

FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL: Tuesday 10th March 2026, 7.04pm, Firle Village Hall. **Members in Attendance:** Cllr Hill (Chair), Cllr Barr (Vice Chair), Cllr Symes.

Members not in Attendance: Cllr Lance. **Others Present:** Lorna Thwaites, Clerk and RFO, Cllr Denis (arrived 19.49).

Members of the Public in Attendance: James Paul – co-option candidate. **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: Agenda item 6, Cllr Barr is the Chair of Firle Village Hall and Playing Fields Committee.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the ordinary meeting of Firle Parish Council held on 10th February 2026 was RESOLVED to be a correct record and signed by the Chair.
4. **FINANCE/ADMIN:**
 - 4.1 Payments to be made in March were AUTHORISED and the bank reconciliation was RECEIVED and SIGNED.
 - 4.2 An update on spend vs budget was RECEIVED: 71% of the budget is now spent, excluding March payments.
5. **CO-OPTION:** An application was RECEIVED and the Council RESOLVED to co-opt Mr James Paul to be a Member of Firle Parish Council; Mr Paul SIGNED the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting as a Parish Councillor.
6. **GRANTS APPLICATION RECEIVED:** An application was RECEIVED from Firle Village Hall; as the FVHPFC Chair, Cllr Barr did not vote on the application; the Council RESOLVED to award £700, 25% of the project to upgrade the boiler, heating system and storage; the Council AGREED the Clerk would make this payment before the end of March despite not being on the payment schedule.
7. **REPORT(S):**
 - 7.1 A report was RECEIVED and NOTED from Cllr O'Brien; Cllr Denis arrived later in the meeting and spoke of his concerns for people using kerosene heating oil – the war in Iran has raised the price of oil which will be of particular concern for people with oil heating and may impact vulnerable residents; Cllr Denis is looking into the matter and will update the Clerk and provide an article for the parish magazine.
 - 7.2 A verbal report on the SDNP Parish Meeting was RECEIVED: This online meeting discussed the Partnership Management Plan; the Climate Change Action Network; engaging youth volunteers in the management of the countryside and housing projects in the National Park; applications for CIL funding from SDNP are now open and it was NOTED that CIL funds can be used for infrastructure projects.
8. **MATTERS ARISING:**
 - 8.1 An update on fly tipping in the village was RECEIVED: There has been more instances with cardboard dumped on Heighton Street and someone was found dumping items by the archery club; the issue has been raised with Firle Estate; FPC discussed the possibility of a gate being re-instated on Heighton Street.
 - 8.2 The Council AGREED to complete the litter bin audit for LDC and Cllr Hill will provide W3Words for the locations.
 - 8.3 FVHPFC have given their permission for a memorial bench; Firle Cricket Club have yet to be contacted, and the Clerk was asked to liaise with the Hall Secretary.
 - 8.4 The response of FPC to the LDC Local Plan consultation was RATIFIED: The Council expressed its thanks to Cllr Hill for the work she undertook to respond to the consultation.
9. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
 - 9.1 A27 Overnight closures (from 03 March) – National Highways: NOTED; the distribution of the letter from National Highways was sporadic and not received by all residents in Firle; the detail of how to access Firle wasn't clear in the letter; Cllr Barr suggested residents travel with something containing their Firle address to help them gain access.
 - 9.2 Proposed Reforms to the NPPF – CPRE Sussex: NOTED, the Council AGREED that it would not respond.
10. **HIGHWAYS:**
 - 10.1 An update on the blocked drains by Redwood Cottage in Wick Street was RECEIVED: Cllr Hill took videos of the blocked drain and sent them to ESH; she has been advised they are going to be jetted but there is no timescale for this work.
 - 10.2 An update on the blocked drain 42B, the Bostal: Cllr Lance has sent a video of the water flowing down the road; ESH have advised it is going to be inspected but there has been no further update; Cllr Denis will follow up.

10.3 Repairs to The Street sign are now complete.

11. PLANNING: No Applications received:

12. PROJECTS:

12.1 Footpath

12.1.1 To RECEIVE information further to the investigations of Cllr Barr on the footpath on the western side of The Street – Cllr Barr: The Council AGREED to defer until May and to contact Mr Andrew Lusted asking if he has any records of a footpath leading from the school down to Crossways and also on the north side of Wick Street to Stamford Buildings; it is believed to have been in existence in the mid-1960s-1980s.

12.2 Assets of Community Value

12.2.1 The Council AGREED there are no further assets to be nominated.

13. ITEMS AGREED FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE: Dog fouling; Volunteer's Tea attendance; Cllr Denis's item re oil.

14. THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL: 14th April, 7pm

15. THE MEETING CLOSED at 20.34.