

FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

Tuesday 11^h April 2023, 7.02pm in Firle Village Hall.

Members of the Public in Attendance: 0.

Questions RECEIVED from the Public: None.

Members in Attendance: Cllr Gravett (Chair), Cllr Hill, Cllr Bolger, and Cllr Symes

Members not in Attendance: Cllr Barr.

Others Present: Clerk and RFO Lorna Thwaites.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies were RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllr Barr.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda, as required by the Members Code of Conduct were RECEIVED from Cllrs Hill & Symes: Agenda item 5.3 – Cllr Hill is a neighbour and Cllr Symes lives opposite; both Cllrs remained in the room but did not participate in any discussion or voting; Agenda item 5.1 Cllr Symes declared a personal friendship with the applicant which he does not consider to be prejudicial.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the ordinary meeting of Firle Parish Council held on 14th March 2023 were RESOLVED to be a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.
4. **REPORTS:**
 - 4.1 Reports from Local and District Councillors and the MP for Lewes were RECEIVED: Firle Parish Council AGREED to confirm to Maria Caulfield MP that it strongly supports the free school transport and is against its withdrawal by ESCC.
Correspondence from Cllr Denis regarding the A27 East of Lewes scheme was RECEIVED; the Council AGREED that it would like to participate in any meeting arranged between the A27 project team and Cllr Denis; Cllr Bolger advised there is currently no sound alert from the Toucan Crossing and the Clerk was asked to report this concern; the Clerk was asked to contact the East Sussex Highways Customer Service Manager regarding the lack of co-ordination between agencies regarding the night closures on Malling Hill and the A27 between the Beddingham and Drusilla's roundabouts.
5. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**
 - 5.1 SDNP/23/00300/LDP Location: New Elms Barn, Firle Bostal. Proposal: Change of use from agricultural building to Class E micro-brewery and construction of 50m² hardstanding. REFUSED by SDNPA.
Correspondence from Bob Baines, Firle Estate Director was RECEIVED; Council Members discussed the evidence of barn owls nesting at the barn and the ecology survey not being available on the planning portal; there were also concerns that a nesting box has been removed but NOTED that 2 nesting boxes are being put up in replacement; the Council also had concerns about the impact if another venue was created in the village.
 - 5.2 SDNP/23/01298/TCA Location: Preston House Wick Street Firle East Sussex BN8 6LG Proposal: T1 - Ash - Fell to ground level due to ash dieback, replant with native species T2 - Ash - Fell to ground level due to ash dieback, replant with native species (comments by 25 April). The Council AGREED to SUPPORT this application.
 - 5.3 SDNP/23/01377HOUS & 01378/LIS Location: Firle Cottage: The Street Firle East Sussex BN8 6NS Proposal: Amendment to approved planning application SDNP/21/03270/LIS for studio outbuildings, a swimming pool and associated garden walls (comments by 2nd May)
The Council AGREED to remain NEUTRAL with the following comments: there are concerns over a lack of dimensions on the planning application; there are also concerns over the elevation of the new roof and the height of the elevation and the impact this might have on neighbouring properties.
6. **ELECTIONS 2023:**
 - 6.1 The Notice of Election has been published as well as the results of uncontested election; four seats have been filled on Firle Parish Council with one remaining vacant; the remaining seat can be filled by co-option.
7. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
 - 7.1 Open Spaces and Paths – a new guide to protection: RECEIVED and NOTED.
 - 7.2 Firle Old Pipes: RECEIVED and NOTED; DEFERRED to the next meeting when Cllr Barr is in attendance.
 - 7.3 Road Safety in Firle: the information on Speedwatch in Glynde was NOTED and the Council agreed to discuss under agenda item 15.
 - 7.4 The decent detectorists: The Clerk was asked to respond advising the correspondent to contact Firle Estate.

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- 7.5 Tesco Community Grants: The Clerk asked to advertise on the FPC website.
- 7.6 Tax Fee Protection Service – Knill James: The Council AGREED to opt out from this service.
- 7.7 Glynde Estates: Whole Estate Plan – Public Exhibition: The Clerk asked to thank Glynde Estate for the invite and to confirm that Council Members would like to attend.
- 7.8 East Sussex Highways instruction to remove bikes opposite Black Tile: Council Members discussed the issues facing the resident and the legislation of the Highways Act 1980; the Council AGREED that that this was outside the jurisdiction of the Parish Council.

8. SUB LEASE OF PLAYING FIELDS TO FIRLE CRICKET CLUB:

- 8.1 To RECEIVE the cost from Adams and Remers to make the amendment requested by Firle Cricket Club and to RESOLVE whether to make these amends: An email was received from Firle Estate; the Clerk was asked to contact Firle Estate for the revised plan and for clarification on next steps.
- 8.2 To AGREE any further actions required regarding the Lease and Sublease of the Playing Fields. DEFERRED.

9. HIGHWAYS:

- 9.1 The response from the Road Safety Team regarding improving signage to highlight the use of Wick Street as a shared highway was RECEIVED: The Clerk was asked to follow up on the installation of the signs.
- 9.2 To RECEIVE an update on the maintenance work to the bus stop at Heighton Street from Cllr Barr. DEFERRED

10. MATTERS ARISING:

- 10.1 An update on the request for a parking review of Firle Top, Firle Beacon Car Park was RECEIVED: ESCC have responded to the request for a parking review advising that the parking area at the top of Firle Bostal is private land; the Council AGREED that the review requested is of the verges leading up to the car park and this is not private land; the Clerk was asked to contact ESCC to confirm where the review is required.
- 10.2 An update on the request for the removal of the two large wheelie bins in the Village Car Park was RECEIVED: The bins were not placed by Firle Estate; the Clerk was asked to email Firle Cricket Club.
- 10.3 The Council RESOLVED to pursue the possibility of a footpath from Firle Primary School to Crossways: The Clerk was asked to write to Nick Skelton, ESCC.
- 10.4 The Council DISCUSSED the opportunity to pursue Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding for the Parish of Firle and AGREED it would be appropriate for the footpath from Firle Primary School to Crossways; they NOTED the next SDNP funding cycle is Autumn 2023.

11. FINANCE & ADMIN:

- 11.1 Payments to be made in April were AUTHORISED and the bank reconciliation was RECEIVED and SIGNED.
- 11.2 Details of the 2023 Internal Audit were RECEIVED as Mulberry and Co, on 16th May 2023.
- 11.3 The agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting being held on 16th May 2023 was AGREED.
- 11.4 The Council NOTED the new Employer and Employee contribution rates – East Sussex Pension Fund (20.1% employer and 6.5% employee).

12. KING'S CORONATION

- 12.1 An update on the King's Coronation planning meeting held by FVHPFC was RECEIVED: the Coronation will be broadcast in the village hall on 6th May; a musical evening is planned for 7th May in Firle Village Hall; on the 8th May a 'Big Tea' with maypole and traditional games will be held, as well as a coronation bake off at the Cricket Club Playing Fields; a planting of a Coronation Grove in the Autumn is being discussed with Firle Estate; an application has been made to the National Lottery Awards for All to help fund the coronation events.

13. GRANT APPLICATIONS:

- 13.1 An application from FVHPFC for the King's Coronation was RECEIVED: The Council RESOLVED to award a grant of £500; if the grant from the National Lottery is awarded, any unspent grant funds will be returned to the Parish Council; the Council AGREED that payment of the Grant Award would be made prior to the Coronation events.

14. REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS AND LEGAL AGREEMENT WITH FIRLE VILLAGE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS:

- 14.1 To RATIFY the SIGNING of the Legal Agreement with FVHPFC: The Agreement has not yet been signed; Cllr Gravett and Mike Hole, FVHPFC Chair will meet and sign before the next meeting.

15. 20sPLENTY CAMPAIGN:

- 15.1 An update on the interest of the Firle Community Association (FCA) was RECEIVED from Cllr Hill: A request for volunteers to join a working group to campaign for 20mph speed limit in Firle has been made; only 5

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offers of help have been received; the FCA will meet in May and will decide if 5 members are sufficient to take the project forward; Cllr Symes agreed to make a poster to advertise for volunteers.

16. **ITEMS AGREED FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE:** Coronation Grant Award; Volunteers for the 20sPlenty working group.
17. **AGENDA ITEMS PROPOSED FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL:** No additional items proposed.
18. **THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL were RECEIVED:** 7pm, Tuesday 16th May 2023, Firle Village Hall.
19. **THE MEETING CLOSED** at 21.38.