

FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL: Tuesday 9TH June 2026, 7.03pm, Firle Village Hall.

Members in Attendance: Cllr Hill (Chair), Cllr Barr (Vice-Chair), Cllr James, Cllr Lance, Cllr Symes.

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

Members of the Public in Attendance: 0 **Questions Received from the Public:** None.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** None received.
2. **NO DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS AND NO REQUESTS TO CONSIDER FOR A DISPENSATION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA,** as required by the Members Code of Conduct were received.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the annual meeting of Firle Parish Council held on 5th May 2026 were RESOLVED to be a correct record and were signed by the Chair.
4. **FINANCE:**
 - 4.1 The June finance report and bank reconciliation was RECEIVED and SIGNED and payments to be made were AUTHORISED.
 - 4.2 The Council reviewed the Asset Register and updated it with details of the condition of assets and their values; Cllr Symes will take photos of the unique assets as a record; the Clerk will confirm the registration of the War Memorial and Buttercross.
 - 4.3 The SDNPA's Reporting Requirements for 2025-26 CIL Parish Payments were RECEIVED and the Clerk will complete.
 - 4.4 The Council RESOLVED to appoint Mulberry LAS as the Internal Auditor for 2026-27.
 - 4.5 The updated Allocated Reserves for 2026-27 were AGREED.
5. **GRANT AWARDS:** None received.
6. **REPORT(S):**
 - 6.1 No reports from Local and District Councillors and the MP for Lewes were received but apologies were received from Cllrs Denis, Agace and O'Brien.
 - 6.2 The draft minutes from the LDALC AGM on 30th April 2026 were RECEIVED.
7. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
 - 7.1 Wilder Ouse Conference 26th June – Sussex Wildlife Trust. This is in Lewes Town Hall, 9am – 4pm. NOTED, any parish councillors wishing to attend will email the Clerk.
 - 7.2 SDNPA Local Plan Consultation: NOTED with no response.
 - 7.3 Litter Bin Audit: The bins that belong to Firle Estate have been removed and there will be no charge to FPC; the Clerk will enquire about changing the emptying frequency in winter and request a cost for a single replacement bin at the cricket pitch; the Clerk will seek an alternative quote from the contractor advised by Seaford Town Council.
 - 7.4 Share Community Climate and Nature Case Studies in Lewes District: NOTED.
 - 7.5 Draft South Downs Open Space Study – SDNPA: Cllr Hill has checked the open spaces and they are all included.
8. **MATTERS ARISING:**
 - 8.1 Ecology projects were DISCUSSED: No suggestions have been received in response to the article in the parish magazine; the Council are interested in developing hedgehog pathways and habitats; the Clerk will contact Firle Primary School to see if they are interested in participating in the project.
 - 8.2 No further reports or updates on Fly Tipping were received.
 - 8.3 Confirmation of James MacCleary MP Q&A at Firle was NOTED as 6th Oct at 6pm.
 - 8.4 A resident's concerns over the poor mobile signal was DISCUSSED; the Clerk will contact O2 regarding its signal strength in the village.
 - 8.5 An update on the installation of House Martin nesting cups was RECEIVED from Cllr Hill: Firle Estate has placed nesting cups on key properties around the village further to Cllr Hill providing a list of suitable locations identified by the Lewes Swift Trust; several private residences have also installed nesting cups up on their properties and the Church has Swift boxes; it is considered that there are now plenty of nesting cups and swift boxes in the village; the Council AGREED to write a letter to thank Bob Baines and Firle Estate for the work they did to install nesting cups; the Council hopes that the once healthy population of house martins in the village along the Street may now return with the introduction of nesting cups.
 - 8.6 The Council DISCUSSED the consultation on the modification to the two unitary proposal received from East Sussex County Council, Eastbourne Borough Council, Lewes District Council and Rother District Council: The

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Council RESOLVED to support LDC option to remain in the current format; Cllr Hill will draft a response to be circulated to the council prior to submission.

9. HIGHWAYS:

- 9.1 The Council understands from ESH that the blocked drain by Redwood Cottage, Wick Street has now been cleared.
- 9.2 The Council understands the the blocked drain 42B, The Bostal has been cleared; Cllr Barr raised an issue with foliage overgrowth on the eastern side of the turning from Wick Street west and this was logged on the ESH portal.

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS: None received.

11. PROJECTS:

11.1 Footpath.

- 11.1.1 To RECEIVE any further updates on the investigation on the existence of a footpath on the Western side of The Street – Cllr Barr: The Council AGREED to remove from the agenda.

12. TO AGREE ITEMS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE: The communications with Glorious Gravel; Hedgehog trail & sightings; nesting cups; poor mobile signal and lobbying O2; response to unitary proposal; request for foliage to be cut back on Wick Street junction.

13. NO AGENDA ITEMS PROPOSED FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL.

14. THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL: 14th July, 7pm Firle Village Hall.

15. THE MEETING CLOSED at 21.03.