

## FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL:** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2026, 7pm, Firle Village Hall. **Members in Attendance:** Cllr Barr (Vice-Chair), Cllr Lance, Cllr James, Cllr Symes.

**Members not in Attendance:** 1 **Others Present:** Lorna Thwaites, Clerk and RFO; Cllr Denis. Cllr Agace arrived 19.10.

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

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllr Hill.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS RECEIVED:** Item 10.1 the planning application property backs onto Cllr Lance's property. **NO REQUESTS FOR A DISPENSATION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA** were received.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the ordinary meeting of Firle Parish Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2026 were RESOLVED to be a correct record and were signed by the Chair.
4. **FINANCE & ADMIN:**
  - 4.1 The SEPTEMBER finance report with bank reconciliation was RECEIVED and SIGNED; the August finance report with bank reconciliation was RATIFIED and payments to be made were AUTHORISED.
  - 4.2 An update on spend vs budget was RECEIVED and the Council NOTED that 46% of the budget has been spent to-date.
  - 4.3 The Pay Award 2026-7 was RECEIVED and AGREED in accordance with the Clerk's contract.
5. **GRANT AWARDS:**
  - 5.1 Firle Primary School: A grant of £261.10 for a classroom update was AGREED: The Council NOTED its thanks to the FCA for their organisation of the work with the school and Parish Council, and to Cllr Hill for the work she undertook.
6. **REPORT(S):**
  - 6.1 Reports RECEIVED from Local and District Councillors and the MP for Lewes: Cllr Denis spoke in the public section – there has been a pause of the local government re-organisation; district and parish council elections will be next year but it is not known how long councillors will remain in office once elected; nothing further known or about mayoral elections which were originally scheduled for 2028; Cllr Denis also advised resilience is going to be an increasing issue for parish councils and residents have been advised to be prepared with an emergency bag; weather shocks may have an impact on services such as power outages; Cllr Denis requested that parish councils should be aware of potential emergencies and how they can support residents; he advised the council to be prepared for weather conditions such as shade in playgrounds; coolness at village halls. Cllr Denis left at 19.13; Cllr Agace spoke – she predominantly focuses on planning but has stepped down from being the Chair of the Planning Committee; the new NPPF will make speculative development more challenging; the written report from James MacCleary was RECEIVED.
7. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
  - 7.1 Glynde Reach Community Testing event: NOTED.
  - 7.2 Discussion document on Firle Playing Fields: The Council felt the ideas in principle were good, particularly the hardstanding in the gate areas; members discussed the benefit of a secure storage area (such as a shipping container) to store fete/village equipment and would like FCA to consider this idea; the Council were in agreement that it would not be feasible to move the playground area.
  - 7.3 Housing Application: The support of the Parish Council was NOTED.
  - 7.4 Emergency Planning – L Farley: To include the emergency plan as an agenda item for the next meeting.
  - 7.5 Drinking Water Supplies in Sussex – South East Water: The Council NOTED South East Water's application for a drought permit.
  - 7.6 Use of Council Land for Community Events and Activities: NOTED; The Clerk was asked to respond that the Parish Council does not own or manage any land for community events and activities.
  - 7.7 Road Closure – Firle Bonfire: The Council AGREED their SUPPORT.
  - 7.8 James MacCleary visit 6<sup>th</sup> October, 6pm: AGREED to promote in the parish magazine.
  - 7.9 SDNPA Parish Meeting 30<sup>th</sup> September, 6.30pm: No cllrs are able to attend.
8. **MATTERS ARISING:**
  - 8.1 An update on the litter bin order for the Cricket Ground was RECEIVED: The bin has been ordered but is not yet installed; the bins were switched between the car park and the playground by Cllrs Barr and Symes and

thanks were NOTED; changes to the bin emptying schedule as requested by Firle Parish Council have been accepted by LDC.

- 8.2 An update on the letters sent to residents regarding overgrown foliage was RECEIVED: The letters are being distributed and the Council NOTED that there is considerable overgrowth by Black Tile House.
- 8.3 The Council AGREED not to list the War Memorial or the Butter Cross.
- 8.4 Actions AGREED regarding the implementation of a 20mph speed limit: The Council discussed the previous project for introducing a 20mph limit, the traffic monitoring feasibility surveys required and the financial reasons that prohibited the project progressing and did not agree any further actions; the 'SLOW' sign near the school needs repainting and a new 'SLOW' sign in the opposite direction is required – this was reported via the Highways Portal.
- 8.5 The sewage leak at Cornes Cottage, the Dock was discussed: During a recent storm one of the covers broke and sewage leaked onto a resident's garden; it was serviced and is now working; Cllr Lance to follow up with the resident and it will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

**9. HIGHWAYS:**

- 9.1 National Highway's have now cut back the overgrown foliage on the eastern side of the turning from Wick Street.

**10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

- 10.1 **SDNP/26/02827/HOUS Location:** 53 Crossways, Wick Street, Firle, East Sussex, BN8 6LG **Proposal:** Creation of flat roof dormer to the rear of the property (comments by 22<sup>nd</sup> September): AGREED a response of NEUTRAL.

- 11. **ITEMS AGREED FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE:** James MacCleary visit on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

- 12. **NO AGENDA ITEMS PROPOSED FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL.**

- 13. **THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF FIRLE PARISH COUNCIL was RECEIVED:** 13<sup>th</sup> October, 7pm Firle Village Hall.

- 14. **THE MEETING CLOSED** at 20.25.