

# MINUTES OF FALMER PARISH COUNCIL

**Tuesday November 19<sup>th</sup> 2024, 7.30pm**

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

## **APOLOGIES**

6 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**

No issues

### **2. Village Maintenance**

- Falmer pond. The bid had been successful and so the pond restoration could go ahead. Ranger Nick Lane will be running a community information day, on Sunday November 24<sup>th</sup> from 11-3pm. Aim is to inform residents and passersby as to what will be happening in 2025 with pond restoration.
- This year 2024 there have been two grass cuts of the pond grass area.
- Some potholes have been repaired round the pond. The stretch of road outside the farm shop is still to be repaired. Frequent requests for this stretch to be done have been refused. ESCC will only repair potholes that meet their intervention criteria.
- Councillors agreed to extra grass cuts to road verges by ESCC in 2025. Cost £343.64
- Pedestrian footbridge. No response yet to the request for barriers but it doesn't look hopeful. The response to date has stated that requests are examined against clear criteria which includes crash and casualty data and air quality improvements. ESCC have limited resources due to the significant reduction of their budget since 2010.
- The pavement signage still needs re painting.

### **3. Planning**

- Bennetts field Student halls of residences for 555 bedrooms. Planning application LW/22/0175. No further news.
- Polowood Shoot SDNP/22/05978/LDC. Application still in process.
- St Marys Farmhouse Application SDNP/24/01562/LDE Dr Kent. Application for a Certificate of lawful use for the existing and continuous use of a barn as two separate residential properties for over 10 years. Application Still in progress.
- Swan pub Pergola SDNP/24/02896/FUL. Application to build a traditional pergola by the rear wall. To have climbing plants. Passed.
- 61 Park St Ms Caroline Hawes SDNP/24/04220/LIS External and internal renovation works.

## **FINANCE**

- The accounts were accepted.
- Precept agreed for £1,200

## **ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD**

- Boundary festival 28<sup>th</sup> September. MG reported that he had had to explain what to do to the stewards on duty in Falmer North and Mill Street. He also had to lend them barriers. After some early vehicles had got through and there was some bad behaviour from a minibus group, the day went well and MG reported that the stewards had done really well.
- Falmer south then had many vehicles parking up for the festival. This was reported to Charlie Locke and a request was made for stewarding in 2025.
- Mr Huxham had raised the problem of VW and similar style camper vans parking throughout the summer. This summer there were too many vans, no one knew where their toilet waste was being disposed and they were eroding the grass verges when parking to fit into the narrow parking bays. There was also a question of drugs...the smell of cannabis and some vans were being parked for days. The 2024 influx was due to a camper van advice app recommending Falmer as being a pleasant place to park and stay.
- MC had sought the help of Lewes District Council Head of Regulatory services officer Julie Quanstrom who had informed her that the only way to get rid of the vans was proving anti-social behaviour. Proving where toilet waste was being putting would be extremely difficult to do as this was not carried out in daylight. Also, signage stating NO overnight camping was unenforceable as parking wardens didn't work overnight.
- MC would try to get help from ESCC highways to change our parking restrictions to all year-round restrictions in the hope this would deter vans from parking up in summer and staying for a few days. Although it wouldn't deter people totally and would not be available at weekends due to the community needs of the church, pub and village hall
- AP had attended the East and West Sussex association of local councils' conference at the Amex stadium on October ..... He reported that it had been an interesting meeting with good speakers from the police to transport planning and housing. Sussex had the 6<sup>th</sup> worst contribution to policing from government. However, Sussex were still keen to introduce more PCSO (police community support officers) and they would also work hard to get policing removed away from a social services role dealing with problems like mental illness and back to dealing with crime. With transport there will be a new strategy in 2025. With planning, housing targets were back, and Lewes District had housing target numbers increasing from 364 to 600.
- Eric Huxham pointed out that the church clock was not telling the correct time. There had been two short power cuts in the village which might have affected the clock. MC would ask Justin Burt to investigate.

- Pauline asked for a slow down sign at the entrance to Falmer south. MC reminded the meeting that this was unnecessary as we would have a 20mph speed limit throughout the village. She also raised the issue of a defibrillator for the village hall. This was an issue that had already been dealt with by the village hall committee.

Next meeting Tuesday January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025