

MINUTES OF FALMER PARISH COUNCIL

Tuesday May 28th, 2024, 7.30pm

PRESENT. Chair Melanie Cutress (MC) Andy Pearce (AP) Annie Davies (AD).

APOLOGIES Martin Gapper (MG) Helen Herbert(HH)

10 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.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Melanie Cutress was willing to continue as chair. proposed Andy Pearce, seconded Annie Davies.

Andy Pearce was willing to continue as Vice Chair. Proposed Melanie Cutress, seconded Annie Davies.

MATTERS ARISING:

1. Stadium Issues

- The village has been fully parked on very few occasions. These have always been when BHA have been playing the top premier ship teams eg Manchester City and the Europa League teams. Jill Burt brought up the issue of a badly parked car which prevented access to the village. Could anything been done about this sort of incident?
- There might be the possibility of car stickers for villagers instead of the car pass provided by the PC.

2. Village Maintenance

- Falmer pond. The bid will be submitted this month May. No decision will be available until autumn. Work could begin in 2025.
- Potholes had been reported and some had been repaired. Derek Chapman, who was attending the meeting, said he would contact ESCC chief executive and ask for the stretch of road outside the farm shop to be repaired.
- Our request for yellow box lines at the traffic light junction had been turned down. To have a yellow box junction the junction needs to suffer from continual heavy traffic which continually blocks the junction. This is not the case at the Falmer traffic lights.
- The broken flint wall on Ridge Rd had been repaired.

PLANNING

- Bennetts field Student halls of residences for 555 bedrooms. Planning application LW/22/0175. An application had been submitted for re alignment of the entrance due to a sewer being in the way. This application contained no detail of the scheme, so MC had asked LDC for the relevant information.
- Polowood Shoot SDNP/22/05978/LDC. Application still in process.

- Court Farm caravan site. Application SDNP/24/01469/LDE Mr Huxham. Application for a certificate of Lawful use for the operation of a caravan site on part of the land with electric hook ups and water main services.

It was hard to ascertain whether the caravan site had already been operating for 10 years. It had been a caravan club site for several years but as the site is not visible from the village it was hard to know how many years it had been operating. However, the caravan club site use had created no problems, so the PC did not object. To safeguard the size of the site and to protect from future unwanted expansion, the PC asked for 2 conditions to be attached to the site.

1. Use for touring caravans only
2. The site to be restricted to 8 caravans with only 8 electrical points and water mains.

- 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.

Issues were raised at the meeting by neighbours of Dr Kent over the claim that the properties had been occupied as residential lets for 10 years. The original planning application for holiday lets 2010 had never been implemented. There was no supporting evidence in the application as to when the barn had been converted into residential letting use. Neighbours had seen building work in summer 2020 but not before then. After this date there were advertisements of accommodation to let, minimum term 12 months. There had been problems with the cesspit and the bats that had roosted in the barn had disappeared. FPC would object to the application as there was insufficient evidence for 10 years of occupancy. There needed to be details with dates of building works, foul drainage works, insulation, lease agreements with tenants, tax returns to show income earned, and council tax bills and evidence of payments.

FINANCE

- The accounts and audit details 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 and is usually carried out before planning permission is given for a venue or an industrial building.

Following on from this, MC and AD together with our LDC councillor Stella Spiteri had met Toby Collins the LDC planning enforcement officer. He had then been asked to investigate the BS4142 issue. He thought it extremely likely that this method had been used or an equivalent as the barn noise levels were set at 85 db. He was also asked to see whether checks could be made on the 85 dB level and that equipment was properly calibrated.

Toby Collins stressed that as enforcement, he could only act if planning permission conditions were being broken and this didn't appear to be the case.

Gary Coomber spoke about paying for a noise level assessment at the Polowood shoot. It was suggested that neighbours to the tithe barn might like to pay for similar regarding the tithe barn.

- Boundary festival 28th September. MG and MC had asked for stewarding to keep cars out of the village. To date there had been no response.
- Balfour Beatty were inviting villagers to a presentation on Tuesday July 9th 12 noon on their west slope (Stanmer park side of campus) development. The invitation had come from their liaison officer Fiona Gush. This development will take 4 years. It had begun. The presentation should take 2 hours with refreshments provided and there will be a site viewing from a vantage point.
- Optician on campus. This will be a not-for-profit business.
- LDC mini conference with ESCC officers, LDC officers and town and parish council attending. Friday June 7th 2pm Newhaven. MC to attend.

Next meeting Tuesday August 20th.