

FAIRLIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 26th November 2019 at Fairlight Village Hall at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors – Cllr D Shortman (Chair), Ms I Horsley, Mr S Leadbetter, Mr D Richards, Ms C Slack, Also, Parish Clerk Mrs P Collins, Cllr A Mier, Cllr R Bird District Councillors.

19220 Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr D Greenup, Cllr S Stewart, Cllr C Maynard

19221 Code of Conduct and Disclosure of Interests

None

19222 Public questions in respect of items on the agenda

Questions were asked about: -

Item 11 Land Management – Knowle Wood - possible dates for volunteers meeting

Item 14 Highways – Resident to update the Parish Council

Item 16(e) Fairlight Village Hall Trustees meeting – Hearing loop query

Item 18 Christmas lights – Lights on The Circle

Each question was dealt as part of the appropriate agenda item

19223 County and District Councillors reports

Cllr Mier reported that the RDC DaSa has passed inspection and full weight will be given to it.

He has attended the Fairlight Preservation Trust's AGM where the issues of cliff development, run off water and soakaways were raised. He suggested that "permitted development" clarification on the cliff edge be pursued with RDC.

Cllr Bird informed the Council that rule of speaking at RDC Planning meetings had been approved. Parish Councils can speak for 5 minutes. Objectors and supporters can speak for 5 minutes. Two representatives for each side for large applications (9 units or over or business over £100m). There is no longer a requirement for a petition to speak.

19224 Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 22nd October 2019

The minutes having been distributed prior to the meeting and made available to the Public at the meeting, were approved, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

19225 Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda

None.

19226 Parish Councillor resignation and co-option

(a) To note the resignation of Cllr Foster and approve advertising the casual vacancy

It was noted that Cllr Foster had resigned and permission was given to advertise the casual vacancy.

(b) To accept and vote on the application from Mr Geoff Smith to be co-opted as a parish councillor

Mr Geoff Smith was voted onto the Parish Council and joined the meeting.

19227 Financial matters

(a) To retrospectively approve additional hours for the Clerk for training and additional meetings.

Resolved to approve and pay the additional hours.

(b) To consider and approve the attached schedule of payments and receipts for November 2019.

Resolved to approve the schedule of payments and receipts for November 2019.

(c) To consider monthly budget and sign the monthly bank reconciliation.

The Clerk reported on the budget and the bank reconciliation was signed.

(d) To consider and approve staff payments for December 2019 (no meeting). Cheques to be signed in December after payroll run. (VK, PC, TR)

Resolved to approve the staff payments for December 2019

(e) To approve the launch of the 2020/21 Parish Council grants scheme (Jan 2020)

Resolved to approve the launch of the grants scheme

19228 Budget and Precept 2020/21

(a) To discuss budget and precept request for 2020/21 (Clerk)

The Clerk presented a report proposing the budget/precept for 2020/21. This recommended an increase from £53,000 to £63,000. Items included as requested by Councillors were equipment and maintenance for Wood Field, further requirements for Knowle Wood (inc woodland plan), funding for roll-out of five year plan and new parish council website, a radio system to be use for the Emergency Plan group/events, additional verge cutting (not now covered by ESCC), and continued provision of a planning consultant.

Resolved to put out for public consultation.

19229 Planning

(a) To receive the monthly report from Cllr Leadbetter (attached).

Cllr Leadbetter presented his report highlighting any issues.

(b) To receive an update on RDC Development and Site Allocation Local Plan (Cllr Leadbetter)

Cllr Leadbetter presented his report highlighting any issues.

(b) To receive an update on the progress of Country Park Visitors Centre (Haydon Luke)

Haydon reported work is progressing – The plot has been extended to include a soakaway. Services are being installed and will impact on Warren Road. Cllr Bird, Mier and Hastings Borough Council have met to discuss the works and re-instatement of Warren Road.

19230 Land Management

(a) To receive the monthly report (Cllrs Richards and Slack)

Cllr Slack reported that a temporary fence has been place along part of the drain on Wood Field. The contractor will be contacted in the Spring re the subsidence. The Woodland Trust saplings have been planted alongside the drain. A new car park fence has been erected. There are no problems with the footpaths. Natural England have no updates in respect of the path from Camber to Eastbourne.

Cllr Richards stated that the drain from Wood Field is working well. The wood shelters in Knowle Wood are beginning to collapse and a volunteer has started to remove them.

The woodland plan is progressing. Cllr Richards has consulted with Simon Young, the Woodland Trust and a ranger from Rye Harbour/Ashdown Forest. Several garden-creep plants have been identified and will be removed. Once the plan is completed a volunteer group can be formed and meet to discuss future actions (possibly in January).

(b) To discuss and consider actions for Wood Field Play Area (inspection report)

The inspection was circulated and no action was necessary. Cllr Slack will continue to monitor the play area on a regular basis.

(c) To discuss and approve ESCC proposal for urban (verge) grass cutting 2020/21

Resolved to pay ESCC for additional four cuts and invest time in 2020/21 to explore the introduction of wild flower verges.

(d) To approve the cutting of Channel Way verge – as per Natural England requirements

Resolved to approve the cutting of Channel Way verge.

(e) To approve the use of Wood Field by Fairfest in 2020 (Fri 24th – Mon 27th July 2020)

Resolved to approve the use of Wood Field by Fairfest subject to appropriate insurance and risk assessment.

(f) To discuss potential grant application from Sussex Lund (High Weald AONB)

Cllrs Slack and Richards will be seeking advice on making an application. Possible uses of the grant were wild flower verges, training, bat boxes etc.

19231 Lower Waites Lane incident report and other water issues

(a) To receive a monthly report of LWL incidents and other water issues (Cllr Horsley)

Cllr Horsley reported on leaks. She is continuing discussions with Southern Water. The Fairlight Preservation Trust are checking the wells on Rockmead to ensure they are working. Discussions to be held with LWLRA in respect of The Avenue.

19232 Community Hub (Faircomm.) Steering Group

(a) To receive an update from the last meeting – 9th October 2019 (Cllr Horsley)

Cllr Horsley reported that the Group are meeting RDC Planning Department on 3rd December to discuss the proposed build. A business plan is the next objective.

19233 Highways issues

(a) To receive an update on current issues (Cllr Horsley)

Cllr Horsley met Cllr Carl Maynard and the ESCC Highways steward on 24th October 2019 for a village walkabout. The drains are to be sucked out and cleaned. Cllr Maynard to look at the kerbs in the future. It was suggested that a walkabout be done three or four times a year.

- 19234 Five-year plan for Parish Council Inc. communications, action plan for future etc**
(a) To receive an update on five-year plan (Cllr Stewart)
 The survey data is being collated and will be feedback to residents in the new year.
- (b) To consider and approve expenditure for website (Cllr Richards)**
 Cllr Richards reported that the new website could be built with current expertise and be self-managed. He also presented the cost to build and maintain the website.
Resolved to approve the expenditure to build the website.
- (c) To draw the winner of the survey prize - £50 voucher**
Resolved to draw the winner at the Planning meeting on Tuesday 10th December 2019.
- (d) To approve Cllr Slack as a member of the steering group**
Resolved to approve Cllr Slack as a member of the steering group to replace Cllr Foster.
- 19235 Feedback from meeting/events attended**
- (a) RALC Meeting - 23/10/19 (Cllr Horsley)**
 The main topic was speeding. Councils to consider more support for Speedwatch, methods of reducing speed – possible villages gates etc. Also, to support RALC with anti-speeding campaign.
- (b) Neighbourhood Watch Meeting - 24/10/19 (Cllr Horsley)**
 The meeting was informative and it was thought that a neighbourhood watch scheme should be introduced to the village. A request for participants and administrator was issued. Also, the notion of a “Safer Fairlight” event to include Police, Fire etc was raised.
Resolved to hold an event in February/March 2020 – details to be discussed.
- (c) Parish on-line training – 06/11/19 (Cllr Stewart)**
 This is a tool which can be used for future planning and record of assets etc.
- (d) AiRs Village Hall Conference – 06/11/19 (Cllr Horsley)**
 Cllr Horsley feedback on details available from AiRs and also suggested that the details of the conference and AiRs information be shared with the Fairlight Village Hall Committee.
- (e) Fairlight Village Hall Trustees Meeting – 21/10/19 (Clerk)**
 The Clerk informed the meeting that the village hall required a new kitchen. The cost to supply the units only was estimated at £4000. The Village Hall accounts show that there are reserves of £10,000. Applications for funding will have to be sought. Room hire charges will increase by £1 per session from January 2020.
 The hearing loop issue will be raised by the Clerk at the next meeting.
- 19236 Commemoration of World War events and the fallen - memorial**
- (a) To consider options for providing a memorial**
 It was suggested that discussion be held with the interested parties to consider memorial(s), locations etc. Cllr Leadbetter to represent the Parish Council and Haydon Luke was asked to organised in his role as archivist.
Resolved to place a commemorative bronze plaque in the village hall from the Parish Council subject to permission. Wording to be decide. To hold a meeting with interested parties to discuss other memorials.
- 19237 To launch the Fairlight Christmas Light Competition**
- (a) To nominate judges and approve prize monies**
 Cllrs Horsley, Slack and Smith to act as judges. The prizes were approved at £50 and £25 to winner’s charities of choice.
 Cllr Mier requested additional lights and assistance to install lights on The Circle.
Resolved to purchase additional lights if necessary.
- 19238 To consider supporting RDC Climate Change Emergency**
Resolved to support RDC Climate Change Emergency and aim to underpin any future decisions re climate change and environmental impact issues – wild flower verges etc.
- 19239 Correspondence (see attached list)**
 All correspondence has been circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting and was available to the Public at the meeting
- 19240 Information**
- (a) PSCO allocation – Joseph Winchester**
- 19241 Future agenda items**
 No additional
- 19242 Close of meeting - Meeting closed at 8.15 pm**
- 19243 Date of next meeting – Tuesday 28th January 2020 - 7.00 pm at Fairlight Village Hall**

Open Forum – No further issues

Signed _____(Chair) Date 28th January 2020