

FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL: Tuesday 8th July 2025, 7.13pm, Firle Village Hall.

Members in Attendance: Cllr Hill (Chair), Cllr Bolger, Cllr Lance, Cllr Symes. **Members not in Attendance:** Cllr Barr.

Others Present: Lorna Thwaites, Clerk and RFO.

Members of the Public in Attendance: None. **Questions Received from the Public:** None.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllr Barr.
2. **NO DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS** were received **AND NO REQUESTS FOR A DISPENSATION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**, as required by the Members Code of Conduct.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the ordinary meeting of Firle Parish Council held on 10th June 2025 were RESOLVED to be a correct record and were signed by the Chair.
4. **FINANCE/ADMIN:**
 - 4.1 Payments to be made in July were AUTHORISED and the bank reconciliation was RECEIVED and SIGNED.
 - 4.2 Further details of the timescales for spending CIL monies were NOTED: The 5-year deadline is per payment; payments can be grouped together but the oldest payment of £830.40 will need to be spent by the end of September 2029.
 - 4.3 The Council RESOLVED to pay for the summer mow of the Millennium Woods at a maximum cost of £150.
5. **TO SIGN THE LEGAL AGREEMENT WITH FIRLE VILLAGE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS: DEFERRED.**
6. **GRANT AWARDS/S137.**
 - 6.1 VJ Day – Firle Village Hall. RESOLVED to award £500 from reserves and the Clerk will confirm by email.
7. **REPORT(S):**
 - 7.1 Reports from Local and District Councillors and the MP for Lewes: RECEIVED and NOTED from Cllr O’Brien.
8. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
 - 8.1 Southdowns National Park – Vanessa Rowlands: The Council AGREED to invite Ms Rowlands to attend the September or October meeting and to consider sharing the meeting with Glynde and Beddingham.
 - 8.2 Thank you – ActionAgainstAbuse. NOTED.
 - 8.3 Funds to cover the shortfall in fireworks costs – R.Gravett: The Council reviewed the minutes of 6th June 2024 and AGREED that there has been a misunderstanding; when the Council was advised that Firle Bonfire Society was organising fireworks the Council understood that a grant application would be submitted if required; however, the Council now understand that fireworks were not being planned by Firle Bonfire Society and there had been a mis-communication; the Council AGREED that to avoid this happening in the future, all communications should be by email to the clerk.
9. **HIGHWAYS:**
 - 9.1 The pothole outside the village hall is still pending.
 - 9.2 Thanks were given for the clearing and cleaning of 30mph signs in the village that needed attention; Cllrs will check if any further signs need attention.
10. **PLANNING: Applications Received:**
 - 10.1 **SDNP/25/01672/FUL Proposal:** Installation of PV panels to pitched roofs and replacement of existing roof covering with new concrete tiles to 5no bungalows **Location:** 1,3,4,5 And 7 School Bungalows, Bostal Road, Firle, East Sussex. (comments by 15 July 2025). COMMENTS AGREED - NEUTRAL.
 - 10.2 **SDNP/25/02540/TCA Proposal:** T1- Cherry- Reduce height and width of crown by 2m keeping wound size to a minimum, cutting to suitable growth points, keeping wound size to a minimum, leaving a well-balanced crown- the tree is excessively shading the garden and the work will reduce sail effect reducing the risk of limb failure **Location:** 18 The Street, Firle, East Sussex, BN8 6NR. (comments by 8th July 2025). COMMENTS AGREED - NEUTRAL.
 - 10.3 **SDNP/25/02702/TCA Proposal:** T1- Sycamore- Remove & Replace with similar T2- Beech Hedgerow- Re-shape form after Sycamore removal. 3-4m Reduction over outbuilding. Remove Limb 1N over outbuilding **Location:** 53 Crossways, Wick Street, Firle, East Sussex, BN8 6LG (comments by 18 July). COMMENTS AGREED - NEUTRAL.
11. **MATTERS ARISING:**
 - 11.1 No further plans have been proposed for the car park: The Council discussed need for overflow car park in the summer and weekends and AGREED the following schedule for August: Cllr Bolger will do the first week; Cllr Symes the second week; Cllr Lance the third week; and Cllr Hill the fourth week.

11.2 A response on the ownership of the wall in front of the memorial has not yet been received from Firle Estate; Cllr Symes has the 4 top caps; the Council AGREED to defer to the meeting in September.

11.3 The Council RESOLVED to support VJ Day activities on 15th August 2025 and have agreed a grant to the village hall committee for fireworks under item 6.1.

11.4 The Clerk has circulated some information on electric car charging points; the Clerk will ask Cllrs Denis and O'Brien if they are aware of any funding becoming available to parish councils; Cllr Bolger will investigate further.

12. PROJECTS:

12.1 Assets of Community Value

12.1.1 The is no further update on the nomination of the Millennium Woods and the Allotments as an Asset of Community Value.

13. ITEMS AGREED FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE. James McCleary, M.P. visit on 12th August.

14. THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL: 9th September 2025, 7PM
Firle Village Hall.

15. THE MEETING CLOSED AT 20.18.