

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 12th December 2023, 7.08pm 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: Cllr Denis arrived 19.28.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies for absence were RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllr Bolger.
2. **NO DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS WERE RECEIVED AND NO REQUESTS FOR A DISPENSATION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WERE MADE**, 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 14th November 2023 were RESOLVED to be a correct record and were signed by the Chair.
4. **FINANCE:**
 - 4.1 Payments to be made in December were AUTHORISED and the bank reconciliation was RECEIVED and SIGNED.
 - 4.2 The budget for 2024-2025 was AGREED and the Council RESOLVED to set a Precept of £11,500 for 2024-2025.
5. **GRANT AWARDS/S137:**
 - 5.1 The Council RESOLVED to contribute £100 to the Village Hall Christmas hamper.
6. **REPORT(S):**
 - 6.1 Reports from Local and District Councillors and the MP for Lewes were RECEIVED from Cllr O'Brien and Maria Caulfield MP; Cllr Denis was in attendance and reported that a number of consultations are currently being undertaken by Lewes District Council; Cllr Denis offered to follow up on the Council's requests to ESCC for parking reviews; the Transport Consultation by ESCC closes 25th February and he advised it is worthwhile to agree a response which can be emailed directly; areas to consider are the influence of the speeds of traffic and constraints of parking; Cllr Barr raised a concern with Cllr Denis about the hedge of Adder Wood forcing people further into the road which in turn forces people off the side of the road; Cllr Denis agreed to follow up for a response with ESH.
7. **FIRLE ESTATE**
 - 7.1 An update on proposed location for the planting of the Coronation Grove was RECEIVED: Cllr Barr attended a meeting with the Firle Estate Director, Bob Baines, Penny Woolgar and Mike Hole and they looked at various locations; in principle the planting of the grove has been accepted by Firle Estate but a site still needs to be found.
8. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:** The following correspondence was RECEIVED:
 - 8.1 Renewal of PSPOs in Lewes district. NOTED.
 - 8.2 ESCC Community Match funding: Cllr Lance offered to look at Community Match to see what can be applied for.
 - 8.3 Funding for 'Landmark Community Projects': NOTED.
 - 8.4 ESALC AGM draft minutes. NOTED.
 - 8.5 Lewes Local Plan: To be on the agenda for the FPC ordinary meeting in January.
 - 8.6 ESCC Highways Presentation: NOTED as a useful reference.
 - 8.7 Sussex Police. NOTED.
 - 8.8 Spot the Gritter. NOTED
 - 8.9 Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) consultation: To be on the agenda for the FPC ordinary meeting in January.
9. **HIGHWAYS:**
 - 9.1 An update on Wick Street signage was RECEIVED: No response has been received from the Road Safety Team despite the Clerk contacting them regularly for updates; the Clerk was asked to contact Ian Johnson, ESH regarding signs for Wick Street to warn cyclists and road users that it is a shared space and junction warning signs for cyclists approaching junctions of adjoining lanes.
 - 9.2 An update on the work to the bus stop at South Heighton was RECEIVED: The work is not yet complete but will be done by Christmas.
 - 9.3 An update and next steps on the repair of the bus shelter was RECEIVED: Cllr Lance has looked at the bus shelter; at the front there is some planks missing and the back of the shelter is wet and the roof and walls

are covered with ivy; she is unsure if reparable; Cllrs Lance and Barr to revisit in daylight and this item is to be revisited at next month's meeting.

- 9.4 An update regarding the reported blocked drains in the village was RECEIVED: Cllrs Barr and Lance have reported lots of areas where there are drain issues; no timeframes have been received for the repairs; the Council proposed to write a general letter about the issues existing in Firle siting the case numbers; the Clerk was asked to request the road to be swept from the Village Shop to the Village Hall; Cllr Lance offered to visit the LDC offices and also to collate the case numbers and details of all the problems reported as well as the collapsed road side (agenda item 9.5) the letter is to be sent to Cllr Johnny Denis and Maria Caulfield, MP.
- 9.5 The Council RESOLVED to contact East Sussex Highways to request that the collapsed culvert and road to be repaired near the pub to prevent flooding of the road.
- 9.6 To RECEIVE an update on the request to ask ESCC Highways to attend to the dangerous verge-side potholes along Ripe Lane: this was discussed with Cllr Denis during agenda item 6.1.
- 9.7 An update on the A27 Beddingham to Firle resurfacing was RECEIVED: Cllr Barr has spoken to the contact on the card sent to residents; he has also spoken to the person undertaking the work as well as their manager; Cllr Barr considered the conversation to be very productive.

10. MATTERS ARISING:

- 10.1 An update on the request to the owners of The Cottage to put 'no parking on the pavement, disabled access required at all times' signs on their wall was RECEIVED: The Council AGREED the wording as 'Please do not park on the pavement' Firle Parish Council; 2 signs are required to be placed on the wall of The Cottage (opposite the drain; the second on the bend); these should not be sited until the road has been repaired but permission can be sought; the Clerk will draft a letter and Cllr Barr will deliver it.

11. PROJECTS:

11.1 Parish Priority Statements

- 11.1.1 The initial results of the PPS questionnaire sent to Firle residents was DISCUSSED: 71 responses were received – residents were encouraged to complete the survey as it is to be sent to the SDNPA for their Local Plan; Cllr Hill AGREED to summarise the survey and send to the Council for approval before sending to the SDNPA; a final agreed statement will be sent to Firle Estate; the survey highlighted the interest in affordable housing and work spaces; concerns over surface water drainage; support for the 20mph speed limit in the village and the need for a footpath to the school;
- 11.1.2 The Council RESOLVED to approve the final statement by email for submission to the SDNPA; Cllr Hill will send the summary to Cllr Denis.
Cllr Denis left 20.22hrs.

11.2 20sPlenty for Firle

- 11.2.1 To RESOLVE the locations identified by the 20sPlenty Working Group requiring 30mph and 20mph speed limits in the village: DEFERRED to next meeting.
- 11.2.2 The Council RESOLVED to apply for a feasibility study for a 20mph speed limit in the village.

11.3 Assets of Community Value

- 11.3.1 An update on the progress of nominating Firle Village Stores as an Asset of Community Value was RECEIVED: Cllr Lance has the paperwork ready to send; the Council expressed their thanks to Cllr Lance for her work on this.

12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS: None received

13. HR MATTERS:

- 13.1 The Clerk's request for leave over the Christmas period was AGREED.
- 13.2 To RESOLVE to exclude the press and public to discuss the NALC Local Government Pay Agreement: No press or public were present at the meeting at this point.
- 13.3 The Council RESOLVED to implement the new pay agreement.

14. ITEMS AGREED FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE: Gritter information from ESH; PPS questionnaire summary; FPC actions regarding the blocked drains in the parish.

15. AGENDA ITEMS PROPOSED FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL: Consultations on the transport plan and local plan; the site for the Coronation Grove; 20mph locations and feasibility study.

16. THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL was RECEIVED: Tuesday 9th January, 2024, 7pm in Firle Village Hall.

17. THE MEETING CLOSED at 21.39