

FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Councillors, you are summoned to attend a meeting of **FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL** to be held on **Tuesday 13th January 2026, 7.00pm** Firle Village Hall. **Lorna Thwaites**, Firle Parish Clerk, Wednesday 7th January 2026.

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. 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 December 2025 are a correct record and signed by the Chair. [On website](#)
- 4. FINANCE/ADMIN:**
 - 4.1 To AUTHORISE payments to be made in January and to RECEIVE and SIGN the bank reconciliation.
 - 4.2 To AGREE meeting dates for April 2026 to March 2027. [Proposed dates on website](#)
- 5. BUDGET 2026-27:**
 - 5.1 To AGREE the allocation of reserves for 2026-2027. [Current reserve allocations on website](#).
- 6. TO AGREE ANY COMMENTS REGARDING THE WHOLE ESTATE PLAN – FIRLE ESTATE.**
- 7. REPORT(S):**
 - 7.1 To RECEIVE reports from Local and District Councillors and the MP for Lewes.
- 8. MATTERS ARISING:**
 - 8.1 To RECEIVE any responses to the letters and emails sent from Firle Parish Council with regards to Biosolids.
 - 8.2 To RECEIVE an update on the placement of dog fouling warning signs to use in parts of the village – Cllr Hill.
 - 8.3 To RECEIVE a response to the email sent to Firle Bonfire Society.
 - 8.4 To RECEIVE an update on the FVHPFC request regarding an outdoor gym – Cllr Barr.
- 9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
 - 9.1 ESALC subscription fees – ESALC. [Due to a variety of factors \(predominantly need to budget for an additional member of staff\) their subscription is increasing by 10%.](#)
 - 9.2 Cabinet Green Light for next LDC Local Plan consultation – LDC.
[Based on the government's formula for calculating housing need, the district is required to plan for approximately 15,000 homes over the plan period ending in 2042 for its plan area.](#)

[However, the council's spatial strategy is only able to identify a housing requirement of approximately 8,570 new homes during this period. This figure is based on evidence and reflects the constraints impacting the local plan area - such as borders with the South Downs National Park and the sea.](#)

[Councillor Zoe Nicholson, Leader of Lewes District Council, said: "We are consulting with our community on the next phase of the Local Plan, and remain clear that without major change in government policy and significant financial commitment, the top-down national formula target is entirely unreasonable.](#)

["Our position is underpinned by the most thorough analysis, and we urge everyone to contribute to the consultation to ensure all voices are heard."](#)

[The consultation will start during next week and run until February 28, 2026. For more details visit \[www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/Lewes-Local-Plan\]\(http://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/Lewes-Local-Plan\)](#)

- 9.3 SDNPA Draft Active Travel Network Plan and Vision Map – SDNPA. [Confirmation received that the cycle route and campsite have been added.](#)
- 9.4 Consultation response from Firle Parish Council – LDC. [The response of FPC has been received.](#)
- 9.5 Urban Grass Cutting 2026-7 – ESCC. [This email has been forwarded to clrs. The Highways Environmental Asset Lead has advised that both sides of the road leading up to the car park are wildlife verges and not included in the urban grass cutting programme.](#)

9.6 LDLAC Meeting – LDALC. The next meeting is 15th January. The agenda has been forwarded to clrs. Pls advise if you would like to attend.

9.7 Firle Boat Closing – Rights of Way. It should now be closed – Rights of Way team left it open longer due to the weather.

9.8 PFAS in Biosolids – office of James MacCleary MP. Just to update you the team in London have submitted two Written Parliamentary Questions to DEFRA to see if we can get a timeline and any more information. They might not get back to us before Recess next week but as soon as we get a response, we will let you know.

9.9 Briefing note on alternate weekly collections – LDC A progress update is on the website.

9.10 Fire Service Introduction – ESFRS. I work within the Risk Reduction (Prevention) team here at East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. Hopefully, you are already aware that we offer free Home Safety Visits where our team visit homes to:

Identify fire & rescue related risks and take steps to prevent them, for example fitting free smoke alarms and other equipment

Offer a range of guidance to keep people safe and independent in their own home. This includes identifying health and wellbeing needs to give advice or refer individuals (with their consent) to one of our partners to help them gain the support they need.

I am reaching out as we are keen to increase the reach of this service to the most vulnerable members of our communities. I wondered if you could advise who the most appropriate person at the council would be for me to engage with, to explore opportunities for sharing information and identifying events where we may be able to attend and promote the Home Safety Visits. Any guidance you can provide would be very much appreciated, thank you.

10. HIGHWAYS:

10.1 To RECEIVE an update on the blocked drains by Redwood Cottage in Wick Street – Cllr Barr.

10.2 To RECEIVE an update on the blocked drain 42B, the Bostal – Cllr Lance.

10.3 To RECEIVE an update on the leaf sweeping to The Street on 22nd December and to agree to request the area by the school corner to be swept next year.

10.4 To RECEIVE an update on the repairs to The Street sign.

11. PLANNING: Applications Received:

11.1 SDNP/25/05123/PA3R

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.

12.2 Assets of Community Value

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

13. TO AGREE ITEMS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE.

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

15. TO CLOSE THE MEETING.