

## FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL:** Tues. 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025, 7.02pm Firle Village Hall.

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

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

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

**To RECEIVE questions from the Public:** None received.

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 ordinary meeting of Firle Parish Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 were **RESOLVED** to be a correct record and signed by the Chair.
4.    **FINANCE & ADMIN:**
  - 4.1 Payments to be made in January were **AUTHORISED** and the bank reconciliation was **RECEIVED** and **SIGNED**.
  - 4.2 Details of bank accounts used by other parish councils were **RECEIVED**: The Council **RESOLVED** to maintain its current banking arrangements.
  - 4.3 An update on the switch of domain to a .gov domain was **RECEIVED**: The parish council website is now .gov.
  - 4.4 Dates for the ordinary meetings of 2025-26 were **RECEIVED** and **AGREED**.
  - 4.5 A date for the Annual Parish Meeting 2025 was **AGREED** as Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025.
5.    **2025-2026 BUDGET AND PRECEPT**
  - 5.1 The 2025-2026 budget was **SIGNED**.
6.    **REPORT(S):**
  - 6.1 Reports from Local and District Councillors and the MP for Lewes were **RECEIVED**: The Council **NOTED** that the reports received from Cllrs Denis and O'Brien were useful; the council discussed the possible unitisation of the council and expressed concerns that parish councils may have more to manage.
7.    **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
  - 7.1 Town and Parish Councils VE Day 80 – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025: The Council discussed a Beacon bonfire, ringing church bells and possibly a street party; the Clerk asked to write to VHPFC and Bonfire Society and send the link to see if they are planning anything; Cllr Hill to speak with the PCC; any community groups seeking funding from the parish council should send a grant application.
  - 7.2 Lewes District Local Plan consultation events – B. Mabey: Cllr Hill attended the webinar and Cllrs Hill and Lance will attend the SDNP event on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb.
  - 7.3 Southern Water and Ofwat's Final Determination: **NOTED**.
  - 7.4 South Downs Open Space Study: Cllr Hill to create a map to send to SDNP.
  - 7.5 Transport Forum – Cllr Denis: **NOTED**. No further action to be taken by the Parish Council.
  - 7.6 Meeting on the Partnership Management Plan and Local Plan Review Regulation 18 Consultation: Discussed under item 7.2.
8.    **MATTERS ARISING:**
  - 8.1 An update on the transferral of the current website domain to a .gov domain was received under agenda item 4.3
  - 8.2 The Council **RESOLVED** to not respond to the Local Transport Plan Forum.
  - 8.3 Councillor attendance was **AGREED** at the Lewes District Local Plan consultation events: All cllrs will try to attend and Cllr Hill will attend on 5<sup>th</sup> February.
9.    **HIGHWAYS:**
  - 9.1 An update on the following matters; potholes and drains; leaf sweeping; dog fouling; fly tipping was **RECEIVED**: Cllr Lance has reported a pothole in The Street and has been advised that this should be done in the next month; Cllr Lance advised that the leaf sweeper attended but with no notice and so cars were blocking the area to sweep; they are returning on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Jan at 8am; dog waste has been left in bags by The Ram and in the woods; if it persists, it will be reported to the parish council; there has been some fly tipping – a fridge was left at the layby on Wick Street, Cllr Lance offered to report if needed. Cllr Lance was thanked for all her hard work on these matters.
  - 9.2 Water run off on Wick Street was discussed: Cllr Barr believes the drain on the ground needs jetting; a parishioner has been monitoring the problem; when it next rains, if there is water on Wick Street then it will be reported again to ESH requesting them to return to outside Redwood House, Wick Street; the Council

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NOTED that a car crashed on Wick Street during the icy conditions; gritting was discussed and as Wick Street is a bus route the Clerk was asked to contact ESH to request that they grit the bus route that runs along Wick Street West to the crossways junction of the street and north to A27; a problem has been reported to the Parish Council re Bostal Road which is not gritted and becomes very icy which is a problem for anyone using the car park; the same is experienced at Bo Peep car park.

- 9.3 The Council RESOLVED to request ESCC to repair the telescopic security bollards at the bottom of Lane Wall to prevent use of the Old Coach Road during its closed season: the click fastening of the middle bollard has broken.
- 9.4 The Council RESOLVED to repeat the article in the parish magazine providing advice regarding the misuse of the Old Coach Road by motor vehicles during the closed season and action that can be taken.

### 10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS/TREE WORKS:

10.1 SDNP 24/05220/TCA Location: Firle Place, The Street, Firle. Tree Works – various: AGREED to SUPPORT.

10.2 SDNP/24/05199/FUL **Proposal:** Replacement of existing wall and roof cladding with addition of 18no. rooflights, installation of 2no WCs and soil treatment plant, and alterations to doors on front and rear elevations **Location:** Heighton Street, Firle, East Sussex (comments by 6 Feb). Firle Parish Council AGREED to OBJECT with the following comments: there is no information regarding how the effluence is to be managed - it cannot be discharged into the temporary water course on Heighton Street and there is no information on a drainage field or infiltration system which is necessary for adequate discharge of the effluence; the Council are NEUTRAL about the development but reject the application based on the comments above; the Council also requests that the ecological recommendations are put in place.

### 11. PROJECTS:

#### 11.1 School Footpath

- 11.1.1 The Council RESOLVED that it would not currently pursue the footpath project for the following reasons: It needs planning permission despite it being a permissive footpath and it would need access at the lodge gate which will result in significant cost; the Clerk was asked to write to B.Baines, Firle Estate Manager and thank him for the report that he commissioned.

#### 11.2 Assets of Community Value

- 11.2.1 An update on the nomination of Firle Playing Fields Area as an ACV was RECEIVED: Cllr Lance has gathered the required information and will submit the nomination.

12. **ITEMS AGREED FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE:** Repeat the misuse of the Old Coach Road article; Parish Council has requested gritting, gulley cleaning and drain jetting down Wick Street; information on the LDC and SDNPA consultation; requested for the Old Coach Road bollards to be fixed.
13. **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL:** Firle Primary School roll numbers.
14. **THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL was RECEIVED:** Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February.
15. **THE MEETING CLOSED** at 21.00.