

FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Firle Parish Council
held on Wednesday 26th January 2022 at 7pm in Firle Village Hall.*

Members of Public in Attendance: NONE

Questions Received from the Public: NONE

Council Members in Attendance: Cllr Barr (Vice Chair); Cllr Hill, Cllr Symes, Cllr Bolger

The Clerk attended remotely to take the minutes

Cllr Gravett viewed the meeting remotely as he was unable to attend due to COVID self-isolation

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Gravett; the Council AGREED that Cllr Barr (Vice Chairman) would chair the meeting and Cllr Hill to chair if the meeting continued after 7.20pm when Cllr Barr needed to leave.
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. **PLAYING FIELDS LEASES**
 - 3.1 First drafts of the Headlease and Sublease were RECEIVED from Firle Estate on 24th Jan 2022.
 - 3.2 The quote from Surrey Hills Solicitors for the review of the leases was RECEIVED: The Council NOTED that to review the leases and any clauses which are of concern/any restrictions on the intended use brought to its attention was £750 - £1,000 + VAT, subject to the complexities of the leases.
The Council also received an estimate of the cost to register the lease with HMLR, which would be in the region of £100+VAT, plus HMLR service fee of £20-£40.
 - 3.3 The content of the Headlease and the Sublease was REVIEWED: The first draft of the new Headlease was reviewed by all Council Members and their comments were sent to the Clerk by return; to expedite matters the Clerk circulated all comments to Council Members for agreement; agreed comments were sent to Bob Baines, Firle Estate Director on 25 Jan 2022; as yet no further draft of the Headlease has been received by Firle Parish Council.
 - 3.4 After discussion the Council AGREED it was NOT necessary to appoint a solicitor to review the leases: The Council discussed the detail of the leases, the timescales required to have the Headlease in place for the Veolia Grant Award and their experience of leases with Firle Estate; on balance the Council AGREED they could approve the leases without appointing a solicitor to review them.
 - 3.5 The Council DID NOT RESOLVE to instruct Surrey Hills Solicitors to review the Headlease and the Sublease; the Council AGREED that it would appoint Surrey Hills Solicitors to register the lease with HMLR.
 - 3.6 The Council DID NOT RESOLVE to adopt the Headlease as it had only received the lease in first draft format; the Council AGREED that it would adopt the Headlease in principle (subject to the response of Firle Estate to the comments raised and sent on 25th January 2022); to expedite the timescales for approval of the Headlease the Council AGREED to circulate the second draft via email to all Council Members; if there were no further areas for discussion the Council AGREED to approve the Headlease in writing via email to the Clerk.
 - 3.7 The Council DID NOT RESOLVE to adopt the Sublease as it has only been received in draft format; the Council AGREED that it would adopt the Sublease once the Headlease had been approved and discussions had been had with the Cricket Club; the Council AGREED to have the Sublease on the agenda of the ordinary meeting in February.
 - 3.8 The final invoice from Adams and Remers (via Firle Estate) has not yet been received.
4. **THE MEETING CLOSED at 19.18**

