

# **FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL** held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 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 Lance, Cllr Symes.

**Members not in Attendance:** Cllr Barr (Vice-Chair), Cllr Bolger.

**Others Present:** Clerk and RFO Lorna Thwaites and Cllr Lucy Agace.

*The meeting started at 7.05pm*

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllr Bolger and Cllr Barr.
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: None declared.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the annual meeting of Firle Parish Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were RESOLVED to be a correct record and were signed by the Chair.
4. **FINANCE:**
  - 4.1 An update on the changes to nominated signatories was RECEIVED: Cllr Barr and Cllr Hill have applied to be signatories on the bank account; the Clerk has been made an administrator for the bank account; Cllr Hill had received bank access details for the Clerk, which had been sent to an incorrect address; these were passed to the Clerk.
  - 4.2 Payments to be made in June were AUTHORISED; no bank reconciliation was received as the Clerk did not have access to the bank account prior to the meeting.
  - 4.3 The Clerk's overtime worked for the election and audit was AGREED at 7hrs 50 mins.
  - 4.4 The Council AGREED to pay for the hire of a brush cutter, for works undertaken by Firle Tree Planting Initiative; the costs were £170 for 2023 and £120 for 2022; the Council discussed an annual cost for this work and the history of Firle Parish Council maintaining this area; the Council RESOLVED to budget an allowance for this work in future years and to request an invoice for the 2023 brush cutter hire; the Clerk was asked to contact Southeast Ground Care Machinery for a copy of the invoice.
5. **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR):**
  - 5.1 An update on the Certificate of Exemption was RECEIVED; the Certificate was sent to the external auditors on 9 June 2023; all required documents are now on the website; the Notice of Audit was passed to Cllr Hill to put on noticeboard by the village shop.
6. **REPORT(S):**
  - 6.1 Reports from Local and District Councillors and the MP for Lewes were RECEIVED: Firle Parish Council thanked Cllr Agace for attending the meeting; she introduced herself as the Green Party candidate and the Chair of Planning; Council Members NOTED their disappointment at Cllr Claire Dowling declining to support the Green Party sponsored petition for 20mph as the default speed limit for all of its residential roads; Cllr Hill advised the Council she had tried the new Flexibus service - this service can be booked by phone or app and cost £2 from Firle to Lewes.
7. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:** The following correspondence was RECEIVED and actions AGREED:
  - 7.1 National Highways Response – A27 East of Lewes Improvements Scheme: The Clerk was asked to summarise the response for the parish magazine.
  - 7.2 Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy: NOTED.
  - 7.3 Talk Sussex Survey: The Clerk was asked to put the information on the parish council website and in the parish magazine.
  - 7.4 Consultation on Local Validation List: NOTED.
  - 7.5 A27 East of Lewes – Open for Traffic Event: No Cllrs are available to attend the event.
  - 7.6 New Elms Barn – micro-brewery: The Council agreed to request an alternative date and time; potential dates suggested are week comm. 3 July, after 4pm.
  - 7.7 Planning training 18<sup>th</sup> July – Cllr Hill requested to attend.
8. **HIGHWAYS:**
  - 8.1 An update on Wick Street signage was RECEIVED: These signs are still not in place; the Clerk was asked to continue to pursue.
  - 8.2 To RECEIVE an update on the work to the bus stop at South Heighton – Cllr Barr. DEFERRED
  - 8.3 Actions to be taken regarding the blocked drain from the Vicarage to Firle Village Hall were AGREED: The Clerk was asked to report to ESH.

## **FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL**

8.4 An update on the work to the sewer in Firle Park was RECEIVED: the works are believed to be completed.

8.5 To DISCUSS the new Toucan Crossing at the Firle junction of the A27: the discussion was covered during agenda item 7.1.

### **9. MATTERS ARISING**

9.1 To RECEIVE an update on the planting of the Coronation Grove – Cllr Barr. DEFERRED

9.2 The Council RESOLVED to undertake a review of the current Assets of Community Value: the Clerk advised she couldn't find any assets registered with Lewes District Council for Firle; Cllrs Hill and Symes AGREED to review the asset nomination form and to propose assets for potential nomination.

9.3 An update on the 20sPlenty campaign work with Firle Community Association (FCA) was RECEIVED: There are now sufficient volunteers to form a working group; Cllr Symes AGREED to contact Kevin Moore (20sPlenty campaign group) to ask him to attend a meeting and Cllr Lance AGREED help contact the volunteers to arrange the first meeting.

9.4 To RESOLVE to pursue the creation of a footpath by Firle Primary School: Cllrs AGREED that this item could not yet be resolved until they had met and viewed the area from a feasibility perspective; the Council AGREED to undertake this investigation before the next meeting.

9.5 Council Members RESOLVED to purchase a thank you gift for services to the Council and agreed a budget.

**10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:** None received.

### **11. SUB LEASE FIRLE CRICKET CLUB:**

11.1 An update on the Sublease for Firle Cricket Club was RECEIVED: Mike Hole has advised that the sublease has now been signed and copies have been returned to the solicitor.

**12. ITEMS AGREED FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE:** Firle Toucan Crossing; update on 20splenty working group; TalkSussex survey; Flexibus

**13. AGENDA ITEMS PROPOSED FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL:** Report on the meeting with Firle Estate providing an overview of New Elms Barn - micro brewery; assets of community value; 20splenty; the use of parish council noticeboards.

**14. THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL was RECEIVED:** Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July, 7pm Firle Village Hall.

**15. THE MEETING CLOSED at 21.23.**