

FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

To RECEIVE questions from the Public:

The first ten minutes are available for public participation before the start of the meeting. During this time, members of the public may ask questions or make representations, in respect of business on the agenda. Members of the public may only speak at other points during the meeting if they have knowledge or information that will aid the discussion and will only speak at the Chairman's discretion.

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 14th May 2024 are a correct record and signed by the Chairman. [On website](#)
4. **TO SIGN THE LEGAL AGREEMENT WITH FIRLE VILLAGE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS.**
5. **FINANCE:**
 - 5.1 To AUTHORISE payments to be made in July and to RECEIVE the bank reconciliation.
 - 5.2 To RESOLVE to pay the Clerk for additional hours worked to complete the internal and external audits. [5 additional hours worked in May](#)
6. **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR):**
 - 6.1 To RECEIVE the Internal Audit Report 2023/24 from Mulberry and Co. [On website](#). **Key summary statement:**
[Our sample testing did not uncover any errors or misstatements that require reporting to the external auditor at this time, nor did we identify any significant weaknesses in the internal controls such that public money would be put at risk.](#)
[It is clear the council takes governance, policies and procedures seriously and I am pleased to report that overall, the systems and procedures you have in place are fit for purpose and whilst my report may contain recommendations to change these are not indicative of any significant failings, but rather are pointers to improving upon an already well-ordered system.](#)
[It is therefore our opinion that the systems and internal procedures at Firle Parish Council are well established and followed.](#)
 - 6.2 To Clerk and Chair SIGN the Annual Internal Audit Report 2023/24.
 - 6.3 The Clerk and Chair to SIGN Sections 1 and 2 and the Certificate of Exemption 2023/24 - AGAR Form 2.
7. **REPORT(S):**
 - 7.1 To RECEIVE reports from Local and District Councillors and the MP for Lewes.
8. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:** To RECEIVE the following correspondence and AGREE any actions:
 - 8.1 Complaint A27 Firle.
[Email chain forwarded to Cllrs via email](#)
 - 8.2 Safety of Lithium ion Batteries and e-bikes and scooters.
[I am writing to ask your Council to support our campaign to improve the safety of lithium batteries \(used in e-bike and e-scooters\) and their disposal.](#)
[Let me begin by introducing myself. I am the researcher for Lord \(Don\) Foster \(hence my email address\), who has been campaigning on this issue in the House of Lords. I am also the parliamentary advisor to Electrical Safety First, a UK Charity dedicated to reducing the deaths and injuries caused by electricity.](#)
[As you will probably know lithium battery fires are on the increase – there have been over 1000 in the past few years, nearly 200 injuries and a dozen fatalities. Homes have been destroyed. The cost to the UK runs into £billions. You will doubtless know of examples in your area. I attach a spreadsheet of some recent fires – as you will see there have been some in your area.](#)
[Lord Foster and Electrical Safety First are promoting the attached Bill \(a summary of which is included at the end of this email\) to ensure greater safety in the use and disposal of lithium batteries and are aiming to get it into law as soon as possible. It has its First Reading on 5th June.](#)
[We have the support of many national organisations, as the attached logos show – including the National Fire Chiefs Council, the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and the Royal Society for Public Health. In addition 2 coroners have called for the law to be tightened to ensure greater safety.](#)
[We are now contacting more locally based organisations, and it would be great if your Council was able to support this campaign. It would be a great boost.](#)
[Please do get in touch if you require any further information.](#)
[I look forward to hearing from you,](#)

FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

Yours sincerely,

Ron Bailey, Parliamentary Advisor, Electrical Safety First

PS Don't worry if you are not meeting before June 5th. That is only the 1st Reading – other stages will follow, so you won't be too late. Your support will be valuable at any time.

8.3 Defibrillator.

Thank you very much. Will you please pass on our formal thanks to the Chair and councillors for funding the replacement parts, very kind.

I ordered the new battery and pads, which were delivered on 8th May. Penny has already been able to reimburse me from VH funds. The Defib is tested and 100%.

In fact the Defib was called upon a second time, earlier this month, but luckily they did not have to use it for real. It shows though how important it is to have the device.

Best wishes

Aaron

8.4 Phase 4 – Refuse Wheelie Bin Roll-out Reminder.

Monday 1st July is the cut-off date for residents living in Phase 4 areas of our refuse wheelie bin rollout, to let us know if they would like a particular sized bin.

Phase 4 includes: Lewes town, Beddingham, Falmer, Firle, Glynde, Iford, Itford, Kingston, Newhaven (C7), Northease, Piddinghoe, Rodmell, Southease, Southerham, Swanborough, Tarring Neville, and Telscombe Village.

To remind residents of this cut-off date, Environment First will be affixing a bin tag to recycling bins in Phase 4 properties over the two weeks from Monday 10th June (in line with a full fortnightly recycling collection cycle). Please see the bin tag artwork below for information.

The tag asks residents to visit our wheelie bins web page to choose their preferred size of bin. By encouraging as many households as possible to select their bin size, we aim to reduce the number of residents getting in touch to swap their bin for a different size after delivery. This speeds up the delivery of new bins, helps reduce the number of calls to our contact centre team, freeing them up to serve other residents and reduces the carbon footprint in avoiding unnecessary belated deliveries.

The bin sizes to choose from are:

- 240 litres
- 140 litres (slimmer bin)

For properties with limited space to store / present a bin, the option of a gull bag is also available, subject to meeting the relevant criteria.

In addition to the 1 July cut-off, we will be reminding residents:

- If they already have an LDC-issued refuse wheelie bin (green with a green lid), they are welcome to keep using it and do not need to do anything.
- If they don't request a particular size bin by the cut-off, we will deliver one appropriate for their home.
- Residents with an old refuse bin can request we take this away to be recycled or repurposed. This can be done via the same bin order form.
- Until you have your new refuse bin, please continue to put your refuse out in black sacks or your usual bin.

Why are we introducing wheelie bins for refuse?

Wheelie bins are a safer option for our waste crews, reducing the risk of musculoskeletal and other injuries. They also make refuse less susceptible to attacks from gulls and other animals than black sacks, reducing neighbourhood litter.

Our crews will begin emptying wheelie bins using the lorry mechanism from the end of each roll-out phase. For further support in answering questions from residents in your communities as to 'why are we introducing wheelie bins for refuse?' please visit <https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/wheeliebins>

Bin tag artwork

FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

Choose your refuse bin by Monday 1 July 2024

Select from a 240 litre or slimmer 140 litre wheelie bin by visiting lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk (or scan QR code)



You can also request we remove your old bin to be recycled. If you have an LDC refuse wheelie bin already, you are welcome to keep using it and don't need to do anything.

240L Refuse Bin



Suitable for a household of 5 people or more

140L Refuse Bin



Suitable for a household of up to 5 people

ENVIRONMENT FIRST
Lewes District Council

Best wishes, **Seán Towe**y Head of Environment First
Lewes District Council and Eastbourne Borough Council

FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

- 9.1 To RECEIVE an update on the installation of the parking restriction signs to be placed on the wall of The Cottage – Cllrs Barr and Symes.
- 9.2 To RECEIVE updates on warning signs installed including Wick Street – Cllr Barr.
- 9.3 To AGREE any actions with respect to completing a Village Design Statement. [Email forwarded](#)
- 9.4 To RESOLVE to request FOI data on the A27 Survey from our MP – Cllr Hill.
- 10. HIGHWAYS:**
 - 10.1 To RECEIVE an update on the quote and repairs required to the bus shelter at Crossways – Cllr Barr and Lance.
 - 10.2 To RECEIVE an update from Cllr Denis on the drainage problems and potholes in the Parish after the meeting he attended with Balfour Beatty.
 - 10.3 To RECEIVE an update on further actions taken regarding the dangerous verge-side potholes along Ripe Lane – Cllr Barr
 - 10.4 To RECEIVE an update further to the Clerk contacting Southern Water regarding the sewage pollution along Wick Street and to AGREE further actions.
- 11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:** To AGREE comments for any applications received:
- 12. PROJECTS:**
 - 12.1 School Footpath**
 - 12.1.1 To RECEIVE an update on further discussions and AGREE any next steps and actions.
 - 12.2 Assets of Community Value**
 - 12.2.1 To RECEIVE an update on the progress of nominating the Ram Inn as an Asset of Community Value – Cllr Lance. [The nomination has been received.](#)
- 13. TO AGREE ITEMS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE.**
- 14. TO PROPOSE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL.**
- 15. TO RECEIVE THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL. [9th July, 7pm Firle Village Hall](#)**
- 16. TO CLOSE THE MEETING.**