

**FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council (PC) held at the Village Hall,**  
**Blackboys, on Tuesday, 27 January 2026 at 5.30 pm.**

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<b>Present</b>	Councillors	Keith Brandon (Chairman) Trishia Blewitt Penny Grainger Maria Naylor [part]	David Jenner (Vice Chairman) Trevor Boughton Robin Grainger
		Councillor Ann Newton (WDC) Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC)	
<b>In attendance</b>	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:

- It was decided that a meeting with the Highways Steward could be postponed.
- Blocked drains – jetting would not start in April.
- Budget – even more difficult times are ahead. There is a Full Council budget meeting on 9 February 2026 and it is thought that there would be a move to borrow funds – EFS (Exceptional Financial Support) – in an attempt to cover services. Borrowing is permitted up to £70m but has to be repaid. The current maximum increase year on year on the budget is 4.9%.

Councillor Ann Newton (WDC) reported on:

- Local Government Reorganisation Consultation – Ann reported that Wealden District Council (WDC) is the only council out of the five districts/boroughs in East Sussex to choose not to make a decision on which bid they were to support within the Government consultation. Further meetings are taking place with the districts/boroughs and County Council but Wealden are subsequently being left out.
- Wealden Draft 'Focused' Local Plan (Reg 18) Consultation – there is a Full Council meeting this week to agree to go out to consultation on the latest Regulation 18. The proposals will have a huge impact on the District and in particular the Uckfield and surrounding areas.
- Council Tax 2026/27 – it is anticipated that at their February Full Council meeting the ruling administration will agree a nil increase.

#### **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 (25 November 2025)**

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 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**

Trevor Boughton was unanimously voted onto the Parish Council, proposed by David Jenner and seconded by Penny Grainger. He signed the Acceptance of Office and Register of Interests. He was welcomed to the fold. The Clerk stated that she would inform Wealden District Council in the usual way.

#### **5. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

All other items are included elsewhere in the minutes.

- Parish Streetlighting – update – the Clerk informed the meeting that a timetable for the schedule of works agreed was awaited.

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Page 1 of 4

Date .....

- Step Up Sports – update on the potential survey. The Chairman advised the meeting that the survey would be launched along with the next Parish Magazine in early April although a note had been included in the February/March edition as an early heads-up to residents.
- Litter bins – the Clerk reported that all seemed to be going well.
- AED training courses – update – Wednesday, 25 February 2026 6-8 pm and Saturday, 28 February 2026 2-4 pm, Memorial Hall – the sessions are now full.
- Police ‘street’ meetings – further date – 19 February 2026, 10-12 noon, Framfield Memorial Hall.
- Replacement bus shelter – three quotes had been sought. A final figure was awaited on one but the Chairman was given discretion to make the final decision.
- Relocation of the Blackboys Village sign to the triangle of grass at the top of School Lane/B2102 on the south western side – update. Barcombe Landscapes have cut back the foliage around the sign making it much more visible.

## 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 Draft 'Focused' Local Plan (Reg 18) Consultation – as detailed above under District Council report.
- Local Government Re-organisation Consultation – again as above.

## 7. Finance and General Purposes:

- Valuations of Halls/Pavilion for insurance purposes – the Chairman reported that all the queries had now been answered and the information passed onto the Council insurance company. The increased re-build valuations had added another £600.00 to the cost of the policy.
- Recognition of the extra hours worked by the RFO. The meeting agreed to increase the RFO's hours to twenty per month commencing on 1 February 2026 and to compensate her for the extra hours worked whilst overseeing the works of the grounds manager (MN/TB).
- Estate management/cleaning costs and charging - the Chairman stated that the tenders were ready to be publicised. The meeting agreed that the Parish Council should going forwards cover the cost of the roles as a service provider to the charitable trusts.
- Use of CIL funds:
  - Resolve to use CIL for the installation of fire alarms and fire doors at the Memorial Hall and Pavilion, plus secure entry systems at both halls. The annual maintenance of the alarms should also be funded by the Parish Council. The Chairman stated that nine different companies had been approached but only one came back. This was agreed by the meeting (MN/DJ).
  - Resolve to use CIL for the repairs detailed at the last meeting to the play areas following on from the play area inspections in June 2025. This was also agreed (MN/TB).
- 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/MN).
- 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).
- Any other financial/general purposes matters:
  - The RFO stated that she was still having issues gaining access to the Castle Water invoices online. The Clerk confirmed that she was endeavouring to sort it out.

## 8. Planning Committee.

- The minutes/delegated comments since the last Parish Council meeting were agreed as read.

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

- Liaison with ESCC on highway matters:
  - Lewes Road, Blackboys
    - Update on CMF – works completed, invoice paid (£20,572.42).
  - High Street, Blackboys, speed limit – update – a meeting had been confirmed for the following week with ESCC. Members discussed the continued and persistent correspondence from a resident which seeks to undermine and discredit the Parish Council. It was noted that the matters raised have already been addressed and the relevant information is available in the public domain. Councillors expressed concern regarding the repetitive and unnecessary

nature of the contact with the Clerk and considered whether formal steps may be required should this behaviour continue.

- Palehouse Common – lorry routing signs – there was no update.
- Footpath between Framfield and Blackboys – due to the season this was now clearer but would only worsen in the Spring again.
- Sandy/Gatehouse Lane, Framfield – overgrown signage – completed.
- Roadside maintenance – the Chairman reported that correspondence between a resident and ESCC regarding highway weed clearance in Blackboys was ongoing. However, the scheme which ESCC had put forward involving parishes wasn't relevant here and this had subsequently been confirmed by ESCC.
- Road traffic accidents – B2102/Pound Lane – Councillor Dowling suggested that this be discussed at the meeting with ESCC. The Chairman suggested that a sign indicating a bend should be installed.
- Clerk – report on any other items not recorded elsewhere in the agenda.
  - Flooding outside 'Holly Grove' – the Clerk reported that water continues to pour out of the 9-house building site when it rains heavily. This, is a serious contributor to the flooding outside the entrance to Holly Grove.

## 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)** – an online meeting has been scheduled on 5 March 2026.

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

- David Jenner asked for a sign indicating a bend be installed in Etchingwood Lane past the river where there is a bend warning sign just before a gentle right hand curve but no warning sign for the very sharp left hand turn.

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 18.45.*

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will be held on Tuesday, 31 March 2026 commencing at 5.30 pm in the Village Hall, Blackboys.**

## Income and Expenditure November & December 2025 & January 2026

Invoice Date	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Comments	Pre VAT	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
31/12/2025	Inc	Interest	Bank Interest	276.45		276.45
30/11/2025	Inc	Interest	Bank Interest	266.70		266.70
15/01/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	Shaw	65.00		65.00
13/01/2026	Inc	Other	Lottery	12.50		12.50
03/12/2025	Inc	Other	Lottery	12.50		12.50
28/11/2025	Inc	Interest	Interest from H&R	481.25		481.25
28/11/2025	Inc	Interest	Interest from H&R	691.12		691.12
Invoice Date	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Comments	Pre VAT VALUE (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
17/01/2026	Exp	Stationery/Copying	Amazon	17.69	3.54	21.23
17/01/2026	Exp	Stationery/Copying	Amazon	4.29	0.86	5.15
08/01/2026	Exp	General	East Sussex County Council	20572.42		20,572.42
13/01/2026	Exp	Insurance	Gallagher Insurance	662.65		662.65
15/01/2026	Exp	Insurance	Gallagher Insurance	240.56		240.56
14/01/2026	Exp	Pension	NEST	330.80		330.80
28/12/2025	Exp	Website	Barry Richardson	300.00		300.00
28/12/2025	Exp	Website	Ionos	27.50	5.50	33.00
15/12/2025	Exp	I A Fee/GDPR	WG Accounting	140.00		140.00
15/12/2025	Exp	NI & Paye	WG Accounting	1242.47		1,242.47
23/12/2025	Exp	Staff Costs	Staff Costs	2916.46		2,916.46
15/12/2025	Exp	Streetlighting	Streetlights	129.00		129.00
17/12/2025	Exp	General	Amazon	5.51		5.51
16/12/2025	Exp	General	Amazon	25.98		25.98
15/12/2025	Exp	General	Amazon	15.98		15.98
11/12/2025	Exp	Pension	NEST	330.80		330.80
09/12/2025	Exp	Telephone/Internet	Keith Brandon	39.99		39.99
26/11/2025	Exp	Parish Magazine	Barry Richardson	150.00		150.00
26/11/2025	Exp	Parish Magazine	Print Matters	556.50		556.50
28/11/2025	Exp	Website	Ionos	27.50	5.50	33.00
01/12/2025	Exp	Hall Hire	Trans BBT	36.00		36.00
20/11/2025	Exp	NI & Paye	WG Accounting	1501.67		1,501.67
20/11/2025	Exp	Telephone/Internet	BT	165.83	33.16	198.99
24/11/2025	Exp	Staff Costs	Staff Costs	2657.24		2,657.24
14/11/2025	Exp	Training	Wealden DC	60.00		60.00
21/11/2025	Exp	Stationery/Copying	Amazon	5.81	1.16	6.97
21/11/2025	Exp	Stationery/Copying	Amazon	15.07	3.01	18.08
18/10/2025	Exp	Recreation Grounds	Barcombe Landscapes Ltd	1635.00	327.00	1,962.00

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Page 4 of 4

Date .....