



# FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

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Annual Parish Meeting 14<sup>h</sup> May 2024

Chair's report

# Budget 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

## Income

Precept

**£11,000**

The precept is a tax that the Parish Council charge their local electors to meet their budget requirements

## Expenditure

**£11.650** – excludes spend from reserves which was £640.



Firle Parish Council maintains a reserve fund of which £10k is allocated to current and future projects:

Repairs to assets inc. fencing and bus shelters  
Community Celebrations (i.e. King's Coronation)  
Parish Council election costs



A further £10k of reserves is unallocated.

# Key Priorities and Results

01 April 2023

to

31 March 2024

- **To establish the new council by filling the vacant seat by co-option and to continue with cllr training where required:**
  - Cllr Lance appointed and new cllr training undertaken with ESALC.
- **To continue to work towards resolving some of the issues around speeding in the village, working in conjunction with the FCA on the 20sPlenty initiative:**
  - The project 20sPlenty started with a meeting led by a speaker from the Sussex 20sPlenty campaign.
  - Local opinion was gauged via a survey as part of the work on Parish Priority Statements.
- **To investigate the possibility of creating a footpath from Crossways to Firle Primary School using CIL funding:**
  - The project has started in collaboration with Firle Estate and Firle Community Association.
  - Viable routes are currently being considered.
- **To continue to engage with the local community – parishioners, MPs, local and district council and councillors:**
  - Joint working with FCA on Parish Priority Statements and the Footpath Project.
  - Local/District Councillor attendance at FPC meetings and/or reports received.
- **To maintain a good working relationship with Firle Estate:**
  - The Firle Estate Director is invited to every parish council meeting and is sent the minutes and agendas.
  - The Council continues to engage with and discuss local matters with Firle Estate.
  - Firle Primary School and Firle Cricket Club have attended FPC meetings and have been supported by the Parish Council.
- **To continue as an effective and knowledgeable Parish Council:**
  - New councillor training and planning training attended.

# Further Achievements of Firle Parish Council 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

## **Assets of Community Value**

- Assets of Community Value have been nominated and the Village Hall has been registered. Firle Village Stores was not successful in its nomination and the Ram Inn is the next asset for nomination.

## **Planning Application Consultee**

- The Parish Council reviewed and commented on all planning applications received. Whilst Firle Parish Council cannot make any decisions over planning applications, Council Members consider the merits of each application against planning policy and guidelines and submits comments to SDNP.

## **Participation in Local Government and Local Authority consultations and events**

- FPC attended a presentation on the Lewes District Local Plan
- FPC responded to the Local Plan Consultation and the Draft Local Transport Plan 4
- FPC attended the Glynde Estate presentation on their Estate Plan
- Parish Priority Statements were developed for Firle and submitted to the South Downs National Park for inclusion in its Local Plan. These statements have also been sent to Firle Estate.

## **Highways Matters**

- The Parish Council continued to report and lobby for repairs to potholes and drains in the Parish. It has sought support from Maria Caulfield MP and Cllr Johnny Denis to help these ongoing issues.

# Grants/S237 Awarded

## 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024



Fencing at Firle Cricket  
Ground (Village Hall)  
£1500



Donation for the Christmas  
Hamper  
£100



Poppy Wreath donation  
£50

### **Income**

Precept £11,500

VAT return £400

Interest £100

Total £12,000

### **Expenditure**

£11,800

Key Areas of Spend

Clerk and Cllr costs (salary and training)

Administration costs (insurance, website, audit)

Rent and hire costs (village hall, playing fields)

Maintenance (notice boards, litter bins)

Grants and donations

Memberships and subscriptions

**Budget**  
**01 April 2024**  
**to**  
**31 March**  
**2025**

Asset Repairs inc. bus shelter

Provision for a new bus shelter

20sPlenty feasibility work

D Day Celebrations

Electricity to park

**Projects with  
Allocated  
Reserves  
01 April 2024  
to 31 March  
2025**



# Key Priorities 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

To continue working towards resolving some of the issues around speeding in the village, working in conjunction with the FCA on the 20sPlenty initiative.

To continue to assess the feasibility and possible routes for a footpath from Crossways to Firle Primary School and to investigate CIL and grant funding options.

To nominate further Assets of Community Value – The Ram Inn, Firle Allotments, Firle Cricket Club and Playground.

To continue to pursue East Sussex Highways to rectify the drainage and pothole issues in the village.

To engage further with the local community – parishioners, MPs, local and district council and councillors.

To engage with the SDNP Local Plan.

To maintain good working relations with Firle Estate.