

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Framfield Parish Council (PC) held at the Village Hall,
Blackboys, on Tuesday, 31 March 2026 at 5.30 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:

- South East Water Limited – the CEO, David Hinton, had been asked to attend a recent Scrutiny Committee at WDC where he was questioned over recent water outages in the District and if SE Water has the capability of providing water for housing in the Local Plan. Ann stated that she had been allowed to remind the CEO about the letter which the Parish Council has written to him about the fluctuations in pressure in Framfield and the ever overflowing hydrant on the A22. She had also received confirmation that the hydrant had been repaired as had the issues with low flows/pressure experienced by residents in Framfield which were the result of a faulty pressure relief valve (PRV). This was replaced on 24 March and flows/pressure should have returned to normal.
- Local Government Reorganisation Consultation – Ann reported a statement had now been received from Government stating that a further consultation would be held in early summer on a slightly new model of East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove but that the latter would take an area of Lewes and an area of West Sussex to equate the numbers. This would not be popular with either Lewes or the relevant area in West Sussex. The timetable going forwards was very much 'watch this space'!
- Wealden Draft 'Focused' Local Plan (Reg 18) Consultation – the consultation had been extended to 30 March 2026 due to issues with the relevant IT systems.

Councillor Chris Dowling (ESCC) reported on the following items plus the items detailed in section 8:

- Street lighting, Blackboys. Chris reported that issues from a resident regarding the streetlighting had been passed to ESCC. The Chairman stated that no doubt this would be passed back as the Parish Council owns all the lighting and is responsible for it. Their contractor has confirmed that all the lighting is compliant with current standards. The lighting could seem amplified somewhat because the lighting is in a rural dark area, but many of the lights from a distance don't even appear to be alight or are very dim because of the various factors such as road, angles, seating in a vehicle etc. Other than a couple of localised issues with specific lights causing illumination in the property, which are now resolved, the Parish Council has had multiple comments and thanks from residents.
- Road traffic accident, junction of High Street/Lewes Road, Blackboys – Chris felt this was most probably down to driver blame, speed etc.
- Pavement, Framfield Road, Blackboys. Chris reported that he had received an email from a resident asking why the new pavement had been stopped half way along the road. The Clerk reported that within the S278 agreement for the 50-house site, the developer was required to renew the pavement from the site to School Lane. The first phase of the work was completed before Christmas but the second phase was delayed, but now due to start imminently. [Post meeting note: the works are set to run from 8 May - 30th May 2026].

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Maria Naylor and Trevor Boughton.

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 (27 January 2026)

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2026, 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.
 - Progress on refurbishment programme. The Clerk reported that the refurbishment programme is complete and the invoice paid for the works (CIL).
 - Resolve to remove three concrete lamp posts and replace with steel ones. The meeting agreed that this should go-ahead. The exact cost is to be confirmed but estimated to be in the region of £12,000.
 - Purchase lamp shields where necessary. Lamp shields have been purchased for three lights which due to their positioning had caused problems to the adjacent householders.
 - A further post to be put back to vertical. A check was to be carried out to make sure that it wasn't an optical illusion! The cost is in the region of £600.00
 - Progress on new energy contract. The Clerk reported that there is none due to the current stalemate with ESCC. However, there was actually no reason not to remain with them for the current year.
- Step Up Sports – update on the potential survey. The survey is going live for two weeks just after the Easter school holidays.
- Police 'street' meetings – 19 February 2026, 10-12 noon, Framfield Memorial Hall – update – on Framfield Trust agenda. These were thought to have gone well but had very little attendance.
- Replacement bus shelter – update - complete.

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 - Street Naming Consultation – development adjacent to 'Highlands'. The developer had settled on the name 'Cinderbank Place'.
- ESCC – Claimed Right of Way RWO 218 – Hempstead Lane – Appeal. The appeal had been allowed. Clerk to furnish David Jenner with a copy.
- Wealden Citizen's Advice – application for a grant – to be included going forward on July Parish Council agendas.
- Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance – application for a donation - to be included going forward on July Parish Council agendas.
- Mulberry Local Authority Services Ltd – future Internal Audits. The meeting agreed that they were happy to continue with the services of Mulberry especially as different auditors were involved.

6. Finance and General Purposes:

- a) Appointment of Estate Management and Cleaning contracts. The Clerk and Chairman were very pleased to report that a local company had initially been given the cleaning contract and then with the overlap in some of the works, and no interest from elsewhere, the taking on of the estate management contract was discussed and subsequently awarded to them as well.
- b) Vexatious Complainant Policy – action taken under policy. Members noted that the council's Vexatious Complainant Policy had been invoked in accordance with the adopted policy.
- c) Grass cutting, annual fee to residents – square at the top of Becketts Way, Framfield. The meeting agreed to keep the fee the same this year - £75.00 per household. The Clerk to ask the grounds maintenance contractors to do a cut as soon as they can.
- d) 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).
- e) 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).
- f) Any other financial/general purposes matters.
 - Assertion 10 – update – Accessibility Statement on website.
 - Review of IT Policy – the meeting agreed the revised policy (DJ/TB). Everyone also signed their individual forms agreeing to the use of email for Council business.

- Framfield Allotments – future administration. The Clerk explained the administrative position of the charitable trust and the meeting agreed to re-visit it with the Charity Commission. The Chairman reported that following a site visit by the grounds maintenance contractor there had been an incident of fly tipping on the site.

7. Planning Committee.

- The minutes/delegated comments since the last Parish Council meeting were agreed as read.
- Local Plan Consultation – timetable extended to 30 March 2026. Response from the Parish Council submitted and circulated.
 - Letter from Horam Parish Council. The letter was asking for an extension to the original deadline due to issues with the portal for responding.

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

- Liaison with ESCC on highway matters:
 - Lewes Road, Blackboys
 - Update on CMF – speed survey and costs. The Chairman reported that although seemingly a final figure had been agreed for the overall cost, a speed survey was now required by the Police at a cost of approximately £1,000.00. The matter is now back with the Police.
 - High Street, Blackboys, speed limit – update – a meeting had been held with ESCC officers but although the Parish Council asked for some increase in progress to date the relevant officers had still not had the opportunity to discuss it with Sussex Police and, the relevant Traffic Manager who they liaise with over speed limit changes and the subsequent consultations. The Chairman is going to escalate the matter.
 - Palehouse Common – lorry routing signs – Chris reported that the designs/costings were underway although there was no source of funding at present.
 - Road traffic collisions – B2102/Pound Lane – with ESCC. The matter was discussed at the recent meeting and ESCC had agreed to improve signage indicating that there is a sharp bend.
 - Holly Grove – formal complaint to ESCC. Due to complete lack of progress, the Chairman reported that he is taking the matter to the Ombudsman.
 - Speed Indication Devices. The Chairman had enquired of ESCC the policy behind installing any such devices and it seemingly appeared prohibitive due to cost and bureaucracy! There also seemed to be no answer to the repair of either the VAS in Blackboys or the School sign in Framfield, as any repairs are carried out on a risk basis only!
- Clerk – report on any other items not recorded elsewhere in the agenda.
 - Etchingwood Lane – bend sign on very sharp left hand turn – with ESCC.
 - Bridge, Brookhouse Lane – damaged – reported to ESCC. The Clerk stated that she had a fault number but the work had still not been carried out.
 - Flood marker – Etchingwood Lane. This had been brought to the attention of the Parish Council by a resident concerned with the amount of surface water which accumulates when it rains heavily and the fact that a flood marker had been in place. The meeting discussed the matter but felt that they could not justify the cost of putting a new official marker in place with the need for licences etc. The suggestion was made that perhaps an informal sign could be put in the hedge, ie on private property.
 - Letter to South East Water Limited. The Chairman reported that a letter had been sent to the CEO of S E Water Ltd over the recent fluctuations and water quality to supplies across the Parish – further detailed above. No reply had yet been officially received and the query about the levels of chlorine in the water not addressed. A resident had an appointment to have their water tested but it was cancelled by SE Water at the last minute as not being booked!
 - New noticeboards. The meeting agreed to go-ahead with new noticeboards preferably free-standing ones.
 - Parish Magazine – renewal of advertisements. The Clerk stated that she had achieved a good number of advertisements so that the income would cover the costs this year.

9. 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.

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

There were none.

11. Exclusion of the Public:

To give consideration under the Local Government Act 1972, Section 100 (A)(4), to the public being excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it (they) involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12a of the Act.

This was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by David Jenner.

12. Legal advice.

The meeting agreed that legal advice should be sought from ESALC.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 19.15.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (the Annual Parish Council meeting) will be held on Tuesday, 26 May 2026 commencing at 5.30 pm followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 6 pm, both in the Village Hall, Blackboys.

Income and Expenditure January, February & March 2026

Invoice Date	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Payment	Comments	Pre VAT	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
28/02/2026	Inc	Interest	OLB	Redwood Interest	249.93		249.93
31/01/2026	Inc	Interest	OLB	Redwood Interest	277.34		277.34
16/03/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	Cam Paving	65.00		65.00
16/03/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	Vince Taylor Toff	130.00		130.00
13/03/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	Sam Walker	150.00		150.00
13/03/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	Dawson Hart	260.00		260.00
09/03/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	Richard Green	85.00		85.00
06/03/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	D'Angelo	130.00		130.00
06/03/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	Paynes	260.00		260.00
02/03/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	Burtenshaw	65.00		65.00
02/03/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	Beeney	65.00		65.00
27/02/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	James Batten	130.00		130.00
26/02/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	D Thorogood	150.00		150.00
24/02/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	OJH Roofing	150.00		150.00
23/02/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	Bignose	150.00		150.00
23/02/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	MD Locks	85.00		85.00
23/02/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	J Ward	65.00		65.00
10/03/2026	Inc	Other	OLB	Lottery	12.50		12.50
17/02/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	Hendall Manor	65.00		65.00
16/02/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	E&M Plumbing	260.00		260.00
16/02/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	Frogheath	150.00		150.00
16/02/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	Go Pest	65.00		65.00
13/02/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	CWH Funeral	260.00		260.00
12/02/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	Steven Seear	65.00		65.00
12/02/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	Joseph Cowen	65.00		65.00
12/02/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	Stephen Wood	150.00		150.00
11/02/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	Kyoto Ltd	150.00		150.00
10/02/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	Alex The Vet	130.00		130.00
10/02/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	Treewise	65.00		65.00
09/02/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	Parker & Son	300.00		300.00
09/02/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	CP Domestics	65.00		65.00
09/02/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	Downslands Design	150.00		150.00
09/02/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	Bargai	85.00		85.00
09/02/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	Ross Chimney Sweep	85.00		85.00
06/02/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	Cross in Hand Tennis	130.00		130.00
04/02/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	Marten Investments	130.00		130.00
04/02/2026	Inc	Income-Parish Mag	OLB	Optimal Stra	150.00		150.00
10/02/2026	Inc	Other	OLB	Lottery	12.50		12.50
Invoice Date	Income/Exp	Item Heading	Payment Ref	Comments	Pre VAT VALUE (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
19/03/2026	Exp	Pension	OLB	NEST	563.76		563.76
03/03/2026	Exp	Subscriptions	OLB	Sussex Rural Community Cour	155.00		155.00
16/03/2026	Exp	General	OLB	Ring Solo Plan	49.99		49.99
02/03/2026	Exp	Dog Bins	OLB	Wealden DC	825.00	165.00	990.00
28/02/2026	Exp	Website	OLB	Ionos	27.50	5.50	33.00
02/03/2026	ACC	General	OLB	CIL	-1375.00		(1,375.00)
02/03/2026	Exp	General	OLB	Fuzion Ltd	1375.00	275.00	1,650.00
20/02/2026	Exp	Telephone/Internet	OLB	BT	71.01	14.20	85.21
20/02/2026	ACC	General	OLB	CIL	-2545.00		(2,545.00)
20/02/2026	Exp	General	OLB	Fuzion Ltd	2545.00	509.00	3,054.00
24/02/2026	Exp	Staff Costs	OLB	Staff Costs	4968.57		4,968.57
17/02/2026	Exp	NI & Paye	OLB	WG Accounting	1709.81		1,709.81
06/02/2026	Exp	Parish Magazine	OLB	Print Matters	556.50		556.50
06/02/2026	Exp	Parish Magazine	OLB	Barry Richardson	150.00		150.00
17/02/2026	Exp	Stationery/Copying	OLB	Amazon	13.45	2.69	16.14
10/02/2026	ACC	General	OLB	CIL	-6256.80		(6,256.80)
10/02/2026	Exp	General	OLB	D Thorogood	6256.80	1,251.36	7,508.16
16/01/2026	Exp	NI & Paye	OLB	WG Accounting	1242.67		1,242.67
13/02/2026	Exp	Pension	OLB	NEST	330.80		330.80
28/01/2026	Exp	Website	OLB	Ionos	37.50	7.50	45.00
30/01/2026	Exp	Insurance	OLB	Gallagher Insurance	-100.00		(100.00)
29/01/2026	Exp	Hall Hire	OLB	Trans BBT	24.00		24.00
23/01/2026	Exp	Staff Costs	OLB	Staff Costs	3010.06		3,010.06

Signed

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Date

