

# MINUTES OF FALMER PARISH COUNCIL

**Tuesday January 7th 2020 7.30pm**

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

**APOLOGIES** none.

**5 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 dealt with as the meeting progresses.

## **MATTERS ARISING:**

### **1. Stadium Issues**

- MC had attended a meeting of the Transport management group. Trains were working well, but buses were being held up by the large number of cars exiting from Brighton Uni campus. Stewards would be trained up to direct traffic and hold cars back to allow those using public transport to get away the quickest. The lighting around Falmer rail station still hadn't been resolved. It was unclear who was responsible for the lights. Highways now had declared that they were responsible for the underpass lighting. There was still no resolution from ESCC highways on how to deal with the traffic problems around Falmer on both match days and all other times. Traffic could increase in the future with housing predicted at Ovingdean (45 homes) and Rottingdean (400).
- In 2021 there would be the UEFA women's tournament with 3 games being played at the Amex. 12<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> July.
- Jill Burt enquired whether the stadium pitch lights were being turned off at midnight. AD thought that in general they were.
- No more information about Matthew Bennet putting in a planning application for student residences on Bennets field ( currently the stadium car park ) with 200 parking spaces underneath.
- Charlie Gillam and Denis Plowman brought up the issue of cars not being able to get back in the village after matches had finished 5pm due to cars blocking the road exiting from the farm shop car park. MC to discuss with farm shop owner Veronica Lenihan.
- AD reported that stewards were leaving litter by the pond.
- Code of Conduct. MC raised a difficulty with a definition over co opted Councillors not being a member of the council. Could this paragraph be excluded. Some inconclusive discussion took place on this. AP to have a look at home and pass on his thoughts.

### **2. Maintenance**

- Balfour Beatty volunteers had tidied the road edges on Monday Nov 25<sup>th</sup>.
- A floating sign in the pond had gone and fallen leaves on the east street passage had been cleared by Charlie Gillam.
- Pot holes around the pond had been reported by MC.
- Fly tipping on Ridge Rd continues.
- A27 barrier repairs continue from Ashcombe roundabout to Cuilfoil tunnel until April.

### **3 .Sussex University**

No further news on the 3 university properties empty for

- 80 Mill St vacated Nov 2016
- 71 Park St vacated Sept 2017.

- 81 Mill St vacated June 2018
- MC had written to the Vice Chancellor Adam Tickell with concerns. His reply of 30<sup>th</sup> August said that the university was developing a strategy for their estate to give the best service to both university and community. The houses would be considered and there would be an update in the months ahead.
- The university had announced they were applying for planning permission for a 1,000 new student units in buildings on West Slope plus shop and library. Councillors were invited to a viewing on Tuesday Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 5.30 – 9pm. There would also be plans on show at the Jubilee Library Jan 24<sup>th</sup> – Feb 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**

- **SDNP/19/04807/FUL from Mike Holland** Court Farm Conversion of former chicken shed to provide a 2 bed holiday let. This was an application to have a complete new build using old materials rather than the previous application for a conversion. Passed.
- **SDNP/19/04802/FUL Conversion of stable building into a house and office.** Application to renew the permission given 3 years ago. Passed.
- **SDNP/19/05337/TCA Mr and MRs Barnes Mill Hou. Reducing Monterey Pine and a Willow tree by 30%** No decision yet.
- **SDNP were applying for a roadside welcome sign on the B2123.**
- **Planning permission refused** to take down the large sycamore tree that was overshadowing Alan Hughes and Sheila Winters gardens at Caxton Court .
- Eric Huxham who was the tenant farmer of Court Farm informed the council of his intentions to seek planning permission for his 3 barns. The auction rooms had closed so Barn One would have planning permission sought for a health/dance/yoga facility. With storage at the back and the café to be retained for all year round use. Barn Two would have permission sought for storage of personnel goods including classic cars. Barn Three could potentially have permission sought for an art gallery and teaching facility. This idea was still being explored. Traffic flow to continue round the south side of the pond.
- The caravan site next door to Orchard cottages would reopen with space for only 5 caravans and would be a caravan club site. it doesn't require planning permission.

#### **5. FINANCE**

- The accounts to date were presented.
- We had received a CIL community infrastructure levy award of £157.84 AP said it had to be spent on something specific within 2 years. A short inconclusive discussion was held on what to spend it on.
- Precept to remain the same for another year.
- Council approved the cost of a computer printer cartridge for MC for all the printing needed for parish council especially car pass labels.

#### **7. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD.**

**NEXT MEETING Tuesday March 24th 7.30pm**