

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 9th January 2024, 7.02pm 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 (arrived 19.14).

Members not in Attendance: Cllr Bolger.

Others Present: Cllr Agace arrived 19.03.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** 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,** 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 12th December 2023 were RESOLVED to be a correct record and were signed by the Chair.
4. **FINANCE:**
 - 4.1 Payments to be made in January were AUTHORISED and the bank reconciliation was RECEIVED and SIGNED.
 - 4.2 The 2024-2025 Precept form for LDC was signed by the Chair with the amount of Precept set at £11,500.
5. **GRANT AWARDS/S137:** None Received.
6. **REPORT(S):**
 - 6.1 A report was RECEIVED from Cllr O'Brien.
7. **FIRLE ESTATE**
 - 7.1 No further update on a proposed location from Firle Estate for the planting of the Coronation Grove was received; the Clerk is to email Firle Estate as the trees need planting by March.
8. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:** The following correspondence was RECEIVED:
 - 8.1 Draft report of the IRP – Town and Parish Councils. The Council RESOLVED not to adopt the members allowance scheme.
 - 8.2 Interim Chief Executive leads South Downs National Park into 2024. NOTED.
 - 8.3 Local Plan Review Parishes Workshops Follow up; the Council confirmed the Settlement Facilities Assessment has been checked and is accurate.
 - 8.4 National Planning Policy Framework Update for Parishes. NOTED.
 - 8.5 SDNPA's Opening of the 2023/4 call for projects for CIL funding: The Council discussed the possibility of applying for CIL funding for a footpath to the school; Cllr Hill has discussed possible routes and exits with members of the FCA; difficulties have been previously expressed regarding the safety of re-instating the footpath where it exits onto the road; an alternative route could be behind the houses or there is the option of going down the side of the road; the Council felt there were limitations to all these options and AGREED that the Clerk should contact Firle Primary School to offer a meeting to understand their interest in the path; Cllr Hill will discuss further with the FCA about options for exiting the woods.
 - 8.6 D-Day 80 – 6th June 2024: The Council NOTED the date; Firle Bonfire Society will be organising fireworks and lighting of the Beacon; a grant request may be sent to the Parish Council; bell ringing may also be arranged.
 - 8.7 South Downs National Park Board Councillor Representative Vacancy: The vacancy was discussed but none of the council members wished to be nominated at this time.
9. **HIGHWAYS:**
 - 9.1 An update on Wick Street signage was RECEIVED: The Clerk had received an email from Ian Johnson, ESH but no further update on when the signs would be installed; the Clerk was asked to chase again before the February meeting.
 - 9.2 An update on the work to the bus stop at Heighton Street was RECEIVED: Cllr Barr advised the work is now complete; the Council thanked Cllr Barr for his work.
 - 9.3 An update and next steps on the repair of the bus shelter at Crossways was RECEIVED: Cllrs Barr and Lance visited the bus shelter and consider the main structure to be sound, but repairs are needed including new felt on the roof and the wood preserving; the Council AGREED for Cllr Barr to approach Terry Gaston for a quote.
 - 9.4 An update on the letter sent to Cllr Johnny Denis and Maria Caulfield MP regarding the drainage problems in the village was RECEIVED: Cllr Lance has now prepared a list of drainage problems that have been sent to ESH to-date; she has sent this to the Clerk who will draft a letter; Cllr Lance will also report further potholes in the village.

9.5 To RECEIVE an update from Cllr Denis on the request to ask ESCC Highways to attend to the dangerous verge-side potholes along Ripe Lane: No update yet received; the Clerk was asked to chase.

10. MATTERS ARISING:

10.1 An update on the letter sent to the owners of The Cottage requesting permission to place a parking restriction sign on their wall was RECEIVED: The Clerk has drafted a letter and sent to Cllrs Barr and Hill; the Clerk was asked to re-send the letter to Cllr Barr for delivery.

11. LEWES LOCAL PLAN: To AGREE the response of Firle Parish Council to the consultation on the Lewes Local Plan (deadline 8th February 2024): Cllr Agace gave an overview of the consultation and the need for people to respond; a high number of houses to be built in the Lewes district has been requested, however Lewes propose a lower number; the Council AGREED to meet on Tuesday 16th January, 7pm Firle Village Hall to respond to the consultation.

12. EAST SUSSEX DRAFT LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 4 (LTP4): To AGREE the response of Firle Parish Council to the consultation on LTP4 (deadline 25th February 2024): The Council NOTED that webinars are available and AGREED to DEFER the discussion to the next meeting.

13. PROJECTS:

13.1 Parish Priority Statements:

13.1.1 Confirmation of receipt of the PPS by the SDNPA was RECEIVED along with their thanks for the report; the report prepared by FPC has been published; Council Members expressed their gratitude to Cllr Hill and members of the FCA who had worked so hard on this project and for the preparation of the report; the felt it was a great collaboration between the FCA and FPC.

13.1.2 The Council AGREED to send the website link and the final Firle PPS to Firle Estate.

13.2 20sPlenty for Firle

13.2.1 Information on the ESCC Community Match Funding Scheme was RECEIVED: The Council discussed with Cllr Agace whether there might be a change in local government which could impact the processes for the feasibility process; the Council RESOLVED to complete the appraisal application form and send the speed data information.

13.2.2 To RESOLVE the locations identified by the 20sPlenty Working Group requiring 30mph and 20mph speed limits in the village and to AGREE any further actions required for the campaign: No further actions agreed.

13.3 Assets of Community Value

13.3.1 An update on the progress of nominating Firle Village Stores as an Asset of Community Value was RECEIVED: Cllr Lance has submitted the application, but not yet received a response.
Cllr Agace left at 20.37.

14. PLANNING APPLICATIONS: Comments AGREED for applications received:

14.1 **Location:** The Parsonage, The Street Firle East Sussex BN8 6NP: **Proposal:** T1-T4 - Sycamore - fell to ground level - causing damage to adjacent wall. Deadline for comments 10th January 2024. The Council RESOLVED to SUPPORT.

14.2 **Proposal:** Change of use of annex to holiday let and ancillary residential accommodation **Location:** 56 Crossways, Wick Street, Firle, East Sussex, BN8 6LG. Deadline for comments 2nd February 2024. The Council RESOLVED to remain NEUTRAL.

15. ITEMS AGREED FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE: Bus stop at Heighton Street repairs and planned repairs to the bus shelter at Crossways; the pothole repair by the Ram; FPC intention to respond to the Local Plan; FPC lobbying Cllr Denis and Maria Caulfield for the repair of reported potholes (inc. Firle Bostal, Ripe Lane and by Firle School); next steps for 20sPlenty.

16. AGENDA ITEMS PROPOSED FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL: Surface of road by Middle Farm (National Highways)

17. THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL WAS RECEIVED: 7pm, Tuesday 13th February.

18. THE MEETING CLOSED: At 20.55.