

# MINUTES OF FALMER PARISH COUNCIL

**Tuesday April 4th 2023 7.30pm**

**PRESENT.** Chair Melanie Cutress (MC) Annie Davies (AD) Andy Pearce (AP)

**APOLOGIES** Helen Herbert (HH) and Martin Gapper.( MG )

4 villagers attended.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.** were signed as a true record of that meeting.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None

**QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR** To be addressed as the meeting progresses.

## **MATTERS ARISING:**

### **1. Stadium Issues**

- The fixture list was updated.
- Villagers raised the issue of chaotic traffic post-match departure at the traffic lights. Cars exiting from parking at the farm shop were not giving way to cars leaving the village which were on the road. MC reported that this has been an issue before and farm shop staff would not steward the traffic due to abuse from drivers who were held up. MC would review the issue.

### **2. Village Maintenance.**

- Falmer pond. BHCC had been successful in phase one of their bid for funding to repair the pond. However they had yet to employ a company dealing in specialist aquatics work to manage the quote for phase 2 funding. They had not received the required number of quotations. Park Ranger Nick Lane is giving this priority to take it forward. He will let FPC and FOFP (friends of Falmer pond) know when there is more to report.
- A photographic record would be made of the improvements if the bid was successful, and work went ahead. Cost £846 + VAT. Councillors agreed that the remaining CIL money ... about £550 would go toward this. FOFP would finance the shortfall.
- Electrician Justin Burt had had updated the electrics and the equipment was in waterproof housing to keep moisture out. He had put in a new battery. Cost £189.00. he recommended that new housing be put round the whole clock mechanics to keep it safe from dirt and bird droppings. MC to get a quote. He also recommended after the work he had done that the clock would not need a service this year. He was sceptical of how useful the annual service was. Parish councillors agreed the next service would be in 2024.
- Potholes Continue to be reported.
- Work to stabilise the entrance to the Falmer rail tunnel had been ongoing since December 24<sup>th</sup>. Work was now coming to an end. A villager pointed out how the Network rail vehicles had cut up the grass verge at the junction of East St and South Street. MC to contact Network rail to ask for repair work.
- East street 'no parking' sign had fallen over. MC to report.

### 3. Planning.

#### **Bennetts field**

Student halls of residences for 555 bedrooms. Planning application LW/22/0175. **APPEAL**

#### **Tithe barn.**

No new information of any work starting on the new laboratory, office building or accommodation building. No information from Fran Woolley about a newsletter to every household informing of events and including a complaints procedure.

**Polowood Shoot** SDNP/22/05978/LDE Certificate of Lawful development.  
Deadline for comments had moved to April 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### **FINANCE**

- The accounts were reviewed.
- The accounts were agreed and signed off.

#### **ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD.**

- Street party on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May. MG was organising.
- Households would receive a newsletter which would include information about the forthcoming local elections and voter ID.
- Nominations for Parish Council closed on April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Boundary Festival at Stanmer Park.
- MC had been contacted by e mail by Charlie Locke who introduced himself as the new contact and wished to meet up. MC had agreed to do this nearer the time.
- Sussex University summer ball was June 1<sup>st</sup> 15.00-23.00hrs
- Freshers ball was Sept 24<sup>th</sup> 19.00-1am
- Trustees of the Almhouses. The trustees were reviewing their constitution which included that a member of FPC was always on the board of trustees.
- Correspondence from ESCC highways dept informing that a 30mph speed limit would be introduced from the Park Street traffic lights to Mill Street. Also, a 20mph speed limit in all streets in the village. This was good news. However FPC would request that the 20mph be extended to all of Ridge Rd to slow down the traffic to St Marys farm, the Polowood Shoot and Sussex University sports centre and sports pitches.
- Matt Thompsett raised the problem of cars parking outside the church around 10pm for drugs use. He sees this when walking his dog. MC would inform the police. Matt Thompsett would ring 101 to inform the police next time he witnessed it.

**Next meeting May 23<sup>rd</sup>.**