

# FAIRLIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 via Zoom

### NOTE

The agenda was circulated to the Parish Councillors and posted on the Fairlight Village Website prior to the meeting date.

Due to the Covid-19 lockdown this meeting was held virtually via Zoom. Questions were requested from the Public prior to the meeting

**Present:** Councillors – Ms I Horsley (Chair), Mr S Leadbetter, Ms C Slack, Mr S Stewart, Mr G Smith, Mr D Greenup

District Councillors – Mr A Mier and Mr R Bird, County Councillor C Maynard. Also, Parish Clerk Mrs P Collins

A minute's silence was held to mark the death of Mr Ian Gilbraith, Former Chair of the Parish Council

### 20126 Apologies for absence

Cllr D Shortman

**Resolved** to accept the reason for absence

### 20127 Code of Conduct and Disclosure of Interests

None received

### 20128 Public questions in respect of items on the agenda

#### Item 8 – Planning Committee

A resident raised questions in respect of the proposed development off Pett Level Road.

Q -When would the application be discussed by RDC's Planning Committee

A - Andrew Mier responded that the date of the meeting is pending

Q - Has the Parish Council commented on the revised items of the application

A – Cllr Leadbetter responded that the Parish Council have submitted comments to RDC and these should be on the website. The Parish Council will continue to monitor this application.

### 20129 County and District Councillors reports

Cllr Bird – RDC has appointed a CEO rather than two directors – better way of working but will lose the expertise.

Cllr Mier – Cllr Horsley thanked Cllr Mier for perusing Article 4 for the cliffs in Fairlight. This will require a full consultation.

RDC has incorporated a new housing company to build 1000 homes by 2025. Blackfriars site in Battle has been earmarked for compulsory and grants are being applied for. Bexhill Town Council is to be formed.

Civil parking has been enforced in Rother and will be reviewed after a year.

Cllr Maynard – Cllr Horsley thanked Cllr Maynard for his work towards the Battery Hill footpath (which will not now cost the Parish Council £2500) and the extensive highways work on Fairlight Road.

Covid 19 infections are low in East Sussex and more testing centres are proposed.

The roadworks on Battery Hill and Fairlight Road are going well. Local issues in respect of diversion, buses etc are being dealt with promptly.

### 20130 Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020

The minutes having been distributed prior to the meeting and made available to the Public at the meeting.

**Resolved** to approved, and will be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**20131 Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda**

None received

**20132 Financial Matters**

- (a) **To consider and approve the attached schedule of payments and receipts for September 2020 (Copy attached)**

**Resolved** to approve the payments for September 2020.

- (b) **To consider and sign the monthly bank reconciliation.**

**Resolved** to note the bank reconciliation as correct and the Chair will sign at a later date.

- (c) **To consider monthly budget figures**

Expenditure has remained low due to the current Covid 19 situation. Budget figures were noted.

- (d) **To note the Clerk's achievement of gaining the CiLCA qualification and to approve the payment of an additional increment from 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (pt26 to pt27)**

The Clerk was congratulated on achieving the CiLCA qualification

**Resolved** to approve the payment of an additional increment from 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 to the Clerk

**20133 Planning**

- (a) **To receive the monthly report (Cllr Leadbetter)**

Cllr Leadbetter presented his monthly report. Cllr Horsley thanked Cllr Leadbetter for completing the RDC's questionnaires.

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

No report received

**20134 Land Management**

- (a) **To receive the monthly report (Cllr Slack and Smith)**

Cllr Slack reported work on the dismantling of shelters in Knowle Wood is continuing. A grant application is being compiled to Sussex Lund for boardwalks etc. A new village sign is being discussed and images should be available for the next meeting.

Cllr Smith has taken over from Cllr Slack and is continuing to deal with previous issues on Wood Field. Bamboo has been removed from the hedge-line and reseed with grass. The much-mentioned dips have been filled and re-seeded with grass. Cllr Smith will be reviewing equipment on the field and in the play area to identify repairs and replacements required. The PC has also seen an improvement to the Cricket Club area – rubbish has been disposed of etc.

- (b) **To adopt the new fixed asset maintenance schedule (Cllr Stewart and Slack)**

Cllr Stewart and Slack have compiled a list of PC fixed assets and identified when these require attention or replacement. This schedule does not include the Wood Field play area as this is covered by an annual inspection. In addition, five memorial benches were found around the village on verges not owned by the PC. Cllr Horsley thanked the councillors for the work carried out to complete this schedule.

**20135 Highways (Cllr Smith)**

- (a) **To receive the monthly report (Cllr Smith)**

Cllr Smith reported on the roadworks being carried out on Battery Hill and Fairlight Road. Issues in respect of diversions, complaints and the bus shuttle are continuing but are being dealt with promptly by Cllr Smith and ESCC Highways. Cllr Maynard thanked the PC for their constructive comments about signage, diversions etc. All works would appear to be on schedule. Cllr Horsley thanked Cllr Smith for his work to date dealing with any issues in a calm and organised manner.

- (b) **To consider whether to respond to the Department of Transport's "Pavement parking for change questionnaire"** (<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/managing-pavement-parking/pavement-parking-options-for-change#annex-c-full-list-of-consultation-questions>)

This mainly related to urban parking and individuals were encouraged to respond if they wished.

**20136 Lower Waites Lane incident report and other water issues**

- (a) **To receive a monthly report of LWL incidents**

No issues to report. Southern Water is replacing a pump (dealing with LWLRMA). Fairlight Preservation Trust are looking into surface water on Channel Way and solutions. Either to request connection into ESCC Highways surface water drain or a ditch/trench on the Parish Council SSSI land. Discussions are taking place within the Trust and Cllr Horsley will report back to the next PC meeting.

**20137 Community Hub (Faircomm.) Steering Group**

**(a) To receive an update**

Cllr Stewart reported that the group has devised a rough floor plan (to include a kitchen, large hall, wcs and storage for users. Hall size 22m x 10m approx.). Modular building companies are to be contacted initially for quotations.

**20138 Finance Committee**

**(a) To elect a new member of the Finance Committee**

Cllr Leadbetter was elected

**(b) To receive an update on items approved etc (Cllr Horsley)**

Cllr Horsley reported that the first meeting is to be held on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September.

**20139 General Power of Competence**

**(a) To consider and propose to adopt the General Power of Competence (details circulated)**

The Parish Council satisfies all the conditions as:

It has 6 out of 9 councillors elected and the Clerk of the Council has passed the CiLCA.

**Resolved** from 22 September 2020, until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Council, that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, to adopt the General Power of Competence.

**20140 Correspondence**

A list of correspondence received and sent is attached. No further discussions were necessary.

**20141 Future agenda items**

Proposed informal councillors meeting via Zoom

Budget and precept for 2021/22

**20142 Close of meeting**

Meeting closed at 8.02 pm

**20143 Date of next meeting – Tuesday 27th October 2020 – 7.00 pm (to be reviewed)**

**Open Forum**

Cllr Mier congratulated the Clerk on achieving the Cilca qualification and the Council on attaining General Power of Competence status.

**20144 Confidential Item**

Council **resolved** that pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public leave the meeting during consideration of the following staffing matters.

Councillors were informed of two complaints received by the Chair, the outcomes and resolutions of investigations undertaken.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chair)

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

