

FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

To RECEIVE questions from the Public:

The first ten minutes are available for public participation before the start of the meeting. During this time, members of the public may ask questions or make representations, in respect of business on the agenda. Members of the public may only speak at other points during the meeting if they have knowledge or information that will aid the discussion and will only speak at the Chair's discretion.

AGENDA INFORMATION

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** To RECEIVE and ACCEPT apologies for absence.
- 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.
- 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** To RESOLVE that the minutes of the annual meeting of Firle Parish Council held on 8th July 2025 are a correct record and signed by the Chair. [On website agenda info.](#)
- 4. FINANCE/ADMIN:**
 - 4.1 To AUTHORISE payments to be made in September and to RECEIVE and SIGN the bank reconciliation.
 - 4.2 To RECEIVE the notification of Exempt Status from the external auditor.
[ES0036: Receipt of documents – notification of exempt status, 2025](#)
This is an automated message to notify you that we have received and logged the notification of exempt status for the year ended 31 March 2025 submitted to us for Firle Parish Council. By notifying us that Firle Parish Council has claimed exemption there is no review to be performed and consequently no auditor certificate and report, or any other closure documentation, will be issued by us for this reporting year.
 - 4.3 To RECEIVE details of the NALC 2025/26 Pay Award and to RESOLVE to implement.
 - 4.4 To RESOLVE to adopt the revised Standing Orders based on the NALC model orders 2025.
[Model Standing Orders \(I have updated the Firle Standing Orders to comply with the changes highlighted below\). I have put them on the website agenda info.](#)
We (NALC) have updated Model Standing Order (England) 18 to comply with new procurement legislation and ensure consistency with our Model Financial Regulations. The changes are to 18.a.v, 18.c, 18.d, and 18.f. We've also updated Model Standing Order (England) 14 to better reflect Code of Conduct requirements. 14.a, 14.b, and 14.c have been removed. We have also changed the language in the document to gender-neutral terms to align with our policy and the Civility and Respect Project.
 - 4.5 To RESOLVE to adopt the revised Financial Regulations based on the NALC model regulations 2025.
[I have updated the FPC regs and put them on the website under agenda info. The changes are:](#)
The Model Financial Regulations have been updated because of The Procurement Act 2023 and The Procurement Regulation 2024, which came into effect last week. The changes are to Model Financial Regulations 5.4, 5.7 and 5.11.
- 5. TO SIGN THE LEGAL AGREEMENT WITH FIRLE VILLAGE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS.** [This is the same agreement as previously signed, Just needs signing by FPC and FVHPFC. It is on the website under agenda info.](#)
- 6. GRANT AWARDS/S137.**
- 7. REPORT(S):**
 - 7.1 To RECEIVE reports from Local and District Councillors and the MP for Lewes.
 - 7.2 To RECEIVE a brief verbal report of the Q&A session with James MacCleary M.P.
- 8. MATTERS ARISING:**
 - 8.1 To RECEIVE any further plans proposed for the car park and to AGREE any actions.
[Received from B.Baines](#)
Our highways advisors are erecting a traffic count camera in the village car park later this month to be in-situ for circa 8 weeks. It will record the traffic movements or numbers in and out of the car park and provide data of peak periods etc. If we decide to submit a planning application in future the current movements or use will be key information we will need to understand and provide. They have suggested that we do this now over the busier summer period. Hayley is aware but I thought it might be useful for the Parish Council to know what it is for so that we don't have anyone worrying that it has anything to do with charging. I don't believe Will has had any time to progress the potential options for car parking but I suspect he will get back to it in the Autumn.
 - 8.2 To RECEIVE an update and AGREE any works to repair the wall in front of the memorial.
[Received from Firle Estate: Further to your recent email, regarding the wall by the memorial, we've checked our plan and it is shown outside our ownership title.](#)

Please can you send these kinds of enquiries to me in future and if they need to be escalated to the Estate Director, I'll pass them on to Bob.

- 8.3 To RECEIVE details of the LDC aim to improve recycling and their proposed move to fortnightly refuse (black sack waste) collections from November 2025. [Here is the link for further info.](#) The survey closes 8th Sept: <https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/AWC>
- 8.4 To RECEIVE information on electric car charging points – Cllr Bolger.
- 8.5 To RESOLVE to support a bus service from Ringmer and Newhaven to Firle Village School – Cllr Hill.
- 8.6 To RECEIVE an update on the application of sludge to the nearby fields and to AGREE any actions – Cllr Hill.

9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- 9.1 A new working practice for temporary road safety posters – Traffic Safety ESCC. *A letter with types of temporary signs available is on agenda information.*

I am contacting you to share our new working practice for temporary road safety posters. This new process allows the Parish Council to take ownership of installing and relocating temporary posters, following guidance from the Road Safety Team. Examples of the available posters can be found in the attached conditions document.

We are no longer able to install the temporary posters on behalf of a parish or town council. If you would like to go ahead with our new process, please read through the attached document and send the completed form to Traffic.Safety@eastsussex.gov.uk. We are unable to proceed until we have received a signature confirming agreement to the conditions of installation.

Once we receive the required details, contact will be made by phone to arrange for a selection of posters to be delivered to the address you provide. Please note that someone must be available to receive the delivery.

If you have any questions about this new process, please do not hesitate to contact Traffic.Safety@eastsussex.gov.uk.

- 9.2 Village Car Park – B.Baines. As per item 8.1
- 9.3 Restoration – M.Axwell.

I would like to introduce myself and my Company M. Axell Stone Restoration Ltd. As a member of the Stone federation and the Guild of Master Craftsman and with over 15 years' experience as a Stonemason, I started my business in 2009 after completing my apprenticeship and my college course at the building crafts college in Stratford, where I studied stone carving. I now have a team of 5 skilful and reliable colleagues.

As a member of the Stone Federation, worshipful company of masons, The Guild of Master Craftsman and a Stonehealth Rosette Scheme Approved Contractor. We specialise in all aspects of stone work and brick restoration for both residential and commercial buildings. This includes stone cleaning, stone indents, repairs, new stone, stone steps and pointing. We also specialise in brick cleaning and repointing offering a wide range of all traditional style pointing using traditional methods and materials, these include; weather struck, flush, penny roll and tuck pointing.

We are based in Hawkhurst but we cover all areas of London, Kent, Essex and Surrey. We have often travelled to other areas of the UK; including carrying out projects in London, Royal tonbridge Wells, Kent, Surrey, Hastings, Twickenham, Ramsgate, Sandwich and Cornwall.

Having worked in the industry for over 15 years we have developed a strong network with other experienced tradesmen all over the country. We are often called upon as a result of our wealth of knowledge and experience to act as the main contractor for large projects.

We have had the pleasure of working on Churches in Woodchurch, Bromley, Hastings, Eltham and Chelsea to name a few; and are highly experienced in working within conservation areas and on listed buildings, completing works to the College of Arms St.Paul's in 2019.

On the project at the college of arms the team performed the specialised task of tuck pointing to the front facade of the building. This was a really exciting project for us and we were honoured to be a part of it. Other recent projects from this year include stone repairs at Arundel castle, repairing defective coping stones at All saints church in Woodchurch, lifting and relaying granite steps at The Royal Chatham Dockyard, fitting new stonework at the bandstand in Ellington park and replacing the fountain bowl at Eastwell manor. We have also worked on a number of listed private and commercial properties such as a previous project in Maidstone where we was tasked with dismantling and rebuilding a 2 story medieval Tudor wall and fire place.

9.4 Safe Space Sussex Growth Campaign – Sussex PCC.

The leaflet is on agenda information

The Safe Spaces Scheme was developed in 2021 to help those who may find themselves feeling unsafe in Sussex. Safe Spaces Scheme was set up to form a network of locations across the county offering a safe space for people to go to if they feel threatened or at risk of harm. There is currently a total of 195 active Safe Space locations in Sussex (33 in Brighton & Hove, 63 in East Sussex, 99 in West Sussex).

We are looking to increase the number of Safe Spaces across Sussex that are available for people to access and are asking for support and help in accessing local businesses/places that would be willing to sign up.

Whilst we would like as many Safe Spaces as possible, we are specifically interested in increasing Safe Spaces in the following areas:

1. That can provide a late-night Safe Spaces for those in need during nighttime economy – but preferably not bars/clubs
2. That are suitable to assist vulnerable women, LGBTQ+, religious and other protected groups
3. Spaces in Yapton, Billingshurst, Steyning and Wadhurst/Turners Green, as we know these areas have high reported feelings of unsafety, but no safe spaces are currently available
4. More Spaces in Hastings, Horsham, Worthing, River Arun and Crawley) as this is where the highest volume of feelings of unsafety have been reported
5. More spaces in North Eastbourne, including Ratton, Old Town and Hampden Park as this is where crime has reportedly increased

More information about the scheme and how to sign up to become a safe space can be found in the attached leaflet or on the website: [Safe:Space Sussex - Become a Safe Space](#)

9.5 Community Pitch Funding – Cllr Denis.

Get involved in the Ouse Valley Climate Action - Community Pitch. Awards of £500-£5,000 are being offered to shortlisted project and community groups to take positive climate action in the Ouse Valley.

The new round of Community Pitch funding is now live on the South Downs National Park Trust website at the link below, with a closing date of 31st October.

9.6 Invitation to Climate and Nature Partnership Event – B.Mabey.

Dear Town and Parish Council Colleagues

Please find attached an invitation to the Lewes District Council 'Climate and Nature Annual Partnership Event 2025'. The event will be an opportunity to celebrate the success of our community and share your own learning and ideas with others.

Date: Wednesday 10th September 2025

Time: 3pm - 5.30pm

Venue: Marine Workshops, Second Floor, Railway Quay, Newhaven, BN9 0ER

9.7 Road Closure Application – J.Richards. [details on website.](#)

9.8 Southdowns National Park – V.Rowlands. [Ms Rowlands will attend the October meeting at 7pm.](#)

9.9 Continuum Visit – FVHPFC Secretary. [The visit has been done and a survey has been sent. This might need completing by the village hall committee. I will forward the email.](#)

10. HIGHWAYS:

10.1 To RECEIVE an update on repairs to the pothole outside the village hall. [Completed.](#)

10.2 To RESOLVE to clear/clean and report any 30mph signs in the village that need attention.

10.3 To RESOLVE to trim back foliage covering up the village sign at the entrance to the village at Crossways – Cllr Barr.

11. PLANNING: Applications Received:

11.1 **SDNP/25/03339/LDE Proposal:** Use of land as campsite intermittently since 2015 **Location:** Land adjacent to Heighton Street, Firle, East Sussex (**comments by 15th September**).

11.2 **SDNP/25/03333/FUL Proposal:** Replacement of existing wall and roof cladding, installation of 2no WC's and soil treatment plant **Location:** Firle Estate Off Heighton Street, Firle, East Sussex (comments by 16th September).

11.3 **SDNP/25/03417/TCA Proposal:** G1- Beech Hedge- Remove 6m section to widen existing field access and install new gates **Location:** 53 Crossways, Wick Street, Firle, East Sussex, BN8 6LG (comments by 3rd September).

12. PROJECTS:

12.1 Assets of Community Value

12.1.1 To RECEIVE an update on the nomination of the Millennium Woods and the Allotments as an Asset of Community Value.

13. TO AGREE ITEMS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE.
14. TO RECEIVE THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL.
15. TO CLOSE THE MEETING.