

FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL: Tues. 8th Oct. 2024, 7.04pm Firle Village Hall.

Members of the Public in Attendance: None. **Questions RECEIVED from the Public:** None.

Members in Attendance: Cllr Barr (Vice-Chair), Cllr Bolger, Cllr Symes.

Members not in Attendance: Cllr Lance, Cllr Hill.

Others Present: County Cllr Johnny Denis, Lorna Thwaites, Clerk and RFO

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllrs Hill and Lance: Cllr Barr chaired the meeting.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS** were RECEIVED: Cllr Barr is now the Chair for Firle Village Hall and Playing Fields Committee; **NO REQUESTS FOR A DISPENSATION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA** were made.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Firle Parish Council held on 10th September 2024 were RESOLVED to be a correct record and were signed by the presiding Chair.
4. **FINANCE & ADMIN:**
 - 4.1 Payments to be made in October were AUTHORISED and the bank reconciliation RECEIVED.
 - 4.2 The priorities of the 2025-2026 budget were DISCUSSED along with the strategy of the Council; the precept will be agreed at the meeting in December.
 - 4.3 Mulberry & Co. have been appointed for 3 years as the internal auditor.
 - 4.4 Team4 Solutions have been appointed as the new payroll provider.
5. **REPORT(S):**
 - 5.1 Report RECEIVED from Cllr Denis: The Local Plan is being reviewed by LDC - Firle Parish Council have responded to the consultation; the Chair of ESCC wishes to celebrate the work of local volunteers and those nominated will be thanked by way of an invite to a celebration summer tea – Cllr Denis asked Firle Parish Council to consider who they might nominate; Cllr Denis raised the proposed closure of adult social care facilities including The Phoenix Centre in Lewes and asked for the Council's support; Cllr Denis has regular meetings with the ESH Steward and offered to champion any outstanding highways matters on behalf of Firle Parish Council; these were noted as: Bostal Road - the drain has collapsed but ESH couldn't access it due to a parked car blocking the drain; A27 Firle Straight opposite Dairy Farm House - work to the road surface has resulted in a rough finish that is significant when driving a tractor or with a trailer – National Highways have been advised by Firle Parish Council, but they have declined taking any action; Ripe Lane – there is a sunken hole in the middle of the road, 200m from the crossing; Ripe Lane - dangerous drops off the road edges with 3 or 4 holes on the eastern side of the road (large vehicles have been stuck when allowing oncoming traffic to pass) – ESH have declined taking any action despite being notified by Firle Parish Council.
Cllr Denis left the meeting at 19.30.
 - 5.2 The report from the Southdowns National Park Parish Meeting was DEFERED: Cllr Bolger could not attend.
6. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
 - 6.1 Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) Meetings – ESH: The Council AGREED to request a meeting.
 - 6.2 Response to the Government consultation on the new National Planning Policy Framework: NOTED.
 - 6.3 ESALC Conference – ESALC Admin: NOTED.
 - 6.4 Car parking on the verges at Firle Beacon – B. Baines: The Council NOTED the response of Firle Estate, who are monitoring any parking issues.
 - 6.5 SDNPA CIL Parish Payments – Firle PC – N.Allen, CIL Planning Officer: The Council NOTED the expected CIL payment of @ £800 and the Clerk has sent the necessary bank information.
 - 6.6 The Street, Firle – East Sussex Highways: The drainage works were NOTED.
 - 6.7 Vermin Problem – Bob Baines: The Council NOTED the issue of vermin in the village raised by Firle Estate and AGREED to put an article in the parish magazine.
 - 6.8 Firle Tennis Club – grant – L Gribble: The Clerk has sent the grant policy and application form to the Club.
7. **MATTERS ARISING:**
 - 7.1 The parking restriction signs will be installed on the wall of The Cottage by Cllrs Symes and Barr.
 - 7.2 The Council RESOLVED to purchase a poppy wreath for Remembrance Sunday with a donation of £50.
 - 7.3 The location for the proposed planting of a tree on the Cricket Field is proving challenging as it needs to allow for the future growth of the tree; the Council will be kept informed.
 - 7.4 The Council RESOLVED to contact Firle Estate to see if clearing the ditch alongside the church spinney wall (of saplings and undergrowth) sits under their remit; the area for clearing is between the Shire House and the War Memorial.

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7.5 The Council RESOLVED to contact the owners/tenants of properties along The Street and The Dock to cut back vegetation overhanging and blocking the public footpath: Ivy is blocking the path from the allotments and up The Street; the Clerk was asked to draft a letter to Black Tile house to ask them to cut back their hedge and to contact Firle Estate regarding the overgrowth from tenanted properties.

8. HIGHWAYS:

8.1 The work to be done to waterproof the Crossways bus shelter is pending drier weather.

8.2 The response from Southern Water re sewage leaking onto Wick Street was RECEIVED but no response was received from James MacCleary MP: the Council will raise the matter with ESH at a SLR meeting and will include the item on the agenda for the next meeting.

8.3 The re-painting of the zig-zag markings outside of Firle Primary School (RML1863) has not yet done: Cllr Barr advised of a banner he has seen outside an Upper Dicker School advising parents not to park on the zig zag markings; Cllr Barr will take a photo to circulate to the Council.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS: To AGREE comments for any applications received:

9.1 **SDNP/24/03870/HOUS Proposal:** Convert existing outbuilding into annexe accommodation

Location: Preston House, Wick Street, Firle, East Sussex, BN8 6LG (deadline for comments 21 October 2024)

Comments AGREED: To REMAIN NEUTRAL with no further comments.

10. PROJECTS:

10.1 School Footpath

10.1.1 Cllr Hill has sent the DINPP request to LDC who have requested a payment of £24; the Council RESOLVED to pay the £24 if required, but Cllr Hill will challenge this request as the DINPP form was submitted before the deadline of 01 Oct.

10.1.2 The date of the CIL Expressions of Interest for LDC was NOTED as 18th November 2024.

10.2 Assets of Community Value

10.2.1 To RECEIVE an update on the nomination of Firle Playing Fields Area as an ACV – Cllr Lance. DEFER.

11. **ITEMS AGREED FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE:** Vermin issue; road repairs and drainage works.

12. **AGENDA ITEMS PROPOSED FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL:** Sewage leak.

13. **THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL:** 10th December, 7pm Firle Village Hall.

14. **THE MEETING CLOSED** at 20.29.