

MINUTES OF FALMER PARISH COUNCIL

Tuesday September 26th 2017 7.00pm

PRESENT. Chair Melanie Cutress (MC) Martin Gapper (MG) John Burt (JB) Helen Herbert (HH)

APOLOGIES Helen had informed the meeting she would be a little late..

7 villagers attended. Hugo and Ann Davis, Darren Little, Jill Burt, Denis and Karen Plowman and John Moore.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. None

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING. were signed as a true record of that meeting.

QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR. To be dealt with as the meeting progresses.

MATTERS ARISING:

1. Stadium Issues

- MC explained that she had monitored the village situation when BHA played Manchester City August 12th, West Brom Sept 9th and Newcastle Sept 24th. Falmer North had plenty of parking spaces including on Middle Street. Falmer South had plenty of parking spaces.
- Stewarding in Falmer South had changed position due to the new parking at Falmer Auctions by Keith Miles. He was charging £15 per game and anyone could drive in and park including away fans. He had told villagers previously that he would never do this. However under the 28 day rule he could park cars without planning permission.
- There were about 70 cars parked at the auction rooms plus 60 cars at the farm shop plus 10 at Mark Rahmans house and a handful more = 150. At the end of the Man City and WBA games , the stewards had allowed nearly 30 more cars to pick up fans. + 180 cars exiting at full time. This had led to queues exiting for 45 mins.
- MC had spoken to BHA, Keith Miles and Peter Lenihan about the situation.
- MC had complained to BHA that the village was not a drop off and pick up spot. This had to stop. It was a new situation and needed to be dealt with quickly.
- BHA were helping and for the Newcastle game had stopped pick up happening by moving the barriers to the traffic lights to stop people driving in. The steward Simon had directed traffic out and the traffic light sequencing had allowed about 25 cars to leave in one batch. As a result the whole exit operation concluded in 30 mins. The village was not clogged with traffic. BHA had said this operation would continue
- Some villagers were not happy about the excess cars picking up and the Auction Room parking operation. MC agreed to approach BHCC about the situation . She would contact Eric Huxham who had sub let to Keith Miles and ask Eric who she should contact.
- It was also suggested that a petition be raised about the auction room car park. MC would consider this.
- Comparisons were drawn with the farm shop operation. MC had asked Peter and Veronica Lenihan to stay and monitor the cars they had parked to make sure the exiting went safely. They did not do this.

2. A27 Bus Stop

- Highways England had sent a letter round the village that work would begin for 3 weeks , at night, starting Monday night sept 25th. This had not happened. MC had received an e mail from BHCC bus company telling her that they had been informed that the work was not starting yet. Darren Little told the meeting that he had heard that the bus company and Highways England were arguing over who should pay for the work.

3. Maintenance Issues.

- Mill Street keep clear signage had been done.
- ESCC had taken responsibility for the east street fence but had said it didn't need immediate repair. MC had told them that it was a health and safety hazard especially if it collapsed at night and someone could fall over it. It was suggested that we ask Balfour Beatty voluntary scheme to look into it. Darren Little would also quote for a repair job.
- Jill Burt asked that the Falmer Court family cut back their vegetation which was growing into the road.
- MC informed the meeting of the price of litter bins. It was agreed to buy our own and install 3 bins in Falmer North at the 2 bus stops and near the trees on Middle St across from the Swan pub. Cost around £700.
- An issue was raised by Hugo Davis as to the state of the wall from the graveyard extension to Court Farm. MC would look into this. Also the graveyard wall. JB said that Balfour Beatty had been asked to help with the graveyard but had not heard back from them recently and thought they wanted a greater profile than just graveyard maintenance.

PLANNING

- BHA stadium plans for standing points for Sky transmission had been passed.
- Old Mill House tree reduction No objections.
- University of Sussex temporary car park.... No objections
- University of Sussex 2014 application for an access road within the campus . No objections
- Falmer Court farm farmyard . Conversion of the old derelict granary building into a house with modern extension. Objection as too modern for the farmyard setting next to the thatched barn.

FINANCE

- The accounts were presented.
- £2000 had been transferred to the current account from the business account.
- The new transparency Code means that everything we do should be put out on a website. This would need more information so MC would investigate.

ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD.

- HH reported that the Almshouse will soon need a new clerk and a new committee member. This had been dealt with and Andy Pearce was the new trustee.
 - Boundary Festival on Saturday 12 noon to 10.30pm in stanmer park.
 - Heritage Notice Board. It had been installed the morning of September 26th.
 - Camper vans There was discussion over camper vans parking around Falmer pond for days in the summer months of June July and August when there were no parking controls. It had not been as bad as summer 2016. However what about waste from these vans? MC asked everyone to think about the implications of changing to parking all year ...more costly. JB highlighted the national park status of the village and therefore could camper vans been restricted. Legally they are allowed to park.
 - Request from Villagers for a Keep Dogs on leads sign. MC to investigate.
 - New parish councillor needs to be considered.
 - Town and Parish conference Oct 11th 5.30pm Lewes Pelham hotel.
- **NEXT MEETING Tuesday December 5th 7pm**