

MINUTES OF FALMER PARISH COUNCIL

Tuesday November 18th 2019 7.30pm

PRESENT. Chair Melanie Cutress (MC) Helen Herbert (HH) Martin Gapper (MG) Andy Pearce (AP).

APOLOGIES none.

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 dealt with as the meeting progresses.

MATTERS ARISING:

1. Stadium Issues

- ⌚ Rosemary Warton brought up the issue of the stadium being lit up at night at our May meeting by the mobile lights machine that is used to grow the grass. MC had made inquiries As a result David Baker Head of Facilities and Maintenance had replied and said in response that the lights would only operate 7am to midnight except in exceptional circumstances.
- ⌚ At the Nov 17th liaison session with BHA MC had been informed that Matthew Bennet would like to put in a planning application for student residences with 200 parking spaces underneath. No more details available.
- ⌚ The idea of an on site hotel was unlikely to be resurrected.
- ⌚ Sometime in the New Year BHA would be applying for planning permission to install 2 out door units to replace the band stand. One would be kiosks for food and the other a shop and toilets. Also to make inside changes to seating and 2 new hospitality boxes to increase the stadium capacity to 32,750 from 30,750. Also a large outdoor TV screen near to where the band stand currently is. These changes may or may not happen.

2. Maintenance

- ⌚ ESCC had done all 6 village roadside grass cuts. They will continue to do 2 cuts in 2020 but also offer the extra 4 cuts service at a cost of £177. Councillors agreed to go ahead.
- ⌚ Rosemary also brought up the issue of the fence behind East Street where the path leads to the footbridge. MC had checked the fence which basically had totally collapsed. She had reported it. ESCC had sent their highways steward to look. He decided no action needed to be taken as there was also a wire mesh fence in situ which would act as a preventative.
- ⌚ Fiona Gush from Balfour Beatty had agreed to send their volunteers to do a road edge tidy up on Monday Nov 25th.
- ⌚ Jill Burt raised two issues. A floating sign in the pond and fallen leaves on the east street passage making a safety hazard. MC would look into this.
- ⌚ Discussion on paying LDC to empty our own litter bins. Decision made not to do this yet.

4. Sussex University

- ⌚ Alan Hughes wanted to take down a large sycamore tree that was overshadowing his and Sheila Winters gardens at Caxton Court. Sussex University who own the tree had agreed and applied to have it removed. But as it was in a conservation area the SDNP had intervened and had put a short term protection order on the tree. This problem was going to be looked into by LDC planning.
- ⌚ Pot holes round the pond had been repaired.

3 university properties had remained empty for over 2 years.

- 🕒 80 Mill St vacated Nov 2016
- 🕒 81 Mill St vacated June 2018
- 🕒 71 Park St vacated Sept 2017.

- 🕒 MC had written to the Vice Chancellor Adam Tickell with concerns. His reply of 30th August said that the university was developing a strategy for their estate to give the best service to both university and community. The houses would be considered and there would be an update in the months ahead.
- 🕒 MG had a Contact in Steve Johnson at the university who had told him that the probable outcome would be to do the properties up for visiting lecturers and their families. MG would inquire again in the New Year.
- 🕒 The university had said the gardens of the empty properties would be kept tidy.

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

- 🕒 **SDNP/19/04807/FUL from Mike Holland** Court Farm Conversion of former chicken shed to provide a 2 bed holiday let. This was a new application to have a complete new build using old materials rather than a conversion as the building was too damaged to convert. No objections.
- 🕒 **SDNP/19/02796/FUL. Park Wall farm** Permission had been granted and work had begun.
- 🕒 **SDNP/19/04802/FUL Conversion of stable building into a house and office.** Application to renew the permission as work had never started. No objections.
- 🕒 **SDNP/19/05337/TCA Mr and MRs Barnes Mill House. Reducing Monterey Pine and a Willow tree by 30%** No objections.
- 🕒 **SDNP were applying for a roadside welcome sign on the B2123.**

6. FINANCE

- 🕒 The accounts to date were presented.
- 🕒 AP had become a 3rd signatory on the cheque book .
- 🕒 Election expenses from the May local elections had been charged at £118 35
- 🕒 We had received a CIL community infrastructure levy award of £157.84 AP thought it had to be spent on something specific and he would investigate.
- 🕒 Precept to remain the same for another year.

7. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD.

- 🕒 Annie Davies was co opted as our new councillor.
- 🕒 AP and HH had attended the SDNP workshop on October 15th at Lewes Town hall.
- 🕒 Work on building a proper car park at Stanmer park had begun. There would be car parking charges made in 2020. This might lead to more parking in Falmer to avoid the cost.

NEXT MEETING Tuesday January 7th 7.30pm