

## **FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL**

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL:** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025, 7.13pm, Firle Village Hall. **Members in Attendance:** Cllr Hill (Chair), Cllr Bolger, Cllr Lance, Cllr Symes. **Members not in Attendance:** Cllr Barr. **Others Present:** Lorna Thwaites, Clerk and RFO.

**Members of the Public in Attendance:** None. **Questions Received from the Public:** None.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllr Barr.
2. **NO DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS** were received **AND NO 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:** The minutes of the ordinary meeting of Firle Parish Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025 were RESOLVED to be a correct record and were signed by the Chair.
4. **FINANCE/ADMIN:**
  - 4.1 Payments to be made in July were AUTHORISED and the bank reconciliation was RECEIVED and SIGNED.
  - 4.2 Further details of the timescales for spending CIL monies were NOTED: The 5-year deadline is per payment; payments can be grouped together but the oldest payment of £830.40 will need to be spent by the end of September 2029.
  - 4.3 The Council RESOLVED to pay for the summer mow of the Millennium Woods at a maximum cost of £150.
5. **TO SIGN THE LEGAL AGREEMENT WITH FIRLE VILLAGE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS: DEFERRED.**
6. **GRANT AWARDS/S137.**
  - 6.1 VJ Day – Firle Village Hall. RESOLVED to award £500 from reserves and the Clerk will confirm by email.
7. **REPORT(S):**
  - 7.1 Reports from Local and District Councillors and the MP for Lewes: RECEIVED and NOTED from Cllr O’Brien.
8. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
  - 8.1 Southdowns National Park – Vanessa Rowlands: The Council AGREED to invite Ms Rowlands to attend the September or October meeting and to consider sharing the meeting with Glynde and Beddingham.
  - 8.2 Thank you – ActionAgainstAbuse. NOTED.
  - 8.3 Funds to cover the shortfall in fireworks costs – R.Gravett: The Council reviewed the minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and AGREED that there has been a misunderstanding; when the Council was advised that Firle Bonfire Society was organising fireworks the Council understood that a grant application would be submitted if required; however, the Council now understand that fireworks were not being planned by Firle Bonfire Society and there had been a mis-communication; the Council AGREED that to avoid this happening in the future, all communications should be by email to the clerk.
9. **HIGHWAYS:**
  - 9.1 The pothole outside the village hall is still pending.
  - 9.2 Thanks were given for the clearing and cleaning of 30mph signs in the village that needed attention; Cllrs will check if any further signs need attention.
10. **PLANNING: Applications Received:**
  - 10.1 **SDNP/25/01672/FUL Proposal:** Installation of PV panels to pitched roofs and replacement of existing roof covering with new concrete tiles to 5no bungalows **Location:** 1,3,4,5 And 7 School Bungalows, Bostal Road, Firle, East Sussex. (comments by 15 July 2025). COMMENTS AGREED - NEUTRAL.
  - 10.2 **SDNP/25/02540/TCA Proposal:** T1- Cherry- Reduce height and width of crown by 2m keeping wound size to a minimum, cutting to suitable growth points, keeping wound size to a minimum, leaving a well-balanced crown- the tree is excessively shading the garden and the work will reduce sail effect reducing the risk of limb failure **Location:** 18 The Street, Firle, East Sussex, BN8 6NR. (comments by 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025). COMMENTS AGREED - NEUTRAL.
  - 10.3 **SDNP/25/02702/TCA Proposal:** T1- Sycamore- Remove & Replace with similar T2- Beech Hedgerow- Re-shape form after Sycamore removal. 3-4m Reduction over outbuilding. Remove Limb 1N over outbuilding **Location:** 53 Crossways, Wick Street, Firle, East Sussex, BN8 6LG (comments by 18 July). COMMENTS AGREED - NEUTRAL.
11. **MATTERS ARISING:**
  - 11.1 No further plans have been proposed for the car park: The Council discussed need for overflow car park in the summer and weekends and AGREED the following schedule for August: Cllr Bolger will do the first week; Cllr Symes the second week; Cllr Lance the third week; and Cllr Hill the fourth week.

11.2 A response on the ownership of the wall in front of the memorial has not yet been received from Firle Estate; Cllr Symes has the 4 top caps; the Council AGREED to defer to the meeting in September.

11.3 The Council RESOLVED to support VJ Day activities on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025 and have agreed a grant to the village hall committee for fireworks under item 6.1.

11.4 The Clerk has circulated some information on electric car charging points; the Clerk will ask Cllrs Denis and O'Brien if they are aware of any funding becoming available to parish councils; Cllr Bolger will investigate further.

**12. PROJECTS:**

**12.1 Assets of Community Value**

12.1.1 The is no further update on the nomination of the Millennium Woods and the Allotments as an Asset of Community Value.

**13. ITEMS AGREED FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE.** James McCleary, M.P. visit on 12<sup>th</sup> August.

**14. THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL:** 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 7PM  
Firle Village Hall.

**15. THE MEETING CLOSED AT 20.18.**