

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL** held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 7.04pm 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 Symes.

**Members not in Attendance:** Cllrs Bolger and Lance.

**Others Present:** None.

**Questions RECEIVED from the Public:** None.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllr Bolger and Cllr Lance.
2. **A DECLARATION OF INTEREST WAS RECEIVED FROM CLLR BARR BUT NO REQUESTS FOR A DISPENSATION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WERE RECEIVED:** Agenda item 5.1 Cllr Barr is a trustee of Firle Village Hall; Cllr Barr responded to questions asked by other Council Members but did not discuss the application or vote on the matter.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The Council RESOLVED that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Firle Parish Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024 are a correct record and were signed by the Chair.
4. **FINANCE/ADMIN:**
  - 4.1 Payments to be made in March were AUTHORISED and the bank reconciliation was RECEIVED and SIGNED.
5. **GRANT AWARDS/S137.**
  - 5.1 **Grant request from Firle Village Hall:** The Council discussed the application and questioned the replacement of the pedestrian gate which was included in the quote; Cllr Barr has offered 2 gates which will be used to help reduce the costs of the work; the Council RESOLVED to award a grant award of £1500.
6. **REPORT(S):**
  - 6.1 Reports from Local and District Councillors and the MP for Lewes were RECEIVED: The Council NOTED that LDC was the first council in the UK to pass a motion in support of the campaign for 'Zane's Law'; it also noted a second Arlington reservoir is to be built.
7. **FIRLE ESTATE:** No matters received.
8. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
  - 8.1 His Majesty the King's Official Portrait: The Council AGREED that no portrait was required as there are no parish council offices in which to hang it.
  - 8.2 Approved Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP): NOTED.
  - 8.3 D-Day 80 Flag of Peace: The Council did not wish to purchase a flag.
  - 8.4 SDNP East Sussex Hustings March 2024: RECEIVED and NOTED.
  - 8.5 The Oak Tree Federation: The Council AGREED that it would like to share its support for the work of the Oak Tree Federation in investigating academy status for Firle and Laughton; the Parish Council support having a thriving primary school in the parish and encouraged the school to be in contact with Firle Parish Council if further assistance is required.
  - 8.6 Invitation to Join the Local Plan Engagement Steering Group: The Clerk DECLINED to join.
9. **HIGHWAYS:**
  - 9.1 The latest communication on Wick Street signage was RECEIVED: Despite Ian Johnson requesting an update from National Highways in time for the meeting, he hasn't received anything; the Council asked the Clerk to request a direct contact at National Highways.
  - 9.2 The amended quote for the repairs required to the bus shelter at Crossways has not yet been received (with the addition of waterproofing): Cllr Barr AGREED to follow this up and the Clerk was asked to email the contractor again.
  - 9.3 An update on drainage and potholes in the parish and the letter sent to Cllr Johnny Denis and Maria Caulfield MP was DISCUSSED: The Council believe that not all the drains have been jetted and that some drains have collapsed; there have been problems with the drains for the last 2 years; Cllr Hill AGREED to send a video to the Clerk to send on to ESH Customer Service.
  - 9.4 An update from Cllr Denis on the request to ask ESCC Highways to attend to the dangerous verge-side potholes along Ripe Lane was DISCUSSED: Cllr Barr advised that the hedge along Adder Road has been cut back which has improved the amount of room in the road; Cllr Barr AGREED to take photos and measure the depth of the potholes.
10. **MATTERS ARISING:**

10.1 An update on the letter sent to the owners of The Cottage requesting permission to place a parking restriction sign on their wall was RECEIVED: Cllr Bolger has spoken with the owners of The Cottage and will ask for the confirmation to be provided in writing; Cllr Symes AGREED to send the email address of the owners of The Cottage to the Clerk so she could contact them directly.

10.2 The surface of the road by Middle Farm (between Firle and Middle Farm) was DISCUSSED: The Parish Council reported their concerns about the surface of the road, on the National Highways website.

11. **EAST SUSSEX DRAFT LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 4 (LTP4):** Firle Parish Council has now responded to this consultation.

12. **PROJECTS:**

12.1 **School Footpath**

12.1.1 To RESOLVE to apply for grants from the CIL Fund and other funders to install a footpath in School Shaw: the Council NOTED that Firle Community Association (FCA) are in support of the development of a footpath; Cllr Hill has spoken informally to the Estate Director, Bob Baines who has agreed in principle to a permissive footpath; Bob would like to commission a report with ESH to review the access from Crossways; Firle Parish Council need to wait for the report to understand the next steps; Firle Parish Council and the FCA would need to agree the footpath route with Firle Estate and then source funding; the deadline of 12<sup>th</sup> April for an expression of interest for CIL funding was NOTED; the footpath is likely to be MOT aggregate and there is likely to be some fencing and signage requirements; Public Liability would be covered by Firle Estate and the path would be registered with LDC;

12.1.2 Further actions required towards the installation of a footpath: The Council RESOLVED for Cllr Hill to send the expression of interest form to the Firle Estate Director and then (subject to approval) to submit the CIL expression of interest and to apply for a grant from the CIL fund; the Council RESOLVED to obtain quotes for the footpath to enable funding applications and to apply to other funding sources when appropriate.

12.2 **Plenty for Firle**

12.2.1 An update on the appraisal application for Community Match Funding was RECEIVED: Cllr Symes and Cllr Hill met to review the appraisal forms; Cllr Symes highlighted some of the costs involved with the change of speed limit and the public consultation required; Cllr Symes has tried to contact Glynde Parish Council to discuss work they might have undertaken on speeding in their parish but has not yet had a response; Cllr Symes AGREED to contact Cllr Gribble; the Council AGREED to postpone further discussion until there were more councillors in attendance.

12.2.2 No further actions agreed.

12.3 **Assets of Community Value**

12.3.1 An update on the progress of nominating Firle Village Stores as an Asset of Community Value was RECEIVED: The application has been rejected by LDC as the stores are a commercial enterprise; the Council RESOLVED to nominate the Ram Inn as the next ACV and to send an application to LDC.

13. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:** None received.

14. **ITEMS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE:** No articles to be submitted.

15. **AGENDA ITEMS PROPOSED FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL:** To consider funding towards D Day Celebrations.

16. **THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL WAS RECEIVED AS** Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm Firle Village Hall.

17. **THE MEETING CLOSED AT 21.01.**