

FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL: Tuesday 10th June 2025, 7.03pm

Firle Village Hall.

Members in Attendance: Cllr Hill (Chair), Cllr Barr (Vice-Chair) arrived 7.09, Cllr Bolger, Cllr Lance, Cllr Symes.

Members not in Attendance: None. **Others Present:** Lorna Thwaites, Clerk and RFO.

Members of the Public in Attendance: None.

Questions Received from the Public: None.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** None received.
2. **NO DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS WERE RECEIVED AND NO REQUESTS FOR A DISPENSATION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA, WERE MADE.**
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the Annual Meeting of Firle Parish Council held on 13th May 2025 were RESOLVED to be a correct record and were signed by the Chair.
4. **FINANCE/ADMIN:**
 - 4.1 Payments to be made in June were AUTHORISED and the bank reconciliation was RECEIVED and SIGNED.
 - 4.2 The end of year finance report of actual spend vs budget was RECEIVED: The Council discussed options for spending CIL funding and an idea of an electric charging point was raised; the Clerk was asked research costs and include on the agenda for the next meeting; the Council also discussed using CIL funding for other infrastructure benefits as and when they arise.
 - 4.3 Details of the requirements of spending CIL monies was RECEIVED: Funding must be spent within 5 years of receipt; the Clerk was asked to confirm if this is from the first receipt if being paid in instalments.
 - 4.4 The insurance policy has been renewed and the Council AGREED to pay the invoice.
5. **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN:**
 - 5.1 The internal audit report 2024/5 from Mulberry and Co was RECEIVED: The audit has been completed with no issues raised.
 - 5.2 The Clerk and Chair SIGNED the Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/5.
 - 5.3 The Clerk and Chair SIGNED the AGAR Form 2.
6. **TO SIGN THE LEGAL AGREEMENT WITH FIRLE VILLAGE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS:** DEFERED to the next meeting.
7. **GRANT AWARDS/S137.**
 - 7.1 An application from Action Against Abuse was RECEIVED: The Council AGREED to award £100 and to advise that this is a one-off award and represents 25% of the Firle Parish Council grant awards budget.
8. **REPORT(S):**
 - 8.1 Reports from Local and District Councillors and the MP for Lewes were NOTED: The Council AGREED to include warm home grants in the parish magazine and to send details to the Firle Estate Director.
 - 8.2 A short report from the Clerk was RECEIVED on the recent Clerk's meeting attended: The Council AGREED to put details of rural crime in the parish magazine.
9. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
 - 9.1 Lewes District Cycle Parking Rack Grant. NOTED, no further action.
 - 9.2 Draft East Sussex Freight and Rail Strategies – consultation: no response as not relevant to Firle.
 - 9.3 Invitation to Traffic Free Paths To/From Lewes: No cllrs are available to attend.
 - 9.4 Southern Water Publishes Final Draft WRMP24: NOTED.
 - 9.5 Safer In Sussex Survey: NOTED; the Council AGREED to put the survey in the parish magazine.
 - 9.6 Tennis Club: The Council AGREED it would need oversight of any changes to the tennis court, but the management is the responsibility of FVHPFC; The Council is unable to pay for any work to help with VAT.
10. **HIGHWAYS:**
 - 10.1 The Clerk will report the pothole outside the village hall and Cllr Symes will send a photograph.
 - 10.2 A27 Drainage and Resurfacing Works. NOTED.
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 (comments by 11 June 2025). AGREED to REMAIN NEUTRAL.
 - 11.2 **SDNP/25/01948/TCA Proposal:** T1. Ash: Ash Dieback, CAT 4- Fell to Base T2. Ash: Ash Dieback, CAT 4- Fell to Base T3. Ash: Ash Dieback, CAT 4- Fell to Base T4. Ash: Ash Dieback, CAT 4- Fell to Base T5. Ash: Ash

Dieback, CAT 4- Fell to Base T6. Ash: Ash Dieback, CAT 4- Fell to Base **Location:** Land adjacent to, Allotment Gardens, The Street, Firle, East Sussex (comments by 24 June 2025). AGREED to SUPPORT.

12. MATTERS ARISING:

12.1 No further plans proposed for the car park have been received.

12.2 The wall in front of the memorial is in need of repair; several coping stones have fallen off and there is a large crack which needs to be filled to stabilise the wall; a quote of @£100 has been received; the Council AGREED ask for costs and timescales for a permanent repair and if this was not feasible to proceed with the temporary repair for £100 (to be advised and agreed by email); the Council AGREED that Cllr Barr would liaise with the flint stone mason and would remove and store the coping stones; the Clerk was asked to contact Bob Baines and ask if the wall is owned by Firle Estate and to advise of the Council's concerns about the crack, with the wall by a bench there are health and safety concerns.

13. PROJECTS:

13.1 Assets of Community Value

13.1.1 Cllr Bolger AGREED to complete the nomination of the Millennium Woods as an Asset of Community Value and will include the allotments in the nomination.

14. ITEMS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE: Included in items above and the visit of James MacCleary, M.P.

15. THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL: 8th July 2025, 7pm in Firle Village Hall.

16. THE MEETING CLOSED at 20.48.