

FAIRLIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 26th July 2022 at Fairlight Village Hall at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors – Ms I Horsley (Chair), Mr S Stewart, Miss C Sharpe. Mr D Shortman, Mr D Greenup, Ms L Cooke

County and District Councillors – Cllrs C Maynard
Parish Clerk - Mrs P Collins

ACTION

- 22124 Apologies for absence** (Including resolutions to accept reason for absence by Councillors)
Apologies received from Cllrs G Smith, R Bird and A Mier
Resolved to accept the reasons for absence
- 22125 Code of Conduct and Disclosure of Interests**
(a) To receive any disclosures by members, of personal or prejudicial interest in matters on the agenda
None
- 22126 Public questions in respect of items on the agenda**
None
- 22127 County and District Councillors reports**
Cllr Maynard reported on the meeting with Cllr Smith and the Road Safety Officer, the Ukraine family sponsorship, mental health issues and funding. Also, the viability of the proposed Bexhill Town Hall project and the second consultation period.
- 22128 Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 28th June 2022**
The minutes were distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting and made available to the Public at the meeting.
Resolved to approve and the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- 22129 Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda**
None

22130 Financial Matters

- (a) To consider and approve schedule of payments and receipts for July 2022
Resolved to approve the payments for July 2022.
- (b) To consider and sign the monthly bank reconciliations.
Resolved to note and sign the bank reconciliations as correct.
- (c) To consider monthly budget figures (Clerk's report)
The Clerk had previously circulated the budget monitoring figures. No issues to report.

22131 Planning Committee

- (a) To receive the monthly report
No planning applications were received for weeks 25 to 28. Planning decisions were reported.
- (b) To receive an update on Wakehams Farm Development appeal
The public planning appeal hearing took place on 19th July and a decision is pending.
- (c) To receive an update on the progress of Country Park Visitors Centre (Haydon Luke) **CLERK**
Due to an incident with the cattle on the Country Park it was suggested that contact details of relevant individuals need to be available to volunteers in the Bale Centre and possibly the Public. Also, any animals on the Country Park need to be monitored more closely. The Parish Council have not jurisdiction over the area so can only request/suggest actions to be taken.
It was requested that this item be moved from the Planning Committee item on the agenda to an independent item as the Bale Centre has now been built.
Resolved to create a new agenda item.

22132 Land Management Group

- (a) To receive the monthly report
 - Cllr Smith – Wood Field and Highways
Cllr Smith submitted a written report
In respect of the meeting with Cllr Maynard and the Road Safety Officer. Fairlight Road is not wide enough for side white lines. The speed limit signs will be increased in size and temporary speed safety notices will be put up on Waites Lane.
 - Cllr Sharpe – Fixed Assets and Village Sign
A grit bin has been located at the bottom of Lower Waites Lane and Stream Lane with the permission of the National Trust.
 - Cllr Horsley – Water/drainage issues
No major issues due to no rain. A leak was located in a garage in Fairlight Gardens and a fatberg blocking the pipe was found to be the problem.
- (b) To discuss and resolve the next steps for a proposed new village sign (Cllr Horsley)
The Parish Council do not have the copyright for the proposed sign and can therefore not continue with the current process to acquire a new sign.
Resolved to meet with the Fairlight Residents Association to discuss the next steps.
- (c) To discuss and resolve the use of Knowle Wood by “Carly's Forest School” **CLERK**
Resolved to allow the Forest School to use Knowle Wood. Clerk to arrange a meeting with all concerned.

- (d) To discuss and resolve the use of Wood Field by Hastings Athletic Football Club

CLERK

Resolved to allow Hastings Athletic FC use Wood Field on a one-year trial basis. Clerk to arrange a meeting with all concerned.

- (e) To discuss and resolve the formation of a volunteer group to help maintain Knowle Wood and Wood Field

**LAND
MAN GRP**

Resolved to form a volunteer group to help with maintenance of Knowle Wood and Wood Field. Land Management Group to take the lead on this – formulate a group, carry out risk assessments etc and produce a schedule of works required in line with the current woodland plan. Also, to monitor work carried out in the future.

- (f) To discuss and resolve the Wood Field car park in usage, delimiting parking areas and marshalling during events/activities

Resolved an area will be marked off at the Youth Club end of the car park for turning and dropping off only. During good weather and when required the overflow car park on Wood Field should be used by all Wood Field users and their visitors. A car park Marshall should be allocated by each user of the Field to monitor the car park areas and prevent any incidents/accidents occurring during use.

22133 Community Hub Committee (Faircomm.)

- (a) To receive the monthly report (Cllr Stewart)

Outlined planning permission has been received with six conditions. These will be discussed at the next Community Hub Committee meeting and Pump House to compile a response to RDC Planning Department.

22134 Finance and Administration Committee

- (a) To receive a monthly report (Cllr Horsley)

No meeting held in July.

22135 Parish Council Website and Facebook

- (a) To receive a monthly report (Cllr Stewart)

Parish Councillors were reminded to change their email passwords and inform the Clerk of the changes.

Updates are required to the website which are being dealt with by Cllrs Stewart and Sharpe. Additional articles are required for the Facebook page to highlight what the Parish Council has achieved and will be carrying out in the future.

Resolved to turn off comment's facilities on Facebook pages

22136 War Memorial Steering Group

- (a) To receive and update on the project (Haydon Luke)

The church faculty is still outstanding and a decision is required promptly to enable EB Sculpture to procure the stone in time for a possible November unveiling. Fund raising is continuing.

22137 Meetings/training attended

Cllrs Horsley and Stewart reported on the ESALC Chairs meeting – Op London Bridge, resilience planning, community safety partnerships, civility and respect and the use of British Sign Language at meeting.

22138 Correspondence

All correspondence had been circulated to Councillors and was available to the Public.

22139 Information and/or Future Agenda Items

None

22140 Date of next meeting – Tuesday 23rd August 2022 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

(a) To resolve to cancel this meeting and hold next meeting on Tuesday 27th September 2022 at 7pm

Resolved to cancel the August meeting. Date of next meeting Tuesday 27th September 2022

If (a) resolved -

(b) To delegate powers to the Chair and Vice-Chair in respect of payments approval for August 2022.

Resolved to delegate powers to Chair and Vice-Chair in respect of payments approval for August 2022.

22141 Close of meeting

Meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Open Forum

Residents raised points on:

- the qualification level of British Sign Language required to be used at a meeting and attendees to the meetings may have their own interrupters.
- the comments being turned off on Facebook
- the village sign and a replacement with an alternative painted version

Signed: _____
Chair

Date: _____

REPORTS – PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 26TH JULY 2022

Schedule of payments and receipts for July 2022

PAYMENTS	Date Paid	Invoice Date	Payee	Gross	Net	VAT	Details
DIRECT DEBITS							
DD	10/07/2022	02/07/2022	EE	24.72	20.60	4.12	Mobile phone inv V02006315661
PAYPAL							
9P1264594K932504P	02/07/2022	02/07/2022	Fasthosts	12.00	10.00	2.00	Web hosting inv 66085641
3MY84383FU055343F	02/07/2022	02/07/2022	Zoom	14.39	11.99	2.40	Zoom meetings INV 155681919
51F35611W9632474T	27/06/2022	27/06/2022	Viking	200.92	167.43	33.49	Office supplies inv 7142298
47P936579X8679640	12/07/2022	12/07/2022	Viking	62.65	52.21	10.44	Office supplies inv 7221507
4ET383098P238514H	21/07/2022	21/07/2022	Viking	190.80	159.00	31.80	Office supplies inv
CHEQUES							
Cheque no							
2653	26/07/2022	26/07/2022	Pauline Collins	***	***	***	Salary - July 2022
2654	26/07/2022	05/07/2022	Countrymans Contractors Ltd	377.15	314.29	62.86	Grass Cutting (3) inv SI-3504
2655	26/07/2022	30/06/2022	Fairlight Village Hall	92.00	92.00	0.00	Hall hire - June 2022
2656	26/07/2022	14/07/2022	Mr P Banbury	322.76	322.76	0.00	Caretaker contract July 22 plus insurance
2657	26/07/2022	19/07/2022	Wickstead leisure Ltd	540.00	450.00	90.00	Repairs to swings inv 818443
2658	26/07/2022	20/07/2022	ESALC Ltd	48.00	40.00	8.00	Training inv 1207
TOTAL				3983.37	3738.26	245.11	

Agenda item 8(a) - Planning Committee

1) PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- Week 25 20/06/22)
 Week 26 27/06/22) No planning applications received
 Week 27 04/07/22)
 Week 28 11/07/22)

2) PLANNING DECISIONS

- a) **RR/2022/1303/P Wickham, Fyrsway, Fairlight TN35 4BG**
 Proposed roof extension and garage conversion
Decision: Approved
- b) **RR/2022/1231/P Robin Croft, Pett Level Road, Fairlight TN35 4EA**
 Single storey extension to side.
Decision: Approved
- c) **RR/2022/956/P Hoads House, Peter James Lane, Fairlight TN35 4AH**
 Variation of Condition 2 imposed on RR/2021/1869/P to allow the rebuilding of the party wall with roof coping on top of party wall, rather than alongside.
Decision: Approved
- d) **RR/2022/1096/P Wood Field Recreation Ground, Commanders Walk, Fairlight TN35 4BE**
 Proposed multi-purpose community building to replace existing buildings
Decision: Approved

Agenda item 8 (b) - Update on the Wakehams Farm public appeal hearing

It was a very hot day for the appeal hearing, but that didn't deter many locals from making the trip to Bexhill to support us. We apologise to those who were not able to get into the chamber to hear the appeal because

the room was full!! Many thanks for your support. I'm sure it helped to show the Inspector the strength of feeling in the village.

Although the hearing did not follow the format we had planned for, we were able to put across all the main points due to having all put in a lot of time into researching the background of the topics we wanted to cover., and practising with each other on how to present them.

The developers had brought a team consisting of a barrister and at least five experts. Rother were represented by one of their Planning Officers and a Planning Consultant.

It was a daunting experience to be speaking in response to the developer's experts. However, I have to say all our speakers were able to put their points across with a balance of passion, local knowledge, and facts. The Inspector listened carefully to all the submissions and spent quite a lot of time clarifying how the proposed development did or didn't fit into policies. He also listened to the submissions given from residents about local issues affecting the development and the village. After the hearing he visited the site and walked around the village. The outcome will be published once the Inspector has finished his assessment of all the evidence given to him.

After the hearing we were all exhausted but also remembered Stephen Leadbetter whose hard work over the years had enabled us to get this far. The village owes him a huge debt of gratitude for his diligent work in preparing the case to put before the planners.

Now we await the outcome.

Agenda item 9(a) Land Management Group reports

Cllr Smith – Wood Field and Highways

Wood Field

The field is becoming ever more popular as the better weather is here. Plenty of people and families of all ages are out and about enjoying the facilities. I have put up a new backboard on the basketball hoop (paid for by Activate) which is receiving more use than ever. Also, two toddler swing cradles have been replaced. In respect of the playground the Clerk has submitted a grant application to Rother District Council for new play equipment and matting. A decision should be received by the end of September hopefully.

On the agenda are four motions covering additional usage and maintenance of the field and woods. These are:

- 1) Hastings FC to use the field on a Saturday morning during season time.
- 2) Carly's Forest School
- 3) A correctly set up volunteer group for ongoing maintenance around Wood Field and Knowle Wood
- 4) Wood Field parking areas

Highways

Eventually the long-awaited meeting with Ian Johnson (ESCC Road Safety Officer) went ahead.

The main discussion points were:

- The possibility of white lines on Fairlight Road and Battery Hill.
- The moving of the 40mph sign on Fairlight Road to further along towards Ore.
- The possibility of SLOW written on the road or something to reduce speeding at the Junction of Waites Lane and Broadway.

As far as the white lines are concerned the answer is basically no, as the width of the road is too narrow! The moving of the 40-mph speed sign at Fairlight Road could only be achieved by going down the Community Match Fund route. After discussing all implications, it was felt that this would not prove worthwhile. Not only would it cost the Parish a small fortune if accepted, but it would also necessitate proof that a high number of vehicles are actually travelling above 40 mph past the present sign location. This just isn't the case. It was also felt that "SLOW" marked on the road at Waites Lane and Broadway would not be done due to the low accident rate.

However, all of these points are being looked into by Mr Johnson and there may be some results. These would include an 'enhanced' look to the area where the 40mph sign is at Fairlight Road (such as vegetation cut back and possibly white bollards). A three-month repeating usage of speed awareness signs on Waites Lane and an accurate measurement of Battery Hill and Fairlight Road to see if white lines can be done at some lengths.

We also discussed issues with vegetation growth along the length of Fairlight Road and Battery Hill. It was explained that this lay firmly with ESCC Highways to deal with. As we all know, that is a continuous battle I fight!

I have received no complaints regarding the Stream End closure on Pett Level Road; but did work hard 'bullying' Highways and eventually more and better signage was provided.

I was very dismayed that during the present closure of Winchelsea Beach there has not been any bus service (other than three school buses) for Fairlight and beyond. I only found out the day before the road closure (on Sunday) that this was the case, after being informed that we would have shuttle service. My abrupt emails regarding this went unanswered!

Agenda item 9(b) - To discuss and resolve the next steps for a proposed new village sign (Cllr Horsley)

The Land Management Group has met with the designer of the proposed new village sign. Discussions were held about the processes the Council went through to find a preferred supplier for the new sign, and the possible manufacturing process. The designer raised her concerns about the preferred supplier and whether they could manufacture the sign as designed. All attendees also discussed the areas where there had been some confusion about what was being offered by the designer and being asked for by the Parish Council. At the conclusion of this meeting the designer withheld the copyright to her design leaving the Parish Council without any alternative but to cease the current plan to replace the sign with a preferred supplier.

It is requested that a resolution be made on one of the following alternatives:

- a) To begin the whole process again;
- b) To try to encourage a group to take on this task including the design, manufacture and installation of a new sign with support from the Parish Council i.e., advice and financial contribution;
- c) To think of a completely new scheme to highlight our village, maybe with some signs at the top of Battery Hill and on Pett Level Road at the entrances to the village;
- d) Something else.....

Agenda item 9(c) - To discuss and resolve the use of Knowle Wood by "Carly's Forest School"

The Land Management Group have met with Carly who already runs a Forest School and is now interested in using the Activate Hut and Knowle Wood to expand her venture. Initially, she would like to trial the idea with pre-school toddler groups. This may lead to a more permanent base, where small school groups and other interested parties will be accommodated. Again, the hut would mainly be a base for refreshments and toilets and an area of Knowle Woods would be identified for her activities. All activities are 100% environmentally friendly and of course educational for the children and young people. This could only be beneficial for Knowle Wood. Once again, a project like this will aid the Community Hub (Faircomm) project greatly.

Agenda item 9(d) - To discuss and resolve the use of Wood Field by Hastings Athletic Football Club

Hastings Athletics Football Club are interested in using the field and Activate Hut (purely for toilets and drinks) for practice seasons for 5 to 11 years old on most Sunday mornings during season. This would be a great addition for Fairlight and the Club could bring in funding and manpower to help maintain the field. Also, a great asset for the Community Hub (Faircomm) project.

Both agenda items 9 c) and d) would be set up under a lease agreement with FPC and monitored.

Agenda item 9(e) - To discuss and resolve the formation of a volunteer group to help maintain Knowle Wood and Wood Field

As mentioned last month I am still receiving comments regarding the spread of bramble and other encroaching growth making paths almost unusable in parts of the wood. This leads to people walking through unpathed areas and where sensitive growth is being trampled on.

There is no 'one hit' short term solution to this problem.

Therefore, there is an agenda item to set up a volunteer group (most likely lead by Sue Clarke) to deal with existing and continuous problems within Knowle Wood and the surroundings of Wood Field. Although we have tried having 'working parties' it has not been highly successful within the woods mainly due to 'one off' dates. What is needed is a party that can meet at their own timescales and dates. We are not talking about the return of chainsaws and bonfires, but a similar party as there once was carrying out work in

agreement with the Parish Council within guidance of the 5-year plan. Below are some main bullet points and possible achievements to not only enhance the woods, but also to provide safe paths that people will stick to and nearly all coppicing to be reused within the woods. (Some bullet points made by Sue Clarke.)

The Reality

- Maintenance is not glamorous, but one-off activities with specific focus may attract more volunteers.
- The disposal of detritus and cuttings is essential.
- Most bramble within the woods is not productive (low light no fruits) but that around the perimeter is.
- The middle strata need to be nurtured. (maintained)
- Knowle Wood and Woodfield have their own separate issues and therefore different management needs.

What can be reasonably achieved

- Paths cut back to allow safe passage.
- 25% per year coppicing of hazel to develop middle strata requiring only hand saws and muscle.
- Cut lengths of hazel used to form natural structures such as the bomb crater surround.
- Maintenance of the holly at the middle strata height.

THE ABOVE WOULD PROVIDE A BALANCE OF USE/ENJOYMENT BY HUMANS, BIRDS, MAMMALS, FLORA AND FAUNA.

Agenda item 9(f) -To discuss and resolve the Wood Field car park inc usage, delimiting parking areas and marshalling during events/activities.

As most of you are aware parking at Wood Field can be a problem when the Bowls Club is in full swing. However, it must be remembered that the Bowls Club are NOT the only users. But more often than not it is their parking that causes these problems. The main issues are being unable to turn due to a blocked up limited parking area and the field barrier being obstructed (Emergency vehicle entrance). It is therefore proposed that at the very end on the little 'kink' by the Activate Hut there will be no parking and that this space is used as a turning point only. These two/three parking spaces were produced 23 years ago and paid for by Activate for their use. This arrangement has been agreed by the Activate Management as the only sensible solution.

In addition to the current difficulties, it is highly likely that if the Forest School and Hastings Athletics FC will become permanent and with additional activities being run on the field by Activate and other groups, parking will become a growing issue. It is therefore proposed that when required and weather permitting the Bowls Club members and visitors become accustomed to parking on the field on match days and /or large meetings. When the overflow parking area on the field is being used it will require the area to be identified by cones or some form of marking and to be marshalled to prevent incidents/accidents occurring. These requirements will also be requested from other users when necessary.

Agenda item 10 - Community Hub (Faircomm.) Committee

Update on the application for planning permission to build the new community hub RR/2022/1096/P has been successful. The PC has been granted outline planning permission, with conditions.

The next step for the Committee will be to address the conditions and deal with the building regulations, as these need to be sorted and in place before any building work can be undertaken. This is no different to any other planning application.

Agenda item - 15 Meetings /training attended

ESALC Chairs meeting - 29th June 2022

Trevor Leggo (TL)) raised the following points

ESCC - There is a shortfall of money in local government which will have a knock-on effect everywhere.

There is a budget of 181 million for Adult Social Care. East Sussex Highways have estimated that to repair all potholes and making good of highways would cost in the region of 300 million. They have 20 million to do the work.

Operation London Bridge - Clerk will receive a presentation on this shortly.

Resilience Planning -A total of 6 out of 34 Parish Councils have a plan. Fairlight has an Emergency Plan.

These plans are not to replace local council or government plans but they are the first line of attack should they be needed. The Fairlight plan was updated January 2022.

Police Force Groups -In some areas there are problems with some 13/14 years old performing anti-social behaviour. Neighbourhood officers have been asked to visit areas where this is more prevalent.

Community Safety Partnerships -These CSP are not reporting what they are doing. Questions are being asked as to what is being done.

Sussex alerts - You can go to the local police web site and enter your postcode and you can ask for an email to be sent to you which will tell you information about what is happening regarding crime in your area.

Training - Training has been arranged by ESALC for basic planning information on 19th July and for Budget planning in September 2022. Contact the clerk if you wish to attend.

Civility and Respect – Trevor Leggo will be talking to a West Sussex County councillor regarding this over the next couple of weeks.

British sign language -This is now a recognised language and councils need to be aware of the possibility of having to supply information in a format that can be read.

DRAFT