

FALMER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING AUGUST 5TH 2025.

PRESENT Chair Melanie Cutress MC, Andy Pearce Vice Chair AP, Martin Gapper MG

Helen Herbert HH, Annie Heining AH

7 villagers attended.

THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING WERE SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD OF THAT MEETING
DECLARATION OF INTERESTS. None

QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR. To be answered as the meeting progresses.

APPOINTMENTS. Melanie Cutress was reappointed as chair, Andy Pearce was reappointed as Vice Chair, Helen Herbert would continue to take the minutes, and Annette Brown was our financial officer.

MATTERS ARISING.

1. Stadium issues.

MC had met with BHA Liaison officer Tommy Majic to discuss some issues, and MG would be meeting with him in August to discuss Falmer north issues. It was too difficult to dispute disabled badges and at the park and ride sites people are charged. So, it seems they park in Falmer to avoid paying. A police motor bike should be positioned at the traffic lights at the end of matches from now on. Women's rugby world cup has 2 matches on 6th and 7th. It will probably be a sellout. MC would keep an eye on taxi parking, and it was too difficult to dispute counterfeit passes as they would have originated from a villager. Stewards have been instructed not to confront people who are aggressive.

2. Village maintenance.

- **POND RESTORATION.** There had been 2 community volunteer sessions on June 29th and July 26th with a third scheduled for 24th August, to cut back bankside vegetation. There will be two bat walk evenings 2nd and 21st September which will be bookable. Also, another Community drop-in day October 5th when the tree survey will be available. Pond dredging expected to be carried out summer 2026 will be a big enterprise with mud being removed and disposed.
- The Ridge rd. street sign had been replaced. Still waiting for the Park street sign although there is one on the south side of the traffic lights.
- No update on the Mill Street pavement work.
- Fly tipping on Ridge Road was raised as an issue as well as litter. Villagers were asked to report it to Lewes District Council.
- Ian MacRae raised the issue of the church graveyard being overgrown and asked if something could be done. MC informed him that it was not under parish council ownership. The word parish was misleading linking the parish council to St Laurence church, and the graveyard was the responsibility of St Laurence Church. Jill Burt said that the church had no money for maintenance and so the back area was left as a wildlife area. Ian suggested a working party and was asked to contact the church wardens about this.

3. Planning applications.

Current applications were awaiting decisions:-

Polowood shoot.

St Marys barn conversion

The stables conversion.

BHA football club temporary buildings.

4. Finance

- The accounts were presented.
- Our CIL award deadline had been extended until April 2026 and the SDNP were delighted we were contributing the money to the pond restoration.
- Annette Brown had been informed by PKF Littlejohn, our external auditors, that they did not require a review of our finances and we could apply for an exemption. This had been done.

5. AOB

- **Boundary Festival** would take place in Stanmer park on Friday 26th September capacity 10,000 and on Saturday 27th September capacity 16,500. It would be near to the entrance of Stanmer park. They were all day events. Finishing time 11.30pm. Last year's review by the organisers, recognised that Falmer south needed stewarding to keep vehicles out.
- **Visit from our MP** James MacCleary who would be with us in the village hall on Monday August 18th to talk about issues and answer questions.
- **Devolution.** It was now clear that Lewes District council would cease to exist April 2028, and our public services would be run by just one authority known as a unitary authority. This would be either East Sussex County Council or Brighton and Hove City Council. All households had received a letter from the parish council about this change. They were invited to take part in surveys run by the two authorities to express their preference. **SEE ATTACHED**
- **Footbridge.** MC reminded the meeting that the PC had applied for cycle barriers on the footbridge a year ago. We had been turned down by ESCC as applications were prioritised depending on crash and casualty data. We had no incident or accident data. Villagers were asked to keep data and to also inform the police as motorbikes were now crossing on the footbridge at night. ESCC had limited resources due to the reduction in their budget since 2010. MC pointed out that even if the PC were to offer funding it would still have to work with ESCC who were responsible for the bridge. There would have to be health and safety assessments as well as possible lighting installed. It would not be a simple process. Barriers would need to keep motorbikes off the bridge, deter cyclists from riding over the bridge but allow wheelchairs and buggies

NEXT MEETING

NOVEMBER 18TH 7.30PM