

FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Councillors, you are summoned to attend an Ordinary Meeting of **FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL** to be held on **Tuesday 14th July 2026, 7pm** Firle Village Hall. *Lorna Thwaites*, Firle Parish Clerk, 8th July 2026.

To RECEIVE questions from the Public:

AGENDA INFORMATION

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** To receive and accept apologies for absence.
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.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** To RESOLVE that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Firle Parish Council held on 9th June 2026 are a correct record and signed by the Chair.
4. **FINANCE & ADMIN:**
 - 4.1 To RECEIVE and SIGN the July finance report and bank reconciliation and AUTHORISE payments to be made.
 - 4.2 To RECEIVE photographs of key assets and to RECEIVE details of the registration of the war memorial and the butter cross.
 - 4.3 To RECEIVE the response of Mulberry LAS with regards to the Internal Audit 2026-27.

Your current internal audit contract with us already includes the 2026/27 year, as the final year of the existing three-year engagement period the council agreed.

I understand your question regarding the additional costs where the audit may take longer, particularly for a smaller council with a limited budget, but the audit requirements can change over the years. This did indeed happen in 25/26, where the new audit testing for Governance Assertion 10 was included for the first time. All audit testing is sample based, so the depth of testing is reliant on that initial sample. We are also guided by the guidance given by external auditors to both councils and internal audit as to any specific areas of focus they require attention to be paid to.

As a result of the increased requirements both now and in future years, I understand that the 2027/28 Practitioner's Guide (which is likely to be renamed Proper Practices) will include a guide for councils as to how long an internal audit is likely to take based on the size of the council, which I am sure will be of help to all councils in setting their budgets.

In the meantime, for 2026/27, and assuming there are no issues with any of the testing for your council, I would expect it to take between 3 to 3.5 hours.
 - 4.4 To ADOPT the IT policy. [On website – needed to meet assertion 10](#)
 - 4.5 To DISCUSS an August Parish Council meeting/September attendance.
5. **GRANT AWARDS:**
6. **REPORT(S):**
 - 6.1 To RECEIVE reports from Local and District Councillors and the MP for Lewes.
 - 6.2 To RECEIVE the minutes from the LDALC meeting of 30th April 2026. [On website agenda info](#)
7. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:** To RECEIVE the following correspondence and AGREE any actions:
 - 7.1 Home Office Martyn's Law Webinar, 20th July 14.20 -15.30 – ESALC.

Please be advised that the Home Office will be holding a webinar between 14:30 and 15:30 on 20 July 2026 via Teams to provide more information on the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, commonly known as Martyn's Law. This webinar will be of direct interest to parish and town councils and will cover the below agenda points:

 - Provide an overview of the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025.
 - Outline what it means for premises and events in scope.
 - Provide an update on the Home Office Section 27 Statutory Guidance and on the Security Industry Authority's proposed approach to regulation.
 - Allow time for a Q&A session.
 - 7.2 The Dock pavement – parishioner.

As you know, the pavement in the Dock is in poor condition. Perhaps the estate will repair it in due course. In the meantime it is getting very overgrown. Can you ask for the growth to be removed please.
8. **MATTERS ARISING:**
 - 8.1 To RECEIVE any response to ecology projects – Cllr Hill.

FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

- 8.2 To RECEIVE the response of O2 regarding concerns regarding the poor mobile signal.

I have used the network coverage checker for O2, which advises there is good indoor and outdoor coverage in Firle. It does give a list of things that affect the signal, which might be useful to be aware of (if you aren't already). There is also guidance on another page which suggests that sometimes phones and pending updates might be an issue. Perhaps it might be useful for the person who contacted the Parish Council to have this information?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c621nnq4pm7o>.

I have spoken to O2 - the signals are all fully upgraded in Firle, do mobile network re-set on their phones. This issue has been reported in other areas and refreshing the system inside of the phone the majority of customers got a better signal after a re-set.

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.

- 8.3 To RECEIVE an update on the 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 – Cllr Hill.

- 8.4 To RECEIVE an update on litter bin options.

No response from the alternative contractor contacted.

Forms need signing with LDC and the bin locations they have noted checking – I will bring these forms with me.

Info from LDC on questions asked

- When will Firle be invoiced for the collections? Is the invoice in arrears and what is the invoice frequency?
 - a. The invoices will be generated for July and are 3 months in advance
- Can Firle have a reduced schedule in the winter months when the bins aren't so well used?
 - a. Yes
- When do we need to notify of this?
 - a. Ideally 3 months in advance at the very least 1 month.
- A bin replacement may be needed for Firle Cricket Club – where can I see the options on sizes and costs and installation?

Bin sizes and costs

112L

Dimensions	Price	Installation
980mm height x 550mm width x 550mm depth	£314.99	£50.00

224L

Dimensions	Price	Installation
970mm height x 1000mm width x 550mm depth	£484.99	£50.00

- 8.5 To AGREE to respond to the Lewes and Eastbourne Planning Policy Consultation on Community Involvement for Lewes District – Cllr Hill.

9. HIGHWAYS:

- 9.1 To RECEIVE ESH's response to the overgrown foliage on the eastern side of the turning from Wick Street.

They have visited and decided no action required.

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).

11. TO AGREE ITEMS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE.

12. TO PROPOSE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL.

13. TO RECEIVE THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL.

14. TO CLOSE THE MEETING.