

## FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL:** Tues. 11<sup>th</sup> Feb '25, 7.04pm 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:** Lorna Thwaites, Clerk and RFO.

**To RECEIVE questions from the Public:** None received.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllr Bolger.
2. **NO DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS** were **RECEIVED AND NO REQUESTS** were made **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 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were **RESOLVED** to be a correct record and were signed by the Chair.
4. **FINANCE & ADMIN:**
  - 4.1 Payments to be made in February were **AUTHORISED** and the bank reconciliation **SIGNED**.
  - 4.2 An update on actual spend vs budget was **RECEIVED**: The Council **NOTED** the budget is on track.
5. **REPORT(S):** Any written reports to be taken as read.
  - 5.1 Reports from Local and District Councillors and the MP for Lewes were **NOTED**.
6. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:** To **RECEIVE** the following correspondence and **AGREE** any actions:
  - 6.1 Opening of the SDNPA's 2024/5 Call for Projects for CIL Funding: The Council **AGREED** that it has no projects at this current time that would require submitting an expression of interest.
  - 6.2 Changes to Southern Water's Surface Water Management: The Council **NOTED** this new policy and that the significant change is how Southern Water will assess surface water discharge into the 'foul only' and combined public sewers.
  - 6.3 Views sought – East Sussex Rights of Way Action Plan: The Council **AGREED** to meet to complete the survey.
  - 6.4 East Sussex Parishes: South Downs National Park Authority: The Council **AGREED** that it did not currently have a need to meet with Paul Bevan but thanked him for the offer and will request him to attend a parish council meeting if the need arises in the future.
  - 6.5 An Invitation (SDNPA): **RECEIVED**; the Council **AGREED** that they would complete the survey individually.
  - 6.6 Transport for the South East Draft Transport Strategy Consultation – have your say: The Council **RESOLVED** not to respond to the consultation.
  - 6.7 Notice Board (from Firle Primary School): Cllr Barr **AGREED** to check the posts for stability and establish if they need to be replaced; the Council also discussed the use of the noticeboard and the Council **AGREED** that Cllr Symes would put on the minutes and agenda back on this noticeboard.
  - 6.8 Devolution Paper: **NOTED**.
7. **MATTERS ARISING:**
  - 7.1 VE DAY 80 – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025: A response has not been received from Firle Bonfire Society or FVHPFC; Cllr Barr advised that the Bonfire Society have discussed the celebrations but not reached a decision; the next VHPFC is planned for March; the Council **AGREED** to **DEFER** to the next meeting.
  - 7.2 A response from Firle Primary School regarding pupil roll numbers for September 2025 was **RECEIVED**: The school does not yet have roll numbers for September 2025 and will advise the Council once received; the Council discussed the numbers currently at the school and the issues facing the school; the Clerk was asked to thank the school for their report, to offer the Council's support and to make them aware of the Parish Council grant fund.
  - 7.3 The Council **RESOLVED** that they would not respond to the LDC Local Plan Consultation but **NOTED** that they had responded to the previous consultation.
  - 7.4 The Council **RESOLVED** to respond to the SDNP Local Plan Consultation and to meet on 4<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm to complete: Cllr Hill gave a brief report on the consultation meeting she attended - housing and traffic were threats identified in the SWOT; there was a useful Q&A session held at the end of the meeting; a question was raised at the meeting regarding second home ownership and the level of council tax for these properties; Cllr discussed that Firle might be a prime area for second homes and should be noted as an issue for Firle in the consultation; Cllr Hill stressed the importance of responding to the consultation.
8. **HIGHWAYS:**
  - 8.1 Updates were **RECEIVED** on matters reported to ESH – potholes, drains and leaf sweeping: The pothole on The Street before the 30mph sign has been filled; no others have been reported; Cllr Lance will report the

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one in the middle of the road by the village hall; the collapsed drain has been reported and will be reported again and Cllr Lance will send the reference number to the Clerk so she can follow up with the ESH customer services manager; Cllr Lance will contact Cllr Agace regarding the blocked drain; the leaf sweeping was done very successfully with a team of five operatives from ESH; the Council AGREED Cllr Lance would contact Wayne Hemmings from ESH in September 2025 and that it would be an agenda item for the September meeting.

- 8.2 A response from ESH regarding the gritting routes in Firle was RECEIVED: The Winter Maintenance Team have confirmed that Wick Street is classified as a secondary route and will be gritted accordingly. However, Firle Bostal is not included in the gritting schedule since it primarily leads to a car park; the Council AGREED to put this in the parish magazine and to remind parishioners that there are 2 grit bins in the village (opposite the shop and Crossways) to be used for the roads when needed.
- 8.3 An update on the repairs to the telescopic bollards by the Rights of Way team was RECEIVED: They are being inspected but no date for completion has been given.
- 8.4 Details of ESH drainage investigations on Wick Street 24 Feb 2025 were NOTED.

**9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS/TREE WORKS:** Comments AGREED for applications received:

- 9.1 SDNP/24/04702/LIS **Proposal:** Replacement and refurbishment of windows **Location:** Firle Church Of England Primary School, The Street, Firle, East Sussex, BN8 6LF: RESOLVED to SUPPORT.
- 9.2 SDNP/25/00040/FUL **Proposal:** Section 73a retrospective erection of timber boardwalk and installation of 2no compost toilets Location: New Elms Barn, Firle Bostal, Firle, East Sussex. (comments by 11 March): The Council RESOLVED to remain NEUTRAL.

**10. PROJECTS:**

**10.1 Assets of Community Value**

- 10.1.1 Cllr Lance has submitted the nomination of Firle Playing Fields Area as an ACV.

- 11. **ITEMS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE:** SDNP consultation; leaf sweeping and pothole/drain reporting and progress.
- 12. **NO AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL** were proposed.
- 13. **THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL:** 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025, 7pm in Firle Village Hall.
- 14. **THE MEETING CLOSED** at 20.57.