

MINUTES OF FALMER PARISH COUNCIL

Tuesday November 15th 2022 7.30pm

PRESENT. Chair Melanie Cutress (MC) Helen Herbert (HH) Annie Davies (AD) Andy Pearce (AP)
Apologies Martin Gapper who is short staffed at the Swan pub and is working. (6 month rule needs to be acknowledged.)

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 liaison officer was Tomislav Majic. His official title was Safety and Security co-ordinator.
- The winter break for the World Cup in Qatar HAD BEGUN from 14th Nov-26th Dec.
- Stewards had been stopped from parking in the village on match days.
- MC had walked round the village on all match days and since September there was plenty of spaces.
- The Barrier at Sussex Uni sports complex had been lowered thus preventing the rat run through to Ridge Rd.

2. Village Maintenance.

- Falmer pond was full again due to recent large quantities of rain.
- BHCC had been successful in Round one of their bids for funding to repair the pond. This was with the SDNP and Heritage Lottery fund. They had funding now to employ a consultant to work up a restoration project. However, there is no guarantee that phase 2 will be successful.
- Avian flu signs had returned.
- Extra grass cuts of road verges by ESCC had been completed. The PC agreed to the extra 4 cuts for 2023 at cost £185.
- BHCC had cut the grass round the pond in October.
- The Cumbrian clock company had serviced the church clock on October 19th. The church clock had stopped working in the summer, but the engineer discovered that two trip switches had been tripped which is why the clock had stopped working. One switch was under the clock in the church tower and the other was in the organ loft. The engineer said the clock was in good working order. He had reset the trip switches and clock worked again.
- However, it stopped again on November 3rd. The trip switch in the organ loft had tripped again. An electrician Justin Burt would investigate this.
- The Lewes bus shelter had graffiti. MG would ask his window cleaner for advice. MC had met Carl Scutt from Highways England at the stop and the vegetation surrounding the shelter would be cut back.
- MC had raised the issue of some pavement overhanging vegetation with Mr Scutt at the passage to the footbridge in Falmer south from East street. Mr Scutt would investigate whose responsibility this was and report back.
- Potholes on Ridge Rd had been marked for repair.
- ESCC had so far refused to repair the pot holes outside the farm shop.
- Request for a bus stop on Village Way near the traffic lights in a westerly direction. MC had been told by Brighton bus company that this was the responsibility of the local authority. She had written to LDC only to be told it was the responsibility of ESCC.

3. St Marys Polowood shoot and associated problems

- No news about any developments.
- AP and HH said if the shoot had been relatively quiet but still lots of traffic on Ridge Rd.

4. Boundary Festival at Stanmer Park.

- MG had asked the organiser for stewarding to stop last years parking issues happening again. Also, to help cut down litter problems.
- There had been little stewarding of Falmer North with just two young boys and an older man who had been told to wait on the pavement and not do anything. They were probably on the corner of Mill Stret for 2 hours before leaving. No stewarding at all of Falmer south.
- However there was little parking and no litter issues.
- The villagers at the meeting complained about the 'All day' noise and asked the PC tp complain. MC to follow up.

PLANNING

Bennetts field

- Student halls of residences for 555 bedrooms. Planning application LW/22/0175. **Refused.**
- Flimsy grounds for refusal. Expect an appeal.

FINANCE

- The accounts were submitted and accepted by councillors.
- £2,000 had yet to be transferred to our current account from our business account.
- MC went through the accounts and reminded councillors that we had to fund next years local elections. The maximum cost would be £760.
- It was agreed to precept for £1,000 to balance income and expenditure as on average our yearly expenses were £1,000.
- The cost of the elections would be borne from our savings.
- We also still had £733 of our CIL award to spend which might be needed to spend on the church clock or restoration of Falmer pond.

ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD.

Next meeting January 31st.