

FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

Tuesday 14th March 2023, 7.03pm in Firle Village Hall.

Members of the Public in Attendance: 1. Arrived 19.28

Questions RECEIVED from the Public: None.

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

Members not in Attendance: None.

Others Present: Clerk and RFO Lorna Thwaites.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** To receive and accept apologies for absence. None Received.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda, as required by the Members Code of Conduct RECEIVED: Agenda item 12 - Cllr Barr has been appointed as a Trustee of Firle Memorial Hall and Playing Fields Committee; Agenda item 15 – Cllr Barr has undertaken some work for Firle Estate on New Elms Barn (moved some dirt, scrap metal and dead trees); Agenda item 6.3 - Cllrs Hill and Barr are members of the Firle Tree Planting Initiative.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the ordinary meeting of Firle Parish Council held on 14th February 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 Maria Caulfield, MP for Lewes were RECEIVED: The Council NOTED the following; Cllr Denis has submitted a complaint regarding the Project Manager for the A27 East of Lewes Scheme; RIS3 has been put on hold for the foreseeable future and this impacts the plans to dual the A27.
 - 4.2 A short report on the opening of the Firle Playground was RECEIVED: Cllrs Barr and Cllr Hill attended the opening on Saturday 18th Feb; the playground was successfully opened by Lord Gage; the Council discussed again the inspection report and the items highlighted as requiring attention; Mike Hole, Chair of FVHPFC advised that the low-risk items on the inspection report will soon be undertaken.
5. **ELECTIONS 2023:**
 - 5.1 No further information from Lewes District Council received.
 - 5.2 The Council AGREED to promote the election on the FPC website, FPC Facebook page and Firle Parish Magazine.
6. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
 - 6.1 South Downs Local Plan Review: Councillors AGREED to meet to complete the form by the deadline of 6th April.
 - 6.2 The response from Nick Skelton, Asst. Director Communities – Withdrawal of School Transport (Firle Primary School) was RECEIVED: The Council were all in agreement that the response was disappointing.
 - 6.3 Firle Millenium Woods – work has been undertaken to cut back growth that was missed last Autumn; an invoice for 2021 has been sent by Southeast Ground Care to the Firle Tree Planting Initiative; this work and the payment of the 2021 invoice was agreed by the Parish Council in October 2021; Firle Tree Planting Initiative will send a request to Firle Parish Council for funds to cover the 2023 costs.
7. **SUB LEASE OF PLAYING FIELDS TO FIRLE CRICKET CLUB:**
 - 7.1 An update from Firle Cricket Club with regards to the signing of the Sublease was RECEIVED: The request of Firle Cricket Club to make a change to the map was discussed; FPC are currently pending a quote from A&R to make this change.
 - 7.2 No further actions could be agreed until the cost from A&R has been received.
8. **HIGHWAYS:**
 - 8.1 The response from the Road Safety Team regarding improving signage to highlight the use of Wick Street as a shared highway was RECEIVED: The Road Safety Team are pending a response from National Highways regarding putting warning signs up.
 - 8.2 Details of the works required to the bus stop at Heighton Street were RECEIVED from Cllr Barr: Some of the bits of feather edge have been kicked out; Cllr Barr offered to screw them back in. AGREED.
 - 8.3 No updates or further information/feedback on the A27 Toucan Crossing at Firle were received: The Council AGREED to leave this matter with Cllr Denis.
9. **MATTERS ARISING:**

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- 9.1 An update on the request for a parking review of Firle Top, Firle Beacon Car Park was RECEIVED: At the suggestion of Cllr Denis, a parking review has been requested with LDC; Cllr Hill was litter picking and noticed that the LDC litter bin has been fenced off; the Clerk was asked to write to Firle Estate to ask them to move the litter bin to within the non-gated area of the car park so it is freely accessible to the public.
- 9.2 An update on the request for the removal of the two large wheelie bins in the Village Car Park was RECEIVED: the Clerk emailed the contact at LDC but has had no response; the Clerk was asked to email Firle Estate and Firle Cricket Club.

10. FINANCE & ADMIN:

- 10.1 Payments to be made in March were AUTHORISED and the bank reconciliation was SIGNED.
- 10.2 The spend vs budget for April 2022 to March 2023 was RECEIVED and NOTED.
- 10.3 The s.137 limit for 2023/24 of £9.93 per head of relevant population was RECEIVED.
- 10.4 The date of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the Annual Parish Meeting was AGREED as 16th May 2023.

11. GRANT APPLICATIONS: None Received.

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

- 12.1 A request for an adaptation from FVHPFC was RECEIVED: The Council AGREED to this amendment and the Clerk was asked to circulate the agreement for signing.
- 12.2 To SIGN the Legal Agreement with FVHPFC: The agreement will be sent to Mike Hall and Cllr Gravett for signing and to be approved at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

13. CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

- 13.1 To RECEIVE an update on any provisional plans developed by Firle community groups: Members of the Parish Council are invited to a meeting on 21st March, 7pm in Firle Village Hall, organised by FVHPFC.
- 13.2 No actions to be undertaken by Firle Parish Council at this present time.

14. 20sPLENTY CAMPAIGN:

- 14.1 An update on the interest of the Firle Community Association was RECEIVED from Cllr Hill: The campaign was discussed at the last steering committee meeting; more volunteers from the community are needed to help lobby for the speed limit reduction as well as getting the school on board and gathering data; a representative from FCA will contact the school to ask if there are parents/carers willing to join the working group; residents of Crossways are also to be contacted; if there is sufficient volunteer interest a speaker from the 20sPlenty action group will be invited to a meeting of FCA.

15. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- 15.1 New Elms Micro Brewery: this has not yet been received as a planning application but was brought to the attention of the Council at the last meeting by Cllr Denis; Member of the Council discussed a Barn Owl nesting in the barn and the Clerk was asked to email Cllr Denis; Bob Baines, Firle Estate Director has requested to attend the April meeting of the Parish Council to discuss this application.

16. TO AGREE ITEMS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE: Elections 2023; Annual Parish Meeting; 20sPlenty; Kings Coronation.

17. TO PROPOSE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL: Annual Rent for Leases; the possibility of creating a footpath to Firle Primary School from Crossways; CIL funding.

18. TO RECEIVE THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL. 11th April. 7pm Firle Village Hall.

19. TO CLOSE THE MEETING. 21.22