

FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL: Tuesday 10th February 2026, 7.02pm, Firle Village Hall. **Members in Attendance:** Cllr Hill (Chair), Cllr Barr (Vice Chair), Cllr Lance, Cllr Symes.

Members not in Attendance: 0. **Others Present:** Lorna Thwaites, Clerk and RFO.

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

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** None received.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS AND TO CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FOR A DISPENSATION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA,** as required by the Members Code of Conduct. None received.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the ordinary meeting of Firle Parish Council held on 13th January 2026 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 RECEIVED and SIGNED.
 - 4.2 Tuesday 5th May 2026 was AGREED as the alternative date for the Annual Parish Meeting.
5. **THE COUNCIL RESOLVED TO FILL VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF PARISH COUNCILLOR BY CO-OPTION** if a request for an election is not made: The Council AGREED to advertise the vacancy with a closing date of 2nd March and to co-optation at the FPC meeting on March 10th.
6. **REPORT(S):**
 - 6.1 Reports RECEIVED and NOTED from Cllr Agace and O'Brien.
 - 6.2 The draft minutes and presentation of the LDALC meeting of 15 January 26 were RECEIVED and NOTED.
 - 6.3 A verbal report on the transfer of planning services from LDC to SDNP was RECEIVED from Cllr Hill: After 31st March any Firle planning matters will be handled by SDNPA officers; there will be a SDNP planning office at the LDC offices in Lewes with 7 planning officers who can be met with or spoken to; all case officers should visit application sites for all planning applications; if the planning officers decision is not the same as the recommendation of the Parish Council, they will contact the Parish Council; there will be a scheme of delegation for larger applications and a new planning enforcement officer will be in place.
7. **MATTERS ARISING:**
 - 7.1 Cllr Symes has fixed dog fouling warning signs on gates by the children's play area and by the cricket pitch; ivy was cleared off a sign on the gate to the tennis courts; Cllr Symes was thanked for his efforts.
 - 7.2 The invoice and response to the email sent to Firle Bonfire Society has not yet been received; a meeting was held last Wednesday, and the clerk was asked to contact the secretary and treasurer (Hazel Smith and Julie Harvey).
 - 7.3 An update on fly tipping in the village was RECEIVED: There has been fly tipping down Wicks Street between New House Farm and Stamford buildings which has been reported to the police; Cllr Barr witnessed rubbish being tipped which he photographed and reported to rural crime team; the Council AGREED to put information in the parish magazine.
 - 7.4 The Council paid their respects to Mrs Judith Donington, who worked as the parish clerk for Firle.
8. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
 - 8.1 Lewes Local Plan Consultation, Reg 18 Questionnaire: The Council agreed at the last meeting not to respond to the consultation but AGREED that having now been sent the questionnaire, the Council would respond; the Council AGREED that Cllr Hill would contact Cllr Johnny Denis for his view and would prepare a draft response.
 - 8.2 Neighbourhood Planning Note – ESALC. NOTED.
 - 8.3 PMP is now live – SDNP: NOTED.
 - 8.4 Memorial wooden bench in Firle Cricket Club: The Council NOTED that the bench is requested to be on the playing fields and that it needs to be moveable so it can be put away in the winter and is sited at the owner's risk; FVHPFC and Cricket Club and Firle Parish Council need to make the decision together and so it will be on the agenda for the FVHPFC who will contact Firle Cricket Club for their view; FPC AGREED that they are in support.
 - 8.5 Responses to the Lewes Local Plan: Cllr Hill has had email correspondence with Mr Kay and raised some questions over the points made in his email.
 - 8.6 Invitation to the SDNPA Parish Meeting – 4th March. 6.30pm; Cllr Hill to attend.
 - 8.7 Pest Problem – Firle Primary School; the Council discussed the food sources that are around that encourage rats, but that poison should only be put down by qualified pest control; the Clerk to contact the school to ask what actions they currently take.

8.8 Request from Cllr Denis for a volunteer to be recognised: The Council AGREED a volunteer for nomination and Cllr Hill will provide details to Cllr Denis.

9. HIGHWAYS:

9.1 To RECEIVE an update on the blocked drains by Redwood Cottage in Wick Street: East Sussex Highways have emailed advising that a steward inspected the drain but at the time of inspection, they were unable to see any flooding; ESH advised that they do not maintain the assets along this road; the Council reported the drain again to Southern Water.

9.2 Cllr Lance has sent a video of the blocked drain 42B, the Bostal to ESH and also re-reported the drain online.

9.3 Repairs to The Street sign are still not done by ESCC.

10. PLANNING: Applications Received:

10.1 **SDNP/26/00008/TCA Proposal:** T1- Sycamore- Pollard at 5-6m- to alleviate further branch failure over the office and parking area; permitting the tree to be retained and form a new canopy **Location:** The Old Smithy, The Street, Firle, East Sussex, BN8 6NS (comments by 5th February). Comments agreed by email were RATIFIED.

10.2 **SDNP/26/00107/TCA Proposal:** T16.1- Ash with a Hollow Stem & an Extensive Cavity- Dismantle to Base T16.2- Ash with a Dead Top & an Extensive Stem Cavity w/ Fruiting Body- Dismantle to Base T16.4- Ash x2no. with Minor Deadwood throughout canopy, with a pronounced Lean over Stables & Parking Area- Dismantle to Base **Location:** Firle Place, The Street, Firle, East Sussex, BN8 6LP (comments by 6th February). Comments agreed by email were RATIFIED.

11. PROJECTS:

11.1 Footpath

11.1.1 To RECEIVE information further to the investigations of Cllr Barr on the footpath on the western side of The Street – Cllr Barr. DEFER.

11.2 Assets of Community Value

11.2.1 The ACV nomination of the Millennium Woods was unsuccessful and the Allotments was successful.

12. ITEMS AGREED FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE: As detailed in the minutes above.

13. THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL. 7pm, 10th March 2026.

14. THE MEETING CLOSED at 20.57.