

FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL: Tuesday 14th July 2026, 7pm, Firle Village Hall.

Members in Attendance: Cllr Hill (Chair), Cllr Barr (Vice-Chair) arrived 19.11, Cllr James, Cllr Symes.

Members not in Attendance: 1 **Others Present:** Lorna Thwaites, Clerk and RFO.

Members of the Public in Attendance: 0 **Questions Received from the Public:** None.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllr Lance.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS AND TO CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FOR A DISPENSATION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA,** as required by the Members Code of Conduct: None received.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the ordinary meeting of Firle Parish Council held on 9th June 2026 were RESOLVED to be a correct record and were signed by the Chair.
4. **FINANCE & ADMIN:**
 - 4.1 The July finance report and bank reconciliation were SIGNED and payments to be made were AUTHORISED.
 - 4.2 Photographs of key assets were RECEIVED: The War Memorial is registered with the Imperial War Museum but not listed; the Butter Cross is not registered; the Clerk was asked to investigate having the items Listed.
 - 4.3 The response of Mulberry LAS with regards to the Internal Audit 2026-27 was RECEIVED and NOTED: The Council are entering its final year of a three-year engagement period; the Council NOTED that Mulberry LAS are expecting the 2026/7 audit to take between 3 and 3.5 hours.
 - 4.4 The IT policy was ADOPTED.
 - 4.5 There is no August Parish Council meeting and the Council discussed September attendance and the need to be quorate; Cllr Hill will be absent.
5. **GRANT AWARDS:** None received.
6. **REPORT(S):**
 - 6.1 Reports were RECEIVED from Local and District Councillors and the MP for Lewes: apologies were received from Cllrs Denis, O'Brien and Agace.
 - 6.2 The minutes from the LDALC meeting of 30th April 2026 were RECEIVED.
7. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
 - 7.1 Home Office Martyn's Law Webinar, 20th July 14.20 -15.30: Cllr Hill to attend if available.
 - 7.2 The Dock pavement: The Clerk was asked to respond to the parishioner's request and to advise that Firle Estate are responsible; the Council NOTED that there were overgrown branches at the bottom of the Street and some Black Tile House has bramble overgrowth from the hall to the Ram Inn; the Clerk to write letters to relevant homeowners to ask they remove overgrowth.
8. **MATTERS ARISING:**
 - 8.1 Responses expressing interest in ecology projects were RECEIVED from Firle Primary School and a local resident; the Clerk will send links to Cllr Hill for Hedgehog conservation websites; an article to be included in the parish magazine; the Council discussed a nighttime wildlife camera which Cllr Hill will investigate.
 - 8.2 The response of O2 regarding concerns regarding the poor mobile signal was RECEIVED and NOTED: Their signals are fully upgraded in Firle; customers are encouraged to do a mobile network re-set on their phones; If this doesn't work, customers should call O2 directly and ask for an updated SIM as this might also be causing the issue if an old SIM is still being used; the Council AGREED to put this information in the parish magazine.
 - 8.3 Cllr Hill has submitted a response to the consultation on the modification to the two unitary proposals received from East Sussex County Council, Eastbourne Borough Council, Lewes District Council and Rother District Council.
 - 8.4 An update on litter bin options was RECEIVED: The response from LDC to questions raised by the Council was discussed; Cllr Symes has also spoken to one of the refuse operatives who suggested swapping the double bin from the car park to the playground; the Council AGREED the following: Cllrs Symes and Barr will swap the car park and playground bins over; to request a fortnightly emptying schedule from 01 November to 31 March for all bins; a double bin at the cricket ground will be ordered at a cost of £484 plus £50 installation; the Clerk was asked to investigate if CIL funding can be used for the new bin.
 - 8.5 The Council agreed not to respond to the Lewes and Eastbourne Planning Policy Consultation on Community Involvement for Lewes District: Firle is within the SDNP and the consultation is not relevant for Firle.
9. **HIGHWAYS:**

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9.1 ESH have advised they will not cut back the overgrown foliage on the eastern side of the turning from Wick Street: The Council AGREED to report again.

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS: To AGREE comments for any applications received:

10.1 **SDNP/26/02081/LIS Proposal:** Internal repairs and insulation upgrades to the right-hand outshot to expose and conserve historic timbers **Location:** 81 Heighton Street, Firle, East Sussex, BN8 6NZ (comments by 22nd July 2026). Response AGREED: NEUTRAL.

11. ITEMS AGREED FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE: The hedgehog project; O2 response; date of next meeting.

12. NO AGENDA ITEMS PROPOSED FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL.

13. THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL: 8th September, 7pm Firle Village Hall.

14. THE MEETING CLOSED at 20.09.