

## **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 Chairman's discretion.

### **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 annual meeting of Firle Parish Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025 are a correct record and signed by the Chair. [On website](#)
4. **FINANCE/ADMIN:**
  - 4.1 To AUTHORISE payments to be made in June and to RECEIVE and SIGN the bank reconciliation.
  - 4.2 To RECEIVE the end of year finance report of actual spend vs budget. [On website. Income was slightly higher than forecast \(£600\) with CIL funding being a factor. Expenditure was -£1000 less than forecast. This was mainly due to not receiving an invoice for the bin emptying. I have spoken to ESCC but they don't know why Firle haven't received a bill and haven't come back to me to advise when Firle will be charged.](#)
  - 4.3 To RECEIVE details of the requirements of spending CIL monies. [CIL funding needs to be spent within 5 years of receipt or it can be reclaimed. I have sent the notification requested to SDNPA.](#)
  - 4.4 To RECEIVE confirmation of the renewal of the insurance policy. [Renewed.](#)
5. **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN:**
  - 5.1 To RECEIVE the internal audit report 2024/5 from Mulberry and Co. Completed. [No issues raised. The report is on the website.](#)
  - 5.2 The Clerk and Chair to SIGN the Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/5.
  - 5.3 The Clerk and Chair to SIGN AGAR Form 2.
6. **TO SIGN THE LEGAL AGREEMENT WITH FIRLE VILLAGE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS.** [Sent to Andrew to review with FVHPFC.](#)
7. **GRANT AWARDS/\$137.**
  - 7.1 To RECEIVE an application from Action Against Abuse. [Forwarded via email as several attachments. The amount requested is £1534.73](#)
8. **REPORT(S):**
  - 8.1 To RECEIVE reports from Local and District Councillors and the MP for Lewes.
  - 8.2 To RECEIVE a short report from the Clerk on the recent Clerk's meeting attended. [I will provide verbally.](#)
9. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
  - 9.1 Lewes District Cycle Parking Rack Grant. Funding up to £1000 per location. The deadline is 16<sup>th</sup> June. <https://lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/lewes-cycle-rack-grants>
  - 9.2 Draft East Sussex Freight and Rail Strategies – consultation. [The consultation is until 30<sup>th</sup> June. Following the adoption of the East Sussex Local Transport Plan 4 \(LTP4\) a new Freight Strategy and an updated Rail Strategy have been drafted and published for consultation.](#)

### **Draft Freight Strategy**

This new strategy for the County sets out the future vision for the delivery of improvements to the movement of freight in East Sussex. The strategy focuses on the following:

- 1 – Strategic freight movements
- 2 – Decarbonisation
- 3 – Last mile logistics
- 4– Planning & policy

### **Draft Rail Strategy**

This strategy has been updated and builds upon the East Sussex Rail Strategy and Action Plan that was previously approved by the County Council in 2013. This strategy sets out the future vision for the delivery of improvements to rail travel in East Sussex, specifically for passengers, and focuses on:

- 1 - Accessibility of rail network
- 2 - Integration with other modes

- 3 -Reliability and resilience
- 4 - Decarbonisation
- 5 - Journey time competitiveness
- 6 - Customer experience

The successful delivery of both strategies will require partnership working with a range of authorities and organisations.

## Public Consultation

The consultation has commenced and will be available until Monday 30 June 2025. The draft strategies and links to their respective consultations can be found online at [Freight & Rail Strategies | East Sussex County Council](#).

- 9.3 Invitation to Traffic Free Paths To/From Lewes. The invite has been forwarded. The event is being held on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 7pm in Lewes Climate Hub.
- 9.4 Southern Water Publishes Final Draft WRMP24. I'm writing to let you know that we've today published our Final Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2024, commonly referred to as Final Draft WRMP24. It's our long-term plan to ensure we provide secure and reliable water supplies for the future. We've finalised the plan and are publishing it at the same time as submitting it to the government to be formally approved by the Secretary of State.

The publication of this important document comes at a time when our region, along with the rest of the country, is feeling the pressures of the driest Spring since 1852.

It's more important than ever that we all use water wisely. The Environment Agency has identified that by 2050, almost 5 billion extra litres of water a day will be required to maintain public water supplies in England. More than half that need is in the South East – to improve the environment by taking less for public supplies and catering for rapid population growth, while planning for climate change and expected future droughts.

Our Final Draft WRMP24 outlines a number of projects we're developing to maintain water supplies across our region. The initiatives we're working on include reducing leakage (we reduced weekly leakage by more than 15% between April 2024 and April 2025 across our region – saving 17 million litres every day), improving water efficiency and developing new sources of water using water. We anticipate the draft will be formally published in Autumn 2025.

We are grateful to everyone who has helped us shape our plan as it's been developed. We will be writing to all who gave feedback as part of the consultation directly – notifying them of the plan's publication and where they can find the response to the query they raised.

We hope you enjoy reading our plan to keep taps and rivers flowing for generations to come. If you'd like to help us share ways everyone can use water wisely via your networks - more information can be found at [Save a little water](#).

- 9.5 Safer In Sussex Survey. This is an annual survey aimed at residents to find out if they have experienced crime and what makes them feel safer. <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=4-dt4pm39k2qfRZ1jH4zMXdwmDLAUxIbRdoavZrdJOJUNjg1MkVNUJZJMVUyMzNaMVczWVpBNjRIMS4u&route=shorturl>

## 9.6 Tennis Club

I am the treasurer of the tennis club and I have been asked by the club to find out what our position is as we try to have the court re-laid. Do we need to consult the parish council in any way? Also, is the parish council in a position to help financially? Could the parish council pay for the work to help with VAT costs? We have most of the money, about £18,000 of £20,000 it will cost.

## 10. HIGHWAYS:

- 10.1 To RECEIVE an update on the pothole outside the village hall – Cllr Lance.
- 10.2 A27 Drainage and Resurfacing Works. This was emailed to the Council and was for 5<sup>th</sup> June.

## 11. PLANNING: Applications Received:

- 11.1 SDNP/25/01919/HOUS Proposal: Erection of rear dormer to create enough headroom to use space as family bathroom and dressing area **Location:** Little Talland , The Street, Firle, East Sussex, BN8 6NT

## 12. MATTERS ARISING:

- 12.1 To RECEIVE any further plans proposed for the car park and to AGREE any actions.
- 12.2 To RESOLVE to repair the wall in front of the memorial – Cllr Hill.

## 13. PROJECTS:

- 13.1 Assets of Community Value

13.1.1 To RECEIVE an update on the nomination of the Millennium Woods as an Asset of Community Value.

14. TO AGREE ITEMS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE.
15. TO RECEIVE THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL.
16. TO CLOSE THE MEETING.