

# MINUTES OF FALMER PARISH COUNCIL

**Tuesday May 23rd 2023 7.30pm**

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

**APOLOGIES** None

3 villagers attended.

Election of chair Melanie Cutress

Election of Vice chair Andy Pearce

**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 more home games and the football season finishes on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>. BHA have finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the premier league and will be playing in the Europa league 2023/24.
- MG reported that with BHA going into the Europa league there would be more home fixtures on Sundays as Europa league games were on Thursday evenings. This could create difficulties due to reduced public transport on Sundays especially trains.
- Villagers had raised the issue of chaotic traffic post-match departure at the traffic lights.
- MC had reviewed the issue. A meeting with BHA liaison officer Tomy Majic confirmed that only the police and specially trained stewards can control traffic. However, BHA would ask the stewards who control the traffic light junction to aid the flow of cars leaving Falmer.
- MC had watched the end of match situation on April 29<sup>th</sup> (BHA v Wolves) from 4.45pm to 5.30pm. Little traffic exited until 5pm. There were no problems with 12/13 cars exiting when the lights turned to green, and this increased to 20 cars as a queue built up.
- Cars exiting the farm shop car park were allowed into the queue. There were no problems considering there are about 60 cars parked at the farm shop, plus 40 cars in the official BHA car park at Court farmyard, plus probably about 30 cars parked in people's gardens in the village and around the pond.
- By 5.30pm the queue had gone and the stewards on the barriers packed up.
- There had been a recent incident when Matt Thompsett had spoken to drivers whose vehicles were parked opposite the farm shop at the end of the match blocking the exit lane. he had been abused and threatened by one of the car drivers.

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

- Falmer pond. No up-to-date news on the quote for phase 2 funding. Park Ranger Nick Lane was giving this his priority. He will let FPC and FOFP (friends of Falmer pond) know when there is more to report.
- A photographic record would be made of the improvements if the bid was successful, and work went ahead. Cost £846 + VAT. Councillors agreed that the remaining CIL money ... about £550 would go toward this. FOFP would finance the shortfall. Nick lane had recently asked if the PC would fund an early set of photos at cost £164 +VAT to start the record. This would be done by photographer David Harbottle. This would cover how the pond is looking 2023 in late spring /summer as by 2024 work could have started.
- ESCC had reported back that they would mend reported Potholes.
- Pond grass had been cut today.

- Matt Thompsett had pointed out at the previous PC meeting how the Network rail vehicles had cut up the grass verge at the junction of East St and South Street. MC had contacted Network rail to ask for repair work. Adam Thompson from Network rail had responded. He sent a photo to show a removal van was responsible for the grass verge damage. Network rail staff had seen the van drive on the verge and had taken photos as they knew they would be blamed as their vehicles were always manoeuvring at the entrance to Falmer Court.
- Matt Thompsett offered to re seed the verge and put stones down to protect it in future. As this was BHCC land MC would ask if they could put wooden pots or stones down to protect the verge.
- East street 'no parking' sign had fallen over. MC had reported twice. AD said it had fallen again and she had propped it up again.

## **PLANNING**

- Bennetts field Student halls of residences for 555 bedrooms. Planning application LW/22/0175. APPEAL to begin on May 30<sup>th</sup> for 4 days to be held at Sussex University.
- Polowood Shoot SDNP/22/05978/LDE Certificate of Lawful development. No news.
- 64, Park Street single storey extension and a side extension with pitched roof.
- SDNP/23/01743/HOUS. This was basically a copy of next doors extension by Angela Stannard. No concerns were expressed by councillors.

## **FINANCE**

- The accounts were reviewed.
- The accounts were agreed and audit could be signed off again as the clock repair cheque £189 hadn't been paid in before the end of the previous financial year.

## **ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD.**

- A village Coronation Street party had been held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Thanks were given to MG for organising this excellent event which was much appreciated and enjoyed. The Pc agreed to donate £100 toward the cost of the event .
- Boundary Festival at Stanmer Park.MC and MG would arrange a meeting with contact Charlie Locke
- Sussex University summer ball was June 1<sup>st</sup> 15.00-23.00hrs
- Freshers ball was Sept 24<sup>th</sup> 19.00-1am
- July 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Valley Music festival at Stanmer. Ends 10pm every evening.
- Correspondence from ESCC highways dept informing that a 30mph speed limit would be introduced from the Park Street traffic lights to Mill Street. Also, a 20mph speed limit in all streets in the village. This was good news. FPC request that the 20mph be extended to all of Ridge Rd had been turned down. ESCC would be reviewing Ridge Rd again with a survey. MC to ask this was done on a Polowood shoot day.
- MC had contacted Fran Woolley again about leafleting households with details of events and the complaints procedure. Fran had informed the PC that she would not be leafleting every house but would instead put a poster up with details in the PC notice board. There were complaints from 3 villagers about the noise from the last event. Noise limits are in place but hard to understand. MC would leaflet household before the next event of June 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- No new information of any work starting on the new laboratory, office building or accommodation building.

**Next meeting July 11<sup>th</sup>.**