

# **FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL** held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 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 Barr (Vice-Chair), Cllr Lance, Cllr Symes.

**Members not in Attendance:** Cllr Bolger.

**Others Present:** None.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies for absence were RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllr Bolger; Lorna Thwaites, Clerk and RFO was also absent due to illness.
2. **NO DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS WERE MADE AND NO REQUESTS FOR ANY DISPENSATIONS WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WERE RECEIVED,** 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 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were RESOLVED to be a correct record and were signed by the Chair.
4. **FINANCE:**
  - 4.1 The payment arrangements for the donation of £50 to the Royal British Legion for the Poppy Appeal were CONFIRMED: Cllr Hill AGREED to pay the £50 donation with the Clerk to re-imbure once the payment had been made; the Council NOTED that next year the Parish Council will need to order a wreath, organise the civic ceremony, involve the school and put a notice in the Parish Magazine; the Council AGREED these matters would need to be discussed on the September 2024 agenda; Cllr Barr AGREED to seek a quote for repair of the RBL flag.
  - 4.2 Payments to be made in November were AUTHORISED and the bank reconciliation was RECEIVED and SIGNED.
  - 4.3 Budget priorities for 2024-2025 were AGREED and first thoughts on the precept were CONSIDERED: The CPRE donation should be included in the 2024 budget; major projects will be the speed reduction feasibility study and D-Day fireworks (@ £500 each); fencing between the playing fields and the car park (@ £1000) and new bus shelter (@ £2-3k); a question was asked regarding the reduction is the Village Hall subscription; Cllr Barr suggested putting a track from the gate to the cricket club and hard surfacing around the playing fields gate and he will obtain costs for this work; these items will need to come from reserves- some have already been allocated and some not; it is proposed to increase the precept by £500 but this will be discussed at the next meeting.
  - 4.4 Confirmation of the submission of the 2022 – 2023 VAT return was RECEIVED: A return of £392.38 has been submitted.
5. **GRANT AWARDS:** None Received.
6. **REPORT(S):**
  - 6.1 Reports from Local and District Councillors and the MP for Lewes were RECEIVED and NOTED.
7. **FIRLE ESTATE:**
  - 7.1 An update on the village gathering with Firle Estate was RECEIVED: The Parish Council welcomed the offer of the Estate to hold a village gathering and thought the meeting was a positive step on the journey to address the recent village concerns.
8. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:** The following correspondence was RECEIVED and actions AGREED:
  - 8.1 Bus Stop Disrepair – Firle / Bus Shelter: Cllrs Barr and Lance will inspect the bus shelter and obtain quotes for the repairs.
  - 8.2 Investment in Better Roads for East Sussex: To be submitted to the Parish Magazine.
  - 8.3 Footpath in Firle: NOTED.
  - 8.4 Sussex Police: To be submitted to the Parish Magazine.
  - 8.5 Woodland Trust – Free Trees: To be submitted to the Parish Magazine.
  - 8.6 Verge at Crossways: NOTED.
  - 8.7 Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2023: NOTED; to be on the agenda for resolution at the next meeting.
9. **HIGHWAYS:**

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- 9.1 No further update on Wick Street signage has been received: No new signs are in evidence; the Clerk was asked to follow up again.
- 9.2 An update on the work to the bus stop at South Heighton was RECEIVED: This work is still in progress.
- 9.3 An update regarding the blocked drain from the Vicarage to Firle Village Hall was RECEIVED: No action has yet been taken by East Sussex Highways (ESH).
- 9.4 An update on the drainage where water accumulates at Crossways and other areas of the village was RECEIVED: Cllr Lance will contact ESH to clear both drains at Crossways again as they are draining slowly; Cllr Lance has already reported the poor drainage in the Bostal; Cllr Barr has reported poor drainage at the Kennedys and will contact the Ram Inn to ask them to prevent garden material being thrown over the wall into the ditch; at the next meeting of the Parish Council there will be a resolution to contact Highways to ask for collapsed culvert and road to be repaired near the pub to prevent flooding of the road.
- 9.5 The Council RESOLVED to contact ESCC Highways to attend to the dangerous verge-side potholes along Ripe Lane and Cllr Barr will pass details of the stretch of road which need pothole repairs to the Clerk; Cllr Barr reported that with regards to asking Firle Estate to cut back Adder Wood next to Ripe Lane both Firle Estate and East Sussex Highways have advised that they do not plan to do any tree work there as it is not a high priority.
- 9.6 Temporary Road Closure – C13 Ripe Lane, 16 – 18 Dec 2023: To be submitted to the Parish Magazine.
- 9.7 A27 Beddingham to Firle resurfacing: The Council NOTED that this information will change due to the location of the ongoing work; Cllr Barr has contacted Highways to obtain up to date information as the work progresses.

## **10. MATTERS ARISING:**

- 10.1 To An update on proposed location for the planting of the Coronation Grove from Firle Estate was RECEIVED: The Firle Estate Director is consulting with Lord Gage for a suitable location.
- 10.2 An update from Firle Estate on the work needed to the gates from the Playing Fields car park into Firle Park and the Ram Field was RECEIVED: This work has been completed.
- 10.3 The Council RESOLVED to ask the owners of The Cottage to put 'no parking on the pavement' signs on their wall: The Clerk was asked email the owners to request permission to place signs that state 'Please do not park on the pavement. Disabled access is needed at all times.'

## **11. PROJECTS:**

### **11.1 Parish Priority Statements**

- 11.1.1 An update on the progress of the working group on the questionnaire designed to survey parishioners on village priorities was RECEIVED: The working group will send out a questionnaire to survey all parishioners within the next 2 weeks.

### **11.2 20sPlenty for Firle**

- 11.2.1 A report of the first meeting of the working group was RECEIVED: An informative meeting was preceded by a talk given by Kevin Moore from the '20 is Plenty Campaign Group.
- 11.2.2 To RESOLVE for the working group to identify areas for a 20mph speed limit in the village: The Council proposed to replace the national speed limit sign with a 30 mph speed limit on The Street at Firle Junction, then a 20mph limit at Crossways and throughout the village; a 30mph limit on The Bostal at New Elms houses and a 20mph limit at the council houses; Cllr Hill and Symes will liaise with the FCA and the working group on locations.
- 11.2.3 The Council RESOLVED to apply for a feasibility study for a 20mph speed limit in the village after locations of the speed limits have been agreed with the FCA and the working group.

### **11.3 Assets of Community Value**

- 11.3.1 An update on the progress of nominating Firle Village Hall as an Asset of Community Value was RECEIVED: Cllr Lance confirmed that the Village Hall is now registered and that registrations have to be renewed every 5 years; the Council discussed if there was a way to flag up this renewal date.
- 11.3.2 An update on the progress of nominating Firle Village Stores as an Asset of Community Value was RECEIVED: Cllr Lance reported this is ongoing and requires an up to date map of the grounds of the Stores; Cllr Lance was thanked for her successful work to register ACVs.

## **12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS: Ccomments AGREED for applications received:**

- 12.1 **SDNP/23/04324/TCA** (deadline for comments 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 23)

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**Location:** Church House The Street Firle East Sussex BN8 6LP

**Proposal:** Yew (T1) - Whole crown reduction by average of 0.50 metres to form an asymmetric and aesthetically pleasing shape to reduce shading, and crown lifting to approx. 2 metres above ground level to provide access beneath canopy. SUPPORTED.

13. **ITEMS AGREED FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE:** As NOTED in the minutes.
14. **AGENDA ITEMS PROPOSED FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL:** To resolve to request East Sussex Highways (ESH) to repair the damaged road by the Ram Inn and to resolve to write to ESH regarding the ongoing problems with drainage and flooding in Firle village.
15. **THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL was RECEIVED:** Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm Firle Village Hall.
16. **THE MEETING was CLOSED.**