

FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 11th July 2023, 7.00pm in 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 Lance, Cllr Symes.

Members not in Attendance: Cllr Bolger.

Others Present: County and District Councillor Johnny Denis.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllr Bolger.
2. **NO DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS RECEIVED AND 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:** The minutes of the ordinary meeting of Firle Parish Council held on 13th June 2023 were RESOLVED as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
4. **PRESENTATION FOR SERVICES TO THE PARISH COUNCIL** – An engraved tankard was presented to Richard Gravett prior to the start of the meeting and he was thanked for all the work he had done for the Parish Council, both as a councillor and Chair.
5. **FINANCE:**
 - 5.1 Changes to nominated signatories and banking arrangements have now been received and the Clerk has access to the bank account.
 - 5.2 Payments to be made in July were AUTHORISED and the bank reconciliation was RECEIVED and SIGNED; the Council RESOLVED to authorise the Clerk to make payments during August, with the prior approval from Cllrs received by email.
6. **REPORT(S):**
 - 6.1 To RECEIVE reports from Local and District Councillors and the MP for Lewes: In the absence of the Clerk the report from the MP for Lewes, Maria Caulfield was not received prior to the start of the meeting; Cllr Denis gave a verbal report on the further rejection of ESCC to a petition for a default 20 mph speed limit in towns and villages; Cllr Denis has filed a motion to ESCC to take residents views into account when setting speed limits; Cllr Denis requested feedback on how Balfour Beatty was doing as the new contractor for highways maintenance in East Sussex; Cllr Denis to send a link to the Clerk on plans for roadworks in the area.
 - 6.2 A report from Firle Parish Council on the meeting with Firle Estate to discuss their plans for New Elms Barn – micro-brewery was RECEIVED: Cllrs agreed the site meeting was very useful to understand the plans of Firle Estate for New Elms Barn; a summary of the meeting was filed for the Parish Council records and copied to Bob Baines, Estate Director.
7. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:** To RECEIVE the following correspondence and AGREE any actions:
 - 7.1 Outreach advice in Firle: The council requested more information on how it will be publicized in the village and also discussed paying for the hire of the Village Hall for a couple of hours.
 - 7.2 Knill James - Payroll service price increase. NOTED and ACCEPTED.
 - 7.3 Balfour Beatty – the first month: NOTED.
 - 7.4 Major Bus Service changes: The Clerk was asked to include this in the July newsletter.
 - 7.5 Wealden Local Plan – Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment – Scoping Report Update.: NOTED but also NOTED that this is not relevant to Firle which is in the Lewes District.
 - 7.6 Temporary Road Closure – C13 Ripe Lane, Firle, 9th October: The Council AGREED to put this in the September newsletter.
 - 7.7 Southdowns NPA – Parish Priority Statements: The Council AGREED that it was not clear from the correspondence whether Firle needs to have a PPS; most of the Parish is part of Firle Estate who are preparing an Estate Plan for the whole estate; the Council are unclear as to whether a PPS may be overridden by the Estate Plan; the Clerk was asked to contact SDNPA for their view on the relevance of a PPS for Firle; the contacts for SDNP were noted as Vanessa Rowlands, Cuckmere Valley Parish Councillor, Chair – Southdowns National Park Authority and Deputy Chair – National Parks England.
 - 7.8 Verge at Crossways (received from parishioner): The Clerk was asked to thank the parishioner for their email and that the Council look forward to seeing the restored verge.
 - 7.9 Lewes DC Planning Services User Group: NOTED with concerns over the lack of planning personnel.
8. **HIGHWAYS:**
 - 8.1 An update on Wick Street signage was RECEIVED: No further update has been received and no signs are in place.

FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

- 8.2 An update on the work to the bus stop at South Heighton was RECEIVED: Cllr Barr has not yet done the work but will do it before the next meeting.
- 8.3 An update regarding the blocked drain from the Vicarage to Firle Village Hall was RECEIVED: Cllr Barr has logged the issue on the ESCC portal.

9. MATTERS ARISING:

- 9.1 An update on the planting of the Coronation Grove was RECEIVED: This is still being discussed with Firle Estate.
- 9.2 The Council did not resolve to use only the noticeboard by Firle Village Shop for the publishing of Parish Council minutes, agendas, and notices: The Council discussed the use of the noticeboards with a view expressed that the noticeboards were an important means of publicising the Parish Council's work; the Council AGREED to continue to use all 3 notice boards for council minutes agendas and notices with Cllr Hill posting on the shop noticeboard, Cllr Barr on the Village hall noticeboard and Cllr Symes on the School noticeboard
- 9.3 Appraisal of the SDNP validation list was reported back to the Council; no changes were required.
- 9.4 Completion of forms for SDNP OS Survey – Cllr Bolger: DEFERRED.
- 9.5 Overgrowth on The Dock footpath and broken slab: Cllr Barr advised the footpath vegetation has been cleared and the slab replaced.
- 9.6 Gates from the Playing Fields car park into Firle Park and the Ram Field: Cllr Barr has shown the Firle Estate Clerk of Works the problems with the gates; Cllr Barr will send an email to the Clerk to forward to Firle Estate to remind them of the work needed.

10. PROJECTS:

10.1 20sPlenty for Firle

- 10.1.1 An update on the first meeting of the working group was RECEIVED: Cllr Symes has contacted Kevin Moore at 20'sPlenty and is arranging for him to speak at a community meeting in the Village Hall during the first 2 weeks of October; Cllr Denis and community members from the Parish of Glynde to also be invited.

10.2 Assets of Community Value

- 10.2.1 An update on the next steps to nominate an asset of Community Value was RECEIVED from Cllrs Hill and Symes.
- 10.2.2 To RESOLVE which assets to nominate and their priority if more than one: The Council AGREED that the Village Hall would be the first test case to register as an asset followed by the village shop; the phone box; the Ram Inn Public House; Firle Playing Fields and Cricket Pavilion and Firle Allotments; Cllr Lance AGREED to contact the Village Hall Trustees and Ian Pepe, who was previously involved in rebuilding the Village Hall, to check if it has already been registered as an Asset and the existence of any registration paperwork; in the absence of registration, Cllrs Lance and Symes AGREED to complete the application; if the Village Hall is registered then Cllrs Lance and Symes will complete an application to register the village shop; the shop is owned by Firle Estate who will need to be informed of the Council's intention to register it as an Asset of Community Value.

10.3 Development of a Footpath to Firle Primary School

- 10.3.1 An update on the feasibility of creating a footpath was RECEIVED and the Council RESOLVED to continue to pursue this project: The Clerk is to contact Cllr Denis to establish the process for asking Highways to reinstate the footpath from the A27 to the school – particularly with the discontinuation of the school bus.

11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS: None received.

12. AN UPDATE ON THE SIGNING OF THE SUB LEASE FOR FIRLE CRICKET CLUB WAS RECEIVED: The sublease has been signed again and Cllr Hill will take the document to Adams and Remers.

13. ITEMS AGREED FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE: The change of date for the September meeting of the Parish Council; changes to the bus service.

14. AGENDA ITEMS PROPOSED FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL: Overhanging tree foliage on Wick Street; Citizens Advice offer of outreach services; the blocked drain at Firle Vicarage; an update on signage at Wick Street; repairs to the Bus Stop at South Heighton; the response from SDNPA on Parish Priority Statements and Open Space Survey forms; an update on the work to the Coronation Grove; repairs to the gates at the Playing Field; an update on the 20'sPlenty meeting date; information regarding the development of a Footpath to Firle Primary School; progress on nominating Assets of Community Value.

FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

15. **THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL** was AGREED to be changed from 12th September to 22nd August due to councillor absence during September.
16. **THE MEETING CLOSED** at 9.15pm.