

FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

Tuesday 11th January 2022

Members of the Public in Attendance: 1 – arrived after the public session had closed

Questions RECEIVED from the public: 0

Members in Attendance: Cllrs Gravett (Chairman), Cllr Barr (Vice-Chairman), Cllrs Hill, Symes and Bolger

Others Present: Clerk and RFO Lorna Thwaites

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** None Received
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** No declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda, as required by the Members Code of Conduct were received.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the ordinary meeting of Firle Parish Council held on 10th November 2021 were RESOLVED to be a correct record and signed by the Chair; the Council AGREED the following amendment to the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of 14 December 2021, Agenda Item 3: It was NOTED by the Council that the payment for the leases in advance of the work was irregular but due to the deadline of the grant, the Council AGREED to this by exception; the Clerk made this amendment and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.
4. **FINANCE:**
 - 4.1 Payments were AUTHORISED and the bank reconciliation RECEIVED.
 - 4.2 The Council RESOLVED to request a precept of £10,500 from Lewes District Council and the 2022/23 budget was AGREED.
5. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The following applications were RECEIVED and comments AGREED:

i. [SDNP/21/05773/HOUS](#) Gibraltar Farm, Gibraltar Farmhouse, Wick Street, Firle (due 18 Jan 22)
Proposal: Replacement double garage, log store and first floor games room
Comments AGREED: The Council felt there was little change to the existing garage but there will be a significant increase to the height of the building. The Council AGREED to remain NEUTRAL.

ii. [SDNP/21/06327/HOUS](#) Preston House Wick Street Firle BN8 6LG (due 26 Jan 22)
Proposal: Conversion of garage/pool house into accommodation, extension, and conversion of an existing storage building into an annex, and erection of oak framed 3-bay garage
Comments AGREED: The plans are for old outbuildings that were in keeping with the age of the house; the flat roof design of the proposed annexe is considered not to be in keeping with the pitched roof of the main building and will be of a bigger footprint to the existing storage building; there was no concern raised over the other buildings in the plans that had pitched roofs; the Council AGREED to OBJECT to the flat roof of the annexe in the plans but to remain NEUTRAL to the rest of the application.
6. **MATTERS ARISING:**
 - 6.1 An update on the payment of the grant awarded to the Firle Community Land Trust was RECEIVED: The grant was paid by Cllr Gravett on 17 Dec 21.
 - 6.2 An update on Flood defence measures in the Parish and a location for the storage of sandbags was RECEIVED from Cllr Symes: Cllr Symes has been contacted by Tim Bartlett, Specialist Advisor - Flood and Coastal Risk Management for Lewes & Eastbourne Councils who is happy for approx. 100 sandbags to be received by Firle Parish Council; Cllr Symes and Cllr Barr AGREED to meet with Mr Bartlett on 18 January, 3pm in the Village Hall to discuss possible storage locations for the sandbags and a flood plan for Firle; Cllr Symes raised the issue of leaves that accumulate and block road drains and proposed the idea that the Council could employ someone to clear the drains; the Council AGREED to consider this at a later date after the meeting with Mr Bartlett.
 - 6.3 An update on the Hugh Barnes Memorial Award for 2021 was RECEIVED: Cllr Barr will discuss with Spiral Staircases.
 - 6.4 The SDNPA call for nature sites was RECEIVED: The Council discussed possible locations and asked for the view of Bob Baines, Firle Estate Director who was present at the meeting; Mr Baines advised the

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Estates environmental ambitions are realised through plans with their Tenant Farmers; the Council AGREED that at this stage there are no sites they wish to propose.

7. PLAYING FIELDS LEASE

7.1 An update on the lease (s) for the Playing Fields was RECEIVED: The leases have been received by Firle Estate and the Estate Director, Bob Baines is reviewing both the headlease and sublease prior to making any comments back to Adams & Remers (solicitors); the leases will be given to Firle Parish Council for approval once any amends have been made by Firle Estate; Members of the Parish Council reminded Firle Estate that the Veolia Grant Award deadline of 7th January 2022 has been missed and of the urgency for the lease to be in place in order for the Award to be made.

8. HIGHWAYS:

8.1 The report on the meeting between Firle Parish Council and Ian Johnson, Traffic and Safety Manager ESCC, on 17 November 2021 was RECEIVED.

8.2 A report on the village traffic parking data recorded in 2021 was RECEIVED: Cllr Hill explained the data which shows the amount of cars parking in the village; the numbers indicate there are approx. 50-60 resident's cars in the village on a weekend and 50 to 100 extra cars in the village on any weekend day; lower numbers are experienced on rainy days; the village car park holds 54-60 cars leaving up to 50 cars to accommodate in the village on busy days; the most significant problem parking area is considered to be from the school to the pub; when the overflow car park was in operation there were approx. 4 or 5 cars in the Street and this alleviated the pressure from this area; Cllr Hill was thanked for her work on the data; the Council agreed to discuss the strategy for bollards at the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

8.3 The Council RESOLVED to request the following reviews with ESCC:

8.3.1 Signage: Cllr Hill advised that ESCC will review the number of signs and siting in the village; the Clerk was asked to contact Ian Johnson to request the review.

8.3.2 Parking: Cllr Hill advised the Council that timescales for parking reviews are 12 to 15 months; the Council AGREED to request a review.

8.4 Information and costs on Speed Traffic Surveys with ESCC were RECEIVED: £410+ vat per survey (decreasing if multiple surveys are booked); the Council RESOLVED to undertake a speed survey focusing on entry into the village towards the school (by the 30mph sign) and between the school and the allotments; the Clerk was asked to investigate timescales.

8.5 An update on the compilation of information on public transport options for visiting Firle was RECEIVED: Cllr Bolger reported a lack of information about public transport options for visiting Firle on various websites including the SDNP website; Cllr Bolger is in the process of requesting more information to be put on the SDNP website; Cllr Bolger AGREED to follow up this work with the aim that the link can be used on other websites.

8.6 Dates to propose to East Sussex Highways (ESH) for Strengthening Local Relationship (SLR) meetings were not yet agreed: The Clerk was asked to respond to ESH advising they had recently met with Ian Johnson and the next SLR meeting would be requested once suitable dates have been agreed; an agenda item for a future SLR meeting is the footpath from the Toucan Crossing.

8.7 An update on the lighting for the Toucan Crossing was RECEIVED: The Council asked for the view of Bob Baines, Firle Estate Director who has spoken with ESH; he believes the Toucan Crossing will be implemented and that the lighting posts are 30ft high and will be slightly shielded with the aim to make them directional; the lights will extend into the layby and light up the Firle turning; a further question was asked of Firle Estate about the possibility of planting trees to buffer some of the light; the Estate Director agreed that this could be look at when the work is complete; it is believed there will also be landscaping by ESH/ESCC; the Council discussed concerns about the impact of the lighting but Council Members were in agreement that the safety of the junction needs to be improved.

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9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

9.1 '20's Plenty for East Sussex' campaign: The Council AGREED to put the motion to support the campaign on next month's agenda.

9.2 Firle Parish Report from Maria Caulfield: The Clerk was asked to invite Maria Caulfield to the monthly meeting and to send her the minutes of each meeting.

9.3 Wildlife Verge Scheme application: The Council AGREED to support the application.

10. QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

10.1 Correspondence on Lottery Funding for the Queen's Jubilee was RECEIVED, and the Council AGREED to consider grant funding once celebration plans have been discussed.

10.2 The Council AGREED that it would call a village meeting to discuss plans for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, 03 to 06 June 2022.

11. AGENDA ITEMS PROPOSED FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL.

Strategy for bollards

20's plenty motion

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Donations to be made from S137 for 2021/22 and 2022/23

12. THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL was RECEIVED: Tuesday 8th

Feb 2022, 7pm – Firle Village Hall

13. THE MEETING CLOSED at 21.32