

# MINUTES OF FALMER PARISH COUNCIL

**Tuesday January 21<sup>st</sup> 2025, 7.30pm**

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

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**

No issues

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

- Falmer pond. Ranger Nick Lane had held his community information day Sunday November 24<sup>th</sup>. The bid had been successful and £400,000 had been awarded. New tree, ecology and archaeology surveys had to be carried out. Dredging the pond would be carried out when the pond was nearly dried up. Otherwise, second best option and then more expensive was when water was low but could be removed as a slurry. Worst scenario and most expensive was to pump water out. The funding was available for 3 years.
- Pedestrian footbridge cycle barriers. Still doesn't look hopeful. The work is not listed on ESCC repairs site.
- The pavement signage still needs re painting.
- AP pointed out that the Ridge Rd sign had faded and needed replacing
- East street alleyway still closed.
- Church clock repaired. Problem was caused by 2 power cuts.
- Despite working thorough our county councillor Sarah Osborne there had been No response from ESCC highways to a request for a meeting about our camper van summer issue. MC would apply for new signage via the website.

### **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. Decision pending
- 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. Decision pending
- 61 Park St Ms Caroline Hawes SDNP/24/04220/LIS Application in progress.

## **FINANCE**

- The accounts were presented. No queries.
- Veronica Lenihan had stood down as our finance officer due to her ill health. AP had a potential accountant who might be willing to take over on a voluntary basis. MC would pass on the ledger and 2023/24 audit paperwork for AP to show to his prospective person.

## **ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD.**

- Sussex University had held an information evening about their application for a 3-year temporary car park on the edge of Stanmer park. This land was owned by the university but was usually a student playing field for football and Frisbee. This proposed car park was for workers to be employed working on the new student residences, who were not local and had to travel to site. The car park would be for 209 spaces. The maximum number of workers on site would be in 2026. They already had been allocated 100 spaces on campus. The university hoped this would prevent village parking.
- However, the car park would be locked at night and parish council thought it was inevitable that some of the employees would sleep overnight in their vans and probably park in the village.
- MC to attend a SDNP Feb 5<sup>th</sup> information session 4-6pm at Lewes Town Hall. It is also open to the public on the same evening 6-8pm

Next meeting Tuesday March 25<sup>th</sup> 2025