

MINUTES OF FALMER PARISH COUNCIL

Tuesday May 31st 2022 7.30pm

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

APOLOGIES Anne Davies. Helen Herbert will be late.

7 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.

Appointment of Chair Melanie Cutress. Proposed Andy Pearce . seconded Martin Gapper

Appointment of Vice Chair Andy Pearce. Proposed Melanie Cutress Seconded Martin Gapper.

Finance Officer. Veronica Lenihan

Internal auditor. Angela Stannard.

MATTERS ARISING:

1. Stadium Issues

- Most matches had been played in the evenings since September. The first Saturday afternoon match Feb 26th showed up excessive parking in the village with few spaces available if any villager was returning home after the 3pm kick off. MC had taken this up with BHA and there had been immediate improvement in Falmer South but not in Falmer North. MC had asked Sussex Uni to ensure their sports centre gate had been closed to stop the rat run from campus to Ridge Rd. The improvement had continued with spaces both sides of the village and the university sports centre barrier had been down.
- John Moore had seen 7 stewards parking on the south side of the village.
- July would see 3 evening matches being played as part of the Women's Euros. Most people would be traveling by train. There was concern from Brighton authorities that potentially 1000 fans would miss the last trains and be stranded in Brighton and would end up sleeping on the beach.
- The new liaison officer was Tomislav Majic. His official title was Safety and Security co-ordinator. MC was meeting him on Monday June 6th.
- Car passes for the 2022/23 season were ready to be collected from the stadium and fixture lists would be out on June 16th.
- There will probably be a pre-season friendly on July 29th.
- There will be a winter break for the World Cup in Qatar from 14th Nov-26th Dec.

2. Village Maintenance

- MC had reported the giant puddle on Middle Street /ridge rd junction, and the drains would be cleared on April 20th. The area now looked much improved.
- The broken cycle barrier had been reported.
- Some larger potholes around the village had been repaired but not all.
- The drains in Park Street near the footbridge were repaired.

- Peter Hyde from The Cumbrian clock company had quoted £235 for a service, and this was better than Smiths of Derby who quoted £296. We would accept the Cumbrian quote.
- St Laurence church graveyard extension had been hit by Storm Eunice and 3 large trees had uprooted and fallen over and 2 other trees needed attention. The PC had donated £500 toward the clear up.
- **Queens Platinum celebrations.** MG and the Swan pub together with neighbour Jason were organising a celebration. A beacon would be lit on June 2nd at 9.45pm. There would be a street party on Sunday 5th.
- Mark and Fran Woolley were holding a garden party on Sunday 26th 12-5pm as a fund raiser to help with the clearance.
- Extra grass cuts from ESCC on their road verges had begun. Dates were, 14th April, May 27th, 21st July 18th August, 14th October, 7th November.
- MC had requested grass cuts round the pond but as yet nothing had happened.

3. St Marys Farm

- Weekend problems with noisy shooting parties continued. Our LDC councillor William Meyer was now dealing with this issue. As yet there had been no action to improve the situation.
- Also traffic issues. The popularity of the shoot had led to increased traffic and many of the villagers attending pointed out how difficult it was to walk on Ridge Rd when there were no passing places.
- As Ridge Rd was a single carriageway country lane the official speed limit was 60mph. FPC had requested a lower speed limited of 30MPH. Our ESCC councillor Sarah Osborne had taken up this issue on our behalf. She had received a reply from ESCC stating that a lower speed limit was not possible. The explanation being it was important for lower speed limits to be retained for built-up areas. If lower speed limits were introduced on rural roads it would diminish the message they provide to drivers in built up areas.
- If a 40 or 50mph sign was introduced there was a risk people would drive faster than they usually drive.
- We had now requested SLOW DOWN signage.
- Derek Chapman had put 10mph signs on his private road to St Mary farm.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

1. Tithe medieval Barn

- Events venue plus new 3 associated buildings at Falmer Court. SDNP/21/01191/FUL and SDNP/21/01192/LIS. Approved on February 10th.
- Events would be held on June 17th, a graduation ball for Sussex Uni for 150 people. Plus, two weddings July 23rd and July 30th. There were no more bookings for 2022 as there was still a lot of work to be done on the barn, including the sound proof doors and the floor covering.
- In addition, there would be a party for 70/80 Electric staff on June 12th and June 26th Garden party fund raiser for St Laurence church graveyard clearance.
- Mark Woolley told the meeting that the Events management plan and Transport Plan should now have been submitted to the SDNP planning authority. These plans had to be approved before any event could take place.
- Music noise would not exceed 85 decibels.
- Work on the new buildings would begin toward the end of 2022 and into spring 2023

- SDNP had placed some stringent conditions on the enterprise and would monitor how it was working out.
- There had been more planting to protect East St residents from the car parking in the north field.

2. Bennetts field

- Student halls of residences for 555 bedrooms. Planning application LW/22/0175.
- FPC was submitting an objection.
- The decision hearing of LDC planning committee would probably take place at their August meeting.

FINANCE

The accounts were submitted and accepted by councillors for the 2021-2022 audit.

ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD.

1. A farewell graduation party on Sussex Uni campus on June 1st ending at 11pm
2. Request that FPC ask the football stadium to make sure tannoy announcements are not 6.30am.
3. Request that the terrapins in the pond are removed.
4. Request that the bus shelter side window glass be replaced.

NEXT MEETING July 19th 2022. 7.30pm