

FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

To RECEIVE questions from the Public:

The first ten minutes are available for public participation before the start of the meeting. During this time, members of the public may ask questions or make representations, in respect of business on the agenda. Members of the public may only speak at other points during the meeting if they have knowledge or information that will aid the discussion and will only speak at the Chair's discretion.

AGENDA INFORMATION

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** To RECEIVE and ACCEPT apologies for absence.
- 2. TO HEAR FROM MS V.ROWLANDS, CHAIR SDNPA AND CHAIR NATIONAL PARKS ENGLAND.**
- 3. 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.
- 4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** To RESOLVE that the minutes of the annual meeting of Firle Parish Council held on 2nd September 2025 are a correct record and signed by the Chair.
- 5. FINANCE/ADMIN:**
 - 5.1 To AUTHORISE payments to be made in October and to RECEIVE and SIGN the bank reconciliation.
 - 5.2 To RECEIVE an update on spend vs budget 2025-26.
- 6. BUDGET 2026-27:**
 - 6.1 To AGREE the direction of the budget 2026-2027.
- 7. THE LEGAL AGREEMENT WITH FIRLE VILLAGE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS.**
 - 7.1 To RECEIVE feedback from FVHPFC regarding the inclusion of the Tennis Club and to AGREE any amends.
- 8. REPORT(S):**
 - 8.1 To RECEIVE reports from Local and District Councillors and the MP for Lewes.
- 9. MATTERS ARISING:**
 - 9.1 To RECEIVE an update on the works to repair the wall in front of the memorial.
 - 9.2 To RECEIVE correspondence re interest in a bus service from Ringmer and Newhaven to Firle Village School.

I am so sorry that it has taken me this long to get back to you. We really appreciate the support from the Parish Council. Please see the information requested below.

1. How many children are currently on roll? 54
2. How many children attend from outside the catchment area? 25
3. Is the school interested in attracting more children from outside the catchment area (i.e. from places such as Ringmer and Newhaven)? Yes definitely, we are targeting nurseries with our fliers for open days and want to get on to their social media platforms
4. Would the school like the support of Firle Parish Council in lobbying for a bus service to bring children from Ringmer and Newhaven to the school? That would be great but the local authority removed the Glynde bus and I think due to spaces being available in other schools they won't agree to this. However, I am more than happy for you to approach them

Email from Cllr Kay, Ringmer:

Our Primary School (315 places) was scheduled to have 300-ish pupils on the roll this September. The vacancies are concentrated in three school years - other years are full, Ringmer currently has about 2250 houses.

We are due to have six new major developments (439 new homes) completed within the next 2 years. Two of these (160 homes) will be affordable-only developments, which usually provide far more primary school children than the standard 1 per 4-5 houses ratio used in ESCC planning. Even at the standard ratio that would deliver 80-100 additional primary-age children. The first batches of new homes (mainly affordable-rented homes) are due to be occupied next month. There are families waiting to move in.

The Primary School is certain to be overwhelmed. ESCC have belatedly woken up to this issue (after just saying everything would be fine for some years) but they don't have a plan. The only other primary schools accessible by public transport are Laughton (similar size to Firle) and South Malling (always full; Ringmer not in the catchment area). Obviously (and the reason for ESCC saying there was no problem) across the county the falling birthrate means there are too few children to fill all the places available, so ESCC have seen their big issue as managing a closure programme. However, vacancies in Bexhill are not much use to children living in Ringmer (or Barcombe, Chailey, Plumpton, Newick & Wivelsfield, all of whom are seeing new housing estates without the necessary infrastructure).

Unless the 125 bus service does things I don't know about, Ringmer children attending Firle would realistically only be able to do so by private transport. The families moving in to the new affordable-rented housing next month are unlikely to have private transport - they will be mainly townspeople from the coast used to travelling by bus. It will be interesting to see how they get on in a car-dependent village.

9.3 To RECEIVE updates regarding the recent sludge application and to AGREE further any actions – Cllr Hill.

9.4 To RECEIVE details of the remembrance service and to AGREE to send details to James MacCleary MP.

9.5 To RESOLVE to order a poppy wreath and make a donation.

9.6 To RESOLVE to buy dog fouling warning signs to use in parts of the village – Cllr Hill.

10. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

10.1 Police and Government Cyber Crime Support for Local Organisations – SECRC.

To support local organisations, we are offering practical tools, guidance, and resources to help identify and reduce vulnerabilities. This support is aimed at any organisation using email, websites, social media, or internet-connected devices, including parish councils, charities, and small businesses.

You can gain immediate access to funded security awareness training to help meet ICO guidance on data protection, regular threat updates and actionable guidance, and a direct link to police cyber security expertise. You can join the centre at www.secrc.police.uk, or simply reply to this email and I'll be happy to help.

10.2 Free 'Do Not Knock on Door' Stickers for Older People – Able Community Care. Does the parish council wish to order any free stickers or put details of the offer in the parish magazine?

10.3 Road Closure Order, Firle Bonfire – LDC. Details are on website.

10.4 LGA Update – B.Mabey. This email has already been forwarded and gave a link to a summary report following the recent consultation on the future boundary of Lewes District. This consultation had the highest response rate of any consultation to date. No more recent updates received.

10.5 Lewes District Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner Town and Parish Feedback Sessions – Sussex PCC.

Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner town and parish feedback sessions Autumn 2025.

Lewes online meeting 12th November 10.00-12.00.

Does any cllr wish to attend or are there any issues that you would like me to report?

10.6 Invitation to SDNPA Parish Meeting (Virtual) 01 Oct. Cllr Hill was attending.

10.7 Road Closure Application, Glynde, Beddingham and Firle Memorial Parade – LDC. Details are on the website. The deadline for comments is 14th October.

10.8 Supporting East Sussex Local Access Forum Recruitment – ESCC. This is a request to put details about volunteer roles on the local access forum (rights of way) on the parish council social media. The vacancies close on 31 Oct.

10.9 An invitation to Parish Councils from East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service.

I would like to invite you to help develop our Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2025-2030.

Our plan is focused on improving public safety, reducing the number of incidents, and saving lives, ensuring we meet the evolving needs of our communities.

Would you or a colleague be able to attend a partner forum online on the 24th of October at 10am-12pm?

Join us to discuss our plans for the future Tickets, Fri, Oct 24, 2025 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite

Alternatively we have a short survey which you can take online: Your voice is vital in Reducing Risk, Saving Lives - Together | East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

11. HIGHWAYS:

11.1 To RECEIVE an update on the foliage by village sign at the entrance to the village at Crossways – Cllr Barr.

12. PLANNING: Applications Received:

12.1 **SDNP/25/03722/HOUS Proposal:** Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension to replace, alterations to fenestration and external surface treatment to ground floor walling installation of solar panels to east and west facing roofline. (Amendment to approval SDNP/22/00238/HOUS has not been implemented) **Location:** Trosley Lodge, The Street, Firle, East Sussex, BN8 6LQ (by 10 Oct).

13. PROJECTS:

13.1 **Assets of Community Value**

13.1.1 To RECEIVE an update on the nomination of the Millennium Woods and the Allotments as an ACV.

14. TO AGREE ITEMS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE.

15. TO RECEIVE THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL. 11th November

16. TO CLOSE THE MEETING.