



# FAIRLIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

Danielle Gould, Clerk & RFO

Email: [fairlightparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:fairlightparishcouncil@gmail.com)

Telephone: 07487822729

[www.fairlightparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.fairlightparishcouncil.org.uk)

## Minutes of the Full Council Meeting - 25th February 2025 at Fairlight Village Hall 7.00 pm

**Present:** Cllr M Clark Cllr L Miller Cllr D Pichard Cllr G Smith (Vice Chair) Cllr S Stewart (Chair)  
Cllr D Thatcher Cllr S Whiteman

**In attendance:** Danielle Gould, Clerk & RFO. Cllr Mier of Rother District Council. Cllr Maynard of East Sussex County Council. Several members of the public were present.

**The Chair will open the meeting at 7pm.**

**25/022 Item 1. The Chair will invite members of the public to comment or ask questions on any matters in respect of the business on the agenda. (Please note, questions cannot be asked in respect of confidential items).** In relation to item 10, Cllr Mier asked if the item could be deferred to a different occasion as the Tennis Club had their AGM at the same time. The Chair said we had been asked by several people about the access route and quotes are to be discussed but that the Clerk would speak with the Secretary of the Tennis Club following the meeting to give an update and discuss the options. In relation to Item 11, Cllr Mier asked why there was the need for new concrete bases under the benches, Cllr Smith said it is because the benches are rotten. In relation to Item 9, A member of the public asked what was being proposed for the SSSI land, The Chair read out the email sent in by the resident and there was a brief discussion regarding the SSSI Land.

The Chair read out a question sent via email in relation to Item 7, asking why income and expenditure had not been published, The Chair said he would address this under Item 17 - Website.

**25/023 Item 2. To receive reports and ask questions of the County Councillor Carl Maynard and the Rother District Councillors concerning County Council and Rother District Council matters.** Cllr Mier reported he was elected Chair of RDC starting in May. The Chair congratulated him on behalf of the PC. Cllr Maynard said there is a consultation out regarding the proposed Mayoralty. Government have cancelled elections due to be held in May. There have been rationalisations to services. Cllr Maynard said he went out with the Steward and inspected the key areas of concern in Fairlight. The Steward also cleaned out the bus shelter on Battery Hill. He asked that residents report potholes. Cllr Clarke thanked Cllr Maynard for the potholes that have been filled in recently between Rye and Fairlight.

**25/024 Item 3. Record any apologies for absence**

- a) To receive and record apologies for absence. *Cllr Cooke, Cllr Grohne.*
- b) To consider any requests for approval of reasons for absence, if any. *There were none.*

**25/025 Item 4. Code of Conduct and Disclosure of Interests - To receive any disclosures by members, of personal or prejudicial interest in matters on the agenda. Members are reminded a) to repeat their declaration immediately prior to commencement of the item in question and b) complete the declaration of interests form.**

Cllr Smith declared a personal interest in Item 8.

Cllr Pichard declared a pecuniary interest in Item 10.

**25/026 Item 5. To consider and approve the signing by the Chair of the minutes of:**

- a) Full Parish Council meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025. **RESOLVED** Approved and signed.
- b) Planning meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025. **RESOLVED** Approved and signed.



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## **25/027 Item 6. Matters requiring a Decision by Council**

### **Financial Matters**

- a) To receive list of items paid to date in January and list of items for payment in February. **RESOLVED** Received and approved.
- b) To receive receipts and payments report. **RESOLVED** Received and approved.
- c) To approve reconciliation from January. **RESOLVED** Received and approved.
- d) To consider opening 35 Day Business Savings Account with Redwood Bank (Monthly interest rate of 3.93% variable and FSCS protection up to £85,000). **RESOLVED** It was agreed to open a savings account with Redwood Bank.

## **25/028 Item 7. Grants**

To open applications for grants for 2025/26. **RESOLVED** FPC are now accepting applications for grants which are to be collated in March and awarded in the new financial year.

## **25/029 Item 8. Leases**

To consider obtaining legal advice for leases for Activate, The Tennis Club and The Bowls Club. (Following the rescission notice of Item 15 from the Full Council meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> January). **RESOLVED** The Clerk will ask SLCC if they have a preferred list of solicitors and ask other Clerks for recommendations.

## **25/030 Item 9. SSSI Land maintenance**

- a) To consider obtaining quote from contractor to cut back vegetation on Fire Hills. **RESOLVED** The Clerk is to contact the contractor that cuts back the vegetation in January and ask for their opinion.
- b) To consider allowing resident to create a working party to cut back vegetation on Fire Hills. **RESOLVED** The Parish Council were not in favour of cutting back vegetation on the SSSI land and are also prohibited from doing so under regulations from Natural England. The Clerk is to contact the resident and suggest that they contact Natural England.

## **25/031 Item 10. Tennis Court Access**

To consider quotes for new pathway to the Tennis Court. (Quotes to be tabled at the meeting). **RESOLVED** Two options were discussed. Option 1. To make a new pathway through the bushes, grade and lay bark chippings and Option 2. Set edging in existing path and fill with bark chippings. Only two quotes were tabled for Option 1, as the Clerk had not received the third contractor's quote. The Clerk is to obtain a third quote for Option 1 and quotes for Option 2. It was also noted that Option 1 would not be achievable imminently, due to bird nesting season. The Clerk is to speak to the Tennis Club secretary and ask for their opinion.

**25/032 Item 11. Benches** – To consider replacement benches. **RESOLVED**. There was one extra location added (Battery Hill). The Clerk was asked to get three quotes for new wooden benches for four locations. The benches must have arms and a back. The idea of dedications was discussed. Quotes to be tabled at next Full Council meeting.

## **25/033 Item 12. Annual Play Inspection Report**

To receive Annual Play Inspection Report. **RESOLVED** Received. The Clerk will put together a list of points that need to be actioned.

## **25/034 Item 13. Fairlight Pavillion**

- a) Cllr Smith to report on Fairlight Pavillion Charity. **RESOLVED** noted. *Cllr Smith reported that The Fairlight Pavillion Charity's trustees would be withdrawing from the project as it is an impossibility to raise the funds for the build due to complications with the lease and the surface water. He said the cost of the soakaway was approx. £60,000. He said it is more achievable staying with the Parish Council.*



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- b) To consider future plans for Pavillion Project. **RESOLVED** The Parish Council have until July 2025 to apply for extended planning permission and will need to check if another survey will be required before applying. It was agreed that Councillors would decide whether they want to stay with the project and if so, who would be willing to run it. A decision is to be made at the next Full Council Meeting.

**25/035 Item 14. Protocol Document for Planning Applications in Fairlight** – To consider Protocol document (recommended at Planning meeting 28<sup>th</sup> January 25). **RESOLVED** Council agreed that matters within the protocol are covered by more recently released documents (Article 4, DaSA), therefore, there is no need for the protocol document to be taken any further.

#### **25/036 Item 15. Strategic CIL Application**

- a) To note that Strategic CIL Allocations Panel did not invite the Pavillion Sewage project to submit a funding application. **RESOLVED** Noted.
- b) To consider submitting a more detailed EOI (Expression of Interest) for the next strategic CIL funding round in May 2025. **RESOLVED** It was agreed that the Parish Council would compile all requested information and re-apply for CIL funding in May,

#### **Matters for Information or Noting**

#### **25/037 Item 16. Correspondence - (Any late received correspondence will be tabled at the meeting).**

- a) Email from Cllr Mier pf Rother District Council relating to the 2025/26 precept and CIL application. **RESOLVED** Noted.
- b) Email received from resident asking why income and expenditure has not been published. **RESOLVED** The Chair addressed this under Item 17 Reports from Councillors - Website.

#### **25/038 Item 17. Reports from Councillors**

- a) Cllr Whiteman gave an update on VE Day Celebrations - Fairlight Players, Village Voices and British Legion are involved. There will be craft activities, cakes, etc.
- b) Cllr Clarke gave an update on Footpaths 32/34 – He is going to discuss options with Cllr Smith and Cllr Pichard.
- c) The Chair gave an update on the Direct Gov Website, he said it is finished, we are just waiting for it to go live and for the Clerk to set up the email addresses. The Chair addresses an email that was sent in by a resident asking why the Council has not published income and expenditure, the Chair explains it will be clearly displayed on the new website.

#### **25/039 Item 18. for Consideration for Future Agenda**

Fairlight Pavillion  
Market Garden Site  
Leases  
Tennis Court Access Route  
Benches  
Street Furniture  
CIL Funding

**25/038 Date and venue for next meeting.** Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025, Fairlight Village Hall.