

FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Councillors, you are summoned to attend a meeting of **FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL** to be held on **Tuesday 10th March 2026, 7.00pm** Firle Village Hall. *Lorna Thwaites*, Firle Parish Clerk, Wednesday 4th March 2026.

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 10th February 2026 are a correct record and signed by the Chair.
4. **FINANCE/ADMIN:**
 - 4.1 To AUTHORISE payments to be made in March and to RECEIVE and SIGN the bank reconciliation.
 - 4.2 To RECEIVE an update on spend vs budget. [71% of the budget is achieved not including the March payments pending approval.](#)
5. **TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS AND TO RESOLVE TO APPOINT A PARISH COUNCILLOR BY CO-OPTION.**
6. **GRANTS APPLICATIONS RECEIVED.** [Expecting an application from Firle Village Hall.](#)
7. **REPORT(S):**
 - 7.1 To RECEIVE reports from Local and District Councillors and the MP for Lewes.
 - 7.2 To RECEIVE a verbal report on the SDNP Parish Meeting – Cllr Hill.
8. **MATTERS ARISING:**
 - 8.1 To RECEIVE an update on fly tipping in the village – Cllr Barr.
 - 8.2 To COMPLETE the litter bin audit for LDC.
 - 8.3 To RECEIVE the decisions of FVHPFC and Firle Cricket Club regarding the request for a memorial bench and to RESOLVE to give permission.
 - 8.4 To RATIFY the response of FPC to the LDC Local Plan consultation.
9. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
 - 9.1 A27 Overnight closures (from 03 March) – National Highways.
 - 9.2 Proposed Reforms to the NPPF – CPRE Sussex. [CPRE response letter is on website](#)

[As you will be aware, the government is currently consulting on radical changes to planning rules. In our view, while there are some details to be welcomed, overall the proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\):](#)

 - [Are highly centralising, further reducing the scope of local communities and their elected representatives to shape the places where they live, work and play;](#)
 - [Double down on unrealistic and undeliverable housing targets, opening the door to yet more speculative and unplanned development, which largely benefit landowners, land agents and a relatively small number of large development companies, and not people struggling with unaffordable rents, house prices or homelessness;](#)
 - [Fail to sufficiently prioritise essential infrastructure, or sustainable travel;](#)
 - [Undermine the idea that we should develop in ways that protect the ability of future generations to live well, and ignore the ecological underpinnings of all life;](#)
 - [Place countryside – whether formally ‘Protected’ or undesignated – under significant threat, and in doing so, harm wildlife, habitats, food security and other critical land uses.](#)

[Coming on top of the ‘pay to trash nature’ reforms of the Planning and Infrastructure Act, threats to protections for National Parks and National Landscapes \(aka AONBs\) under the Fingleton Review, and a government positioning nature and local communities as ‘blockers’ to economic success rather than building blocks, this is extremely worrying.](#)

[I have attached CPRE Sussex’s response to the current consultation, highlighting these issues in much more detail. We would very much encourage you to respond to the consultation and to make your views known to the Secretary of State, Steve Reed.](#)

[Yours faithfully](#)
[Paul Steedman](#)
[Director, CPRE Sussex](#)
10. **HIGHWAYS:**
 - 10.1 To RECEIVE an update on the blocked drains by Redwood Cottage in Wick Street.

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you. We are currently experiencing an unprecedented volume of reports, which has caused delays both in the steward's inspection and in receiving their feedback.

The steward has now attended and requested that one of the drains be jetted due to visible pooling around the gully.

At this stage, we do not have a confirmed timescale for when this will be carried out, but please be assured it will be completed as soon as possible.

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

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

11. PLANNING: Applications Received: [None received.](#)

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 AGREE any further assets to be nominated.

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.