

FAIRLIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

Website: www.fairlightparishcouncil.org.uk

Clerk: Mrs Pauline Collins

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Minutes of Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 25th October 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, Mr G Smith, Mr R Turnbull

County and District Councillors – None
Parish Clerk - Mrs P Collins

ACTION

22169 Apologies for absence (Including resolutions to accept reason for absence by Councillors)

Apologies received from Cllrs C Maynard, A Mier and R Bird

Resolved to accept the reasons for absence

22170 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

22171 Public questions in respect of items on the agenda

None

22172 County and District Councillors reports

Councillors Maynard and Mier had sent in reports prior to this meeting which were circulated

22173 Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 27th September 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.

22174 Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda

None

22175 Financial Matters

(a) To consider and approve schedule of payments and receipts for October 2022

Resolved to approve the payments for October 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.

(d) To approve the removal of S Leadbetter as a bank signatory

Resolved to remove S Leadbetter as a bank signatory

CLERK

22176 Planning Committee

(a) To receive the monthly report

Details of the planning applications, decisions and comments from the Planning Committee meetings were reported (see below). The planning application for the Former Market Garden site has been called in and will be discussed at the RDC Planning Committee on 10th November 2022. Cllr Horsley will be attending and speaking. A request for the application for Bairs Bourne to be called in has also been submitted.

22177 Land Management Group

(a) To receive the monthly report

- Cllr Smith – Wood Field and Highways

Cllr Smith reported on Wood Field and Highways. (See below).

- Cllr Sharpe – Fixed Assets

No updates

- Cllr Horsley – Water/drainage issues

Cllr Horsley reported on issues (see below). The current sewerage spillage has partly been attributed to the inappropriate items being put down the drains.

A 3 P's campaign is needed to highlight what should be flushed. LWLRMA have requested Southern Water distribute leaflets in the area.

Resolved to highlight this issue in the next newsletter and a poster.

IH/CLERK

22178 Community Hub Committee (Faircomm.)

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

Cllr Stewart reported on progress to date. (See below)

22179 Finance and Administration Committee

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

Cllr Horsley reported on this Committee (See below). Additional information was received in respect of the electricity costs to run the wells compressor from RDC which will mean an increase to the 2023/24 budget.

Resolved not to pay RDC invoice for electricity until further details have been received.

CLERK

22180 Fairlight Christmas Cracker and Warm Up Fairlight events

(a) To receive an update on Fairlight Christmas Cracker (Christmas day event)

Cllr Sharpe provided an update on this project. Advertising and tickets are being produced and donations to be requested.

(b) To receive an update on the Warm Up Fairlight project

There has been a good response. Several enquiries have been received from other Parish Councils to discuss this project

22181 Parish Council Website and Facebook

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

Both websites and Facebook pages continue to be updated

22182 War Memorial Steering Group

(a) To receive an update on the project (Haydon Luke)

EB are continuing to source a stone. The receipt of donations and pledges is on-going

22183 Hastings Country Park

(a) To receive a monthly update (Haydon Luke)

No items to report

22184 Meetings/training attended

ESALC chairs meeting and the RDC Parish Conference were attended by Councillors and reports are below.

22185 Correspondence

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

22186 Information and/or Future Agenda Items

2023/24 Budget

Parish Council website status – “.gov.uk”

Christmas lights/decoration competition

Co-option of a new parish councillor

22187 Date of next meeting – Tuesday 22nd November at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

22188 Close of meeting

Meeting closed at 8.00 pm

Open Forum

Residents raised points on:

- Speeding on Battery Hill and Waites Lane

CLr Smith responded re-iterating the items raised with ESCC Highways and proposed solutions.

Signed: _____

Chair

Date: 22/11/22

REPORTS FOR PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 25TH OCTOBER 2022

Agenda item 7(a) Payment schedule for October 2022

PAYMENTS	Date Paid	Invoice Date	Payee	Gross	Net	VAT	Details
DIRECT DEBITS							
	10/10/2022	02/10/2022	EE	24.72	20.60	4.12	Mobile phone inv V02034872829
PAYPAL							
5RH22188NM170915S	02/10/2022	02/10/2022	Fasthosts	12.00	10.00	2.00	Web hosting inv 68953750
4BC7256LR7545628	02/10/2022	02/10/2022	Zoom	14.39	11.99	2.40	Zoom meetings INV169368435
8JV83938VC532117	30/09/2022	30/09/2022	Viking	60.14	50.12	10.02	Office supplies inv 9310033
0Y433398T5597319	30/09/2022	30/09/2022	Viking	58.33	52.94	5.39	Office supplies inv 9310034
9UC78245L0359170X	18/10/2022	18/10/2022	Viking	39.89	33.24	6.65	Office supplies inv 9403799
9UC78245L0359170X	18/10/2022	18/10/2022	Viking	86.10	86.10	0.00	Office supplies inv 9403799
CHEQUES							
Cheque no							
2680	25/10/2022	25/10/2022	Pauline Collins	****	****	0.00	Salary - October 2022
2681	25/10/2022		Pauline Collins				Expenses - October 2022 - £280.56
		28/09/2022	Jempsons - Teabags - WUF	9.99	9.99	0.00	Jempsons - Teabags - WUF
		30/09/2022	TV Licensing - TV licence- WUF	159.00	159.00	0.00	TV Licensing - TV licence- WUF
		03/10/2022	WH Smith - Publication	30.60	30.60	0.00	WH Smith - Publication
		06/10/2022	Tesco - Boxes - WUF	24.00	24.00	0.00	Tesco - Boxes - WUF
		07/10/2022	Timpson - Keys - WUF	13.50	13.50	0.00	Timpson - Keys - WUF
		11/10/2022	Aldi - supplies - WUF	6.54	6.54	0.00	Aldi - supplies - WUF
		11/10/2022	Morrisons - supplies - WUF	1.39	1.39	0.00	Morrisons - supplies - WUF
		12/10/2022	Aldi - supplies - WUF	23.24	23.24	0.00	Aldi - supplies - WUF
		17/11/2022	Fairlight PO - supplies - WUF	12.30	12.30	0.00	Fairlight PO - supplies - WUF
2682	25/10/2022	30/09/2022	Fairlight Village Hall	85.00	85.00	0.00	Hall hire - Sept 2022
2683	25/10/2022	26/09/2022	AB Fire & Security	69.55	57.96	11.59	CCTV - Sept inv 256210
2684	25/10/2022	04/10/2022	Countrymans Contractors Ltd	377.15	314.29	62.86	Grass Cutting 6 of 7 SI-3623
2685	25/10/2022	12/10/2022	Oakden Tree Care	1728.00	1440.00	288.00	Knowle Wd work inv 636
2686	25/10/2022	13/10/2022	Mr P Banbury	225.00	225.00	0.00	Caretaker contract - Oct inv 10
2687	25/10/2022	31/10/2022	Rialtas Business Solution Ltd	154.80	129.00	25.80	Annual support inv SM26365
2688	25/10/2022	25/10/2022	Activate Fairlight Youth Club	50.00	50.00	0.00	Use of hut by HFC for Sept 2022
			TOTAL	5171.38	4752.55	418.83	

Agenda item 8(a) Planning

Planning Applications

Week 38

RR/2022/2315/P Bairns Bourne, Sea Road, Fairlight TN35 4DR

Erection of single bungalow dwelling with associated landscaping and parking.

Standing orders were suspended to allow two members of the public to speak.

Following discussions, the Planning Committee agreed the following comments:

- i) Fairlight Parish Council would request that this application is called in to the RDC Planning Committee for further clarification and discussions. Also, to consider the objections below.
- ii) To strongly object to this application for the following reasons
 - a) The documents provided for this application appear to be incomplete and lack details
 - b) Due to the property's proximity to the 50m coastal buffer a geological survey is suggested
 - c) The immediacy to neighbouring property boundaries and overlooking issues should be considered
 - d) The current sewerage structure is overloaded and an additional property would add more pressure to the system
 - e) The private access road is narrow and unstable requiring constant repair will not accommodate large or small construction vehicles.
 - f) The access road is a dead end and provides no space for a turning circle for vehicles of any size. Damage to the stream and surrounding banks, roads etc could be cause by vehicles manoeuvring in this area.
 - g) Contamination to the stream and nearby water course could occur from this development during the construction and from ground water run-off of hard standings. This stream is already under threat from another large development on Lower Waites Lane.
 - h) No garage facilities are being considered and only two parking spaces have been allocated for a three-bedroom property. It would appear that inadequate parking is being allocated as none is being allotted for visitors etc. Any parking on the approach road would block access to other properties if utilised for parking or unloading of goods/equipment and other deliveries.
 - i) A construction plan is required and all materials and vehicles will be need to be stored on site. Small vehicles to be used for waste removal and deliveries. Any large deliveries to be off loaded and transported on small vehicles. Consideration should also be given to the size of plant used and the quantity of materials stored to prevent excessive weight being put on this sensitive area.
 - j) A permeable drive and a channel drain (which is not connected to an outlet) could prove to be an issue as the new property will be on the edge of the Article 4 area and coastal buffer zone.
 - k) Disturbance of wildlife and protected species in the area has raised concerns. Also, this property is located near National Trust land.
 - l) Existing established trees and hedging should be maintained.
 - m) Finally, can one assume that there will be additional toilet facilities in the property as these are only shown in the en-suite bathroom and not elsewhere.

Weeks 39 – 41 No applications received

Planning Decisions

RR/2022/1956/P - 43 Knowle Road, Fairlight. TN35 4AT - **REFUSED**

RR/2022/1954/P – Treetops 57 Battery Hill, Fairlight. TN35 4AP - **REFUSED**

Agenda item 9 - Land Management Group

- Cllr Smith – Wood Field and Highways

Wood Field

Hastings Athletic FC are regularly using the field for practise and matches. I have received one ‘small’ complaint regarding parking in Meadow Way. The club has been contacted to use the Wood Field car park now that the Bowls Club have closed for the winter.

Hopefully soon I will find time to address the clearing of weeds between the new hedge row planting or attract some volunteers to help. I will also speak to local tree surgeons to try and get some free chippings to spread to suppress further weeds.

Knowle Wood

I am very pleased to report that ‘Carly’s Forest School’ is proving successful and she has requested extra sessions permission. She will now be entering a lease agreement and will be charged per session. I have received positive comments by residents that have enjoyed seeing very young children enjoying the woods. The Knowle Wood working party are making good inroads into maintenance of the woods. They have completely cleared all the strangling (and non-fruit productive) bramble from the bomb crater area. I was fortunate to enjoy a three-hour stint helping in the ‘bog’ while still possible before it fills with water. Now that there is some fresh wood from the tree felling there will be further work on path edging.

Swing Park

The Land Management group has decided to close access to the larger slide due to the top steps and platform being rusted through causing a dangerous sharp edge. We have requested an inspection of the slide by Wicksteed to see if repairable or possible removal if considered necessary. For now, I have secured the damage and taped off the slide. I feel it ill advised to block the slide with any form of barrier as this is potentially more dangerous than the slight present danger the step possesses.

Other Matters

I have started inspecting all assets and hopefully by the next Finance meeting I can produce a rough cost guide for budget reasons.

Highways

Nothing much to report. Fairlight Road and parts of Battery Hill have eventually received a small verge cut back. This I would add was after three complaints by myself and complaints from Cllr Mier and residents.

I am finding ESCC Highways increasingly lacking in return/response communication and therefore difficult to deal with. I am in the process of compiling yet another report of issues with Battery Hill and Fairlight Road including the continuing sub-standard repairs of the ongoing pot hole opposite Hysted, which yet again is cracking up after ESCC Highways long awaiting ‘substantial repair’!

- Cllr Horsley – Water/drainage issues

Water and Sewage Issues

There has been quite a major leak of freshwater on Rockmead in the vicinity of the wells. This has finally been repaired by Southern water. However, the water pipes are of a rigid asbestos mix and as the cliffs expand following the dry summer further movement and leakage may well happen. The Fairlight Preservation Trust is contacting Southern Water to try to discuss the freshwater pipes in the region of the cliff.

The LWLRMA has been successful in its discussions with Southern Water about sewage and has managed to persuade them that Fairlight should become one of six locations in the Southern Water area that will be part of their Pathfinders project run by the Storm Overflow Task Force This will look at reducing the sewerage overflows. Further information on this will follow. Congratulations go to all those involved in these negotiations.

Unfortunately, there has been a further sewage leak at the corner of Stream Lane and Pett Level Road. This was in part caused by a blockage in the sewage pipe which was aggravated by the fact that there was a

considerable volume of material that had been put down toilets that was definitely not biodegradable. These include wet wipes, sanitary products etc. It has been proposed that the Parish Council should run a publicity campaign to encourage people not to put non-biodegradable material into the sewage system.

Agenda item 10 - Community Hub (Faircomm.) Committee

The Faircomm Committee have now received three quotes for the structural engineer's work. Unfortunately, two of them need to be broken down into civil and structural work. This is needed as part of the conditions set out by Rother DC Planning for the New Community Hub. Until the breakdown has been completed, we cannot continue.

Agenda item 11 - Finance and Administration Committee

The Finance Committee has met and started to discuss the budget for 2022/23. We are in agreement that although the precept will rise, we will try and maintain the rise to a minimum and in keeping with the current anxieties about rising costs.

This may mean that some projects that we had hoped to carry out in the next year may need to be postponed for a year or two. The budget would ensure that there are sufficient funds to continue to carry out essential maintenance and also some development.

Agenda item 12 - Fairlight Christmas Cracker and Warm Up Fairlight events

Warm up Fairlight started last week. Although with mild weather it has been difficult to gauge the response. However, a lot of people did drop in for either lunch or a drink and cake and all enjoyed the social contact. We now have enough funding to continue to run this through most of the winter. We envisage that this project will gradually grow as the weather gets cooler. All ages are welcome and people may either drop in for a chat and refreshments or come and stay for most of the day. We are open on Monday Wednesday and Friday from 10 am until 4 pm.

Agenda item 14 - War Memorial Steering Group

EB sculpture is still seeking an appropriate stone from the quarry. Once this has been sought an invoice will be raised for the deposit.

Agenda item 16 - Meetings /training attended

ESALC Chairs - 11th October 2022

Chairman Trevor Lego (TL) Also, in attendance the Chair of NALC

Cost of living

Fairlight were well represented on this topic with their WUF which Issy had opportunity to speak to TL last week and also to the members last night on what WUF was doing in Fairlight. Some councils are doing similar and some cannot because of limitations on where to hold it. Libraries are being used by some councils to hold a similar event. Discussions took place on where funding should come from for this and ideas were floated.

Community resilience.

Are councils in a position to call on an emergency plan in a case of a local emergency? Fairlight has a plan, but it has not been tested. Do councillors know where the plan is? Who is on it and what responsibilities they have should it be called into action? Plan to be discussed at a council meeting.

Pay for clerks

This was discussed as a matter of course because pay scales have been discussed at a higher level. It was mentioned that councils should be aware that clerks are vital to the running of a successful council and should they leave, replacements with locums would become very expensive and quite possibly increase the precept.

Cluster forums with police

The next cluster forum – should you wish to attend – is on the 22nd November 2022. Questions in your area are discussed i.e., Has policing in your area improved or declined over the last period – whatever period that may be mentioned, month quarter etc.

ESALC AGM

The AGM this year is to be held on the 30th November in Uckfield. The current President will be standing down. A new President - Marquess - has been asked if he would take on the role and he has accepted.

RDC Parish Conference – 19th October 2022

- The conference was covering various aspects of the climate emergency.
- The first presentation was on the local plan from the planning policy team. The new local plan is currently in development and will be subtitled “Green to the Core” and this theme will run through the development of the new local plan. The planning policy team are hoping to meet with each parish council from the district to discuss the parts of the plan pertaining to them and also their view of the overall plan.
- The CIL was discussed with information about how they are distributing the money; they have developed a climate emergency fund which will be available for carbon footprint reduction within parishes but needs to be match funded. They have been working with village halls across Rother to do a carbon audit and a develop a scheme to reduce their carbon footprint through insulation, solar panels, and more sustainable energy sources.
- The planning policy team is looking at ways to make new build houses more energy efficient even though central government has not yet introduced new guidelines.
- There was a presentation by Crowborough Parish Council.
- They have been doing an audit within the village of energy efficiency of the housing stock this has been carried out with the help of a grant.
- The main message that came from the audit is that although some of the properties would benefit from alternative sources of energy the main energy saving action that can be taken, is to ensure that the homes are adequately insulated.
- The main message from the afternoon was that we can all start in small ways to try and reduce our use of fossil fuels.