

# MINUTES OF FALMER PARISH COUNCIL

## Tuesday August 20th 2024, 7.30pm

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

**APOLOGIES** Annie Davies (AD).

3 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 seasons fixture list is out and all households who want match day car passes have been issued with them.

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

- Falmer pond. The bid was submitted this month May. Decision expected in September. If successful then ranger Nick Lane will be running a community information day, by the pond, on Sunday September 28<sup>th</sup> from 11-2pm. Aim is to inform residents and passersby as to what will be happening in 2025 with pond restoration.
- Request for another grass cut round the pond has yet to happen. So far this year there has only been one.
- Potholes had been reported and some had been repaired. Derek Chapman did contact ESCC chief executive Becky Shaw asking for the stretch of road outside the farm shop to be repaired. But this was refused. Three potholes in this stretch of road have been repaired.
- Extra grass cuts by ESCC to road verges have continued.
- Pedestrian footbridge. No response to the request for proper signage requesting cyclists to dismount and walk. No way to report cyclists who don't walk... no names, no bike registration numbers.
- The pavement signage needs re painting.
- Jill Burt suggested barriers. MC to investigate.

#### **3. PLANNING**

- Bennetts field Student halls of residences for 555 bedrooms. Planning application LW/22/0175. Some objections to re alignment of entrance by Southern rail.
- Polowood Shoot SDNP/22/05978/LDC. Application still in process.
- Court Farm caravan site. Application SDNP/24/01469/LDE for a Certificate of Lawful use was granted. Planning condition states that the size of the site is not allowed to expand.
- 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. Still in progress.
- Swan pub Pergola SDNP/24/02896/FUL. Application to build a traditional pergola by the rear wall. To have climbing plants.

## **FINANCE**

- The accounts were accepted.

## **ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD.**

- Tithe Barn.

Pauline Starley Newman had requested a BS4142 noise survey at the March PC meeting. MC had made inquiries and discovered that this is a method for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound. The report attached to the planning application of 2022 shows this had been carried out by the company hired to do a noise survey by Mr and Mrs Woolley.

SDNP senior planning officer Rob Campbell had responded to FPC concerns, made in June, over noise. He could only act if planning permission conditions were being broken. This didn't appear to be the case as there was noise limiting equipment being used and noise measurements being taken. He advised villagers affected to borrow noise measure equipment from LDC and if noise levels were too high then enforcement action could be taken.

Pauline Starley Newman complained again that the event management plan, which had been passed by the SDNP, was not being implemented. MC pointed out that there was no time frame for any action and therefore the management plan might take years to be implemented. This is like sound proofing of the barn which had no time schedule.

Basically, the SDNP planning officer Naomi Langford and planning committee should not have given planning permission without a time frame schedule.

Poor signage to the venue was an issue raised by Mr Huxham. Mrs Woolley had Informed MC and AD at a meeting in the spring that they were working with the SDNP to improve it but it had to meet their criteria.

There were two more events ahead A wedding on August 31<sup>st</sup> and an 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary party on September 14<sup>th</sup>

- Boundary festival 28<sup>th</sup> September. MG and MC had asked for stewarding to keep cars out of the village and would arrange to meet festival representative Charlie Lock.
- Balfour Beatty gave their presentation on Tuesday July 9<sup>th</sup> 12 noon on their west slope (Stanmer park side of campus) development. This development will take 4 years to 2028 and will be carried out in 3 phases. There will be 1899 bedrooms over a variety of styles of accommodation from houses to flats. There will be a new supermarket and 3 laundries.
- Mr Huxham raised the problem of camper vans of the VW variety ...converted work vans without toilet facilities.
- MC reported that camper van parking was legal unless there was restrictive signage and that the parish council was looking into having this. This summer there were too many vans, no one knew where their toilet waste was being disposed, 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 vans being left for days
- Falmer pond was being recommended on a camper van advice app as being a pleasant place to park and stay.

Next meeting Tuesday November 19<sup>th</sup>.