeting.

7. Finance and General Purposes:

- Resolve to agree salary increases for the Clerk and RFO in line with the national scales backdated to 1 April 2025 – this was resolved as proposed by Keith Brandon, seconded by Trishia Blewitt and agreed by all present.
 - Conclusion of the External Audit – the RFO stated that the audit was passed and concluded. An “except for” matter has risen due to a typographical error in the stating of last year’s figures. This has no bearing on this year’s audit.
 - Insurance Valuation Renewal – Parish halls and pavilion. The meeting agreed to have the desktop assessments carried out for all three premises.
 - Assertion 10 – new stipulations for the AGAR next year concerned with mainly IT issues – transitioning to council-owned email systems, website should be accessibility standards, best practice for council-owned domains, understanding your GDPR responsibilities and creating an effective IT policy – much of which the PC already has in hand or part in hand.
 - Cyber Crime training – an essential to be compliant. The meeting agreed to include in the agenda for the next meeting.
- 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 July 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 to purchase one laptop for new Councillors Robin and Penny Grainger from CIL which would need to be added to the asset register and insurance policy.
 - Replacement bus shelter – Councillors agreed to replace the bus shelter in Blackboys opposite the old butcher shop. The Clerk stated that she would contact ESCC.
 - Relocation of the Blackboys Village sign to the triangle of grass at the top of School Lane/B2102 on the south western side. The Clerk said she would contact ESCC regarding the procedure to remove the sign from its current position and re-position.

8. Planning Committee.

- The minutes/delegated comments since the last Parish Council meeting were agreed as read.
- WD/2024/1799/MAO: Bird in Eye Farm, South of Bird-in-Eye Hill – Allowed.

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

- Liaison with ESCC on highway matters from Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC):

- Lewes Road, Blackboys - update on CMF(Community Match Funding)/ Route Survey Work – the date to install the signs was now set at 6 October 2025, a further delay because the signs had not been available.
- High Street, Blackboys – update on discussions to lower the speed limit to 30-mph. No reply had been received from officers to date – Chris to chase.
- Palehouse Common – lorry routing signs – Chris accepted that the PC had been left out of the correspondence but that he needed to find out the full details of the current position.
- Footpath between Framfield and Blackboys – the Chairman confirmed that he had now issued a formal complaint to ESCC about their refusal to carry out any work.
- Broken manhole, Hammonds Green, Framfield – this has now been repaired.
- Sandy/Gatehouse Lane, Framfield – the Chairman has met with the Highways Steward regarding the overgrown signage; he is waiting to hear back. The Chairman stated that he had done an FOI request to ESCC as to how many landowners they have issued with enforcement hedge-cutting notices within a time period – the answer was one.
- Becketts Way, Framfield – the Chairman asked why was a letter sent to one resident regarding an alleged overgrown hedge at a twitten when it had not in any way blocked the pathway. Chris thought it was due to a complaint from a neighbour.
- Recent RTA – Chris stated that he had not had an update from ESCC officers.
- Potential works at Hammonds Green – all agreed that there had been a huge amount of contradictions with the signs indicating works in the area and seemingly the work has not been carried out in any case!
- Clerk – report on any other items not recorded elsewhere in the agenda.
 - Programme of bench maintenance/staining – the meeting agreed that the grounds manager should embark on this to ensure the lifetime of the benches.

10. Reports from Representatives

- **WDALC** (Wealden District Association of Local Councils) – minutes to be sent out as and when received.
- **Cluster meetings – WDC Planning/Local Plan (Chairman/Clerk)** – 19 March 2025. Notes have been distributed..

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

- 2026-27 Budget and Precept.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.20 pm.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will be held on Tuesday, 25 November 2025 commencing at 5.30 pm in the Village Hall, Blackboys.

Income and Expenditure July, August and September 2025

Invoice Date	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Payment	Comments	Pre VAT	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
31/08/2025	Inc	Interest	OLB	Bank Interest	220.28		220.28
08/09/2025	Inc	Interest	OLB	Bank Interest	470.98		470.98
03/09/2025	Inc	Other	OLB	Lottery	12.50		12.50
27/08/2025	Inc	Other	OLB	Lottery	25.00		25.00
08/08/2025	Inc	Other	OLB	Lottery	10.00		10.00
02/06/2025	Inc	Interest	OLB	Bank Interest	447.99		447.99
Invoice Date	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Payment Ref	Comments	Pre VAT VALUE (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
15/09/2025	Exp	Pension	OLB	NEST	319.54		319.54
02/09/2025	Exp	Stationery/Copying	OLB	Amazon	4.96	0.99	5.95
01/09/2025	Exp	General	OLB	Trans FFT	-17.99		(17.99)
01/09/2025	Exp	General	OLB	Green DIY	17.99		17.99
28/08/2025	Exp	Website	OLB	Ionos	27.50	5.50	33.00
26/08/2025	Exp	Audit Fee	OLB	PKF Littlejohn	420.00	84.00	504.00
20/08/2025	Exp	Telephone/Internet	OLB	BT	165.83	33.16	198.99
25/08/2025	Exp	Staff Costs	OLB	Staff Costs	2545.75		2,545.75
20/08/2025	Exp	Pension	OLB	NEST	319.54		319.54
28/06/2025	Exp	Recreation Grounds	OLB	Barcombe Landscapes Ltd	540.00	108.00	648.00
17/08/2025	Exp	NI & Paye	OLB	WG Accounting	1438.47		1,438.47
23/08/2025	Exp	Recreation Grounds	OLB	Fenland Leisure Products Ltd	119.67	23.93	143.60
13/09/2025	Exp	Subscriptions	OLB	Sussex Rural Community Cour	75.00		75.00
06/08/2025	Exp	Parish Magazine	OLB	Print Matters	556.50		556.50
06/08/2025	Exp	Parish Magazine	OLB	Barry Richardson	150.00		150.00
07/08/2025	Exp	General	OLB	Stephen Pescott	4890.00		4,890.00
17/07/2025	Exp	NI & Paye	OLB	WG Accounting	1438.47		1,438.47
28/07/2025	Exp	Insurance	OLB	Gallagher Insurance	5182.92		5,182.92
31/07/2025	Exp	Hall Hire	OLB	Trans BBT	24.00		24.00
28/07/2025	Exp	Website	OLB	Ionos	27.50	5.50	33.00
30/07/2025	Exp	Pension	OLB	NEST	319.54		319.54
25/07/2025	Exp	Staff Costs	OLB	Staff Costs	2545.59		2,545.59
30/07/2025	Tfr	To ****3653	OLB	Bank Transfer	84999.00		84,999.00
30/07/2025	Exp	General	OLB	To FFT S Pescott Path	4890.00		4,890.00

Signed

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Date