

MINUTES OF FALMER PARISH COUNCIL

Tuesday March 15th 2022 7.30pm

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

APOLOGIES none.

Nine 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.

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. Unfortunately this hadn't happened by March 12th match v Liverpool. There were 5 home games left, with the last match on May 22nd.
- July would see 3 evening matches being played as part of the Women's Euros.
- George Hunt the transport liaison officer had retired. As yet there had been no announcement of a replacement.

2. Village Maintenance

- Balfour Beatty had cut back the self-seeded vegetation on Feb 22nd.
- BHCC park ranger Nick Lane will manage the removal of memorial plaques by the pond which have been placed without permission and cemented into the ground.
- MC had reported the giant puddle on Middle Street and the drains would be cleared on April 20th and then the situation would be monitored.
- Some Potholes around Falmer pond had been repaired but not many. Those left were worse and would be reported again.
- The drains in Park Street near the footbridge were currently being repaired and improved since the flooding last autumn.
- Church clock continued working, Peter from The Cumbrian clock company had visited as organised by AD and had said it was working well and best to just continue as it is. They would also provide a quote for annual servicing.
- St Laurence church second graveyard had been hit by Storm Eunice and 3 large trees had uprooted and fallen over and 2 other trees needed attention. The PC agreed to donate £500 toward the clear up as the church yard as it was an important feature in the village scene and all parishioners on the electoral roll plus those dying within the parish had the right to be buried in the graveyard. It was not restricted to C of E members.

3. St Marys Farm

- Weekend problems with noisy shooting parties continued. Also traffic issues and abuse issues from a small number of people. All the villagers, from both sides of the village attending the meeting, had come to express their concern on the issue.
- MG stated that 6 other households had expressed their concern about the noise.

- Three residents from St Marys farm said how unbearable the noise was. It happened on Saturdays and many Sundays and also sometimes in the week. Their peace and quiet was gone.
- The popularity of the shoot had led to increased traffic including mini buses and taxis and many of the villagers attending pointed out how difficult it was to walk on Ridge Rd when there were no passing places. Convoys of a number of cars created great difficulty for walkers getting squeezed into the banking and bushes. A Horse rider felt the situation was dangerous.
- As Ridge Rd was a country lane the official speed limit was 60mph. so cars were not speeding but as it was a single track road and there were no passing places then this was unsuitable for the levels of traffic now being experienced. Suggestions were for SLOW DOWN signage.
- There was little information as to when the shoot had begun. It probably dated back to 2007 and it was unclear whether planning permission had been given.
- The PC would seek help and advice from Lewes District Council and East Sussex County Council on how to deal with the three main issues of excessive shooting noise, whether there was planning permission and traffic speed problems.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

- Renovation of medieval Barn plus new build 3 associated buildings at Falmer Court. SDNP/21/01191/FUL and SDNP/21/01192/LIS. Revised plans and information had been submitted and the time extended to October 12th. Approved on February 10th.
- SDNP had placed some stringent conditions on the enterprise and would monitor how it was working out. There could be more planting to protect East St residents from the car parking in the north field.

FINANCE

The accounts were submitted and accepted by councillors for the 2021-2022 end of our financial year.

ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD.

- There would be an oversized load travelling from Shoreham to Polegate on Saturday March 19th with traffic holdups and partial road closures. There would be a diversion through Falmer to the coast . Chaos was likely.
- 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. Flyers would be sent out round the village to inform villagers how to join in if they wished too. The PC offered a donation.
- Boundary commission review was being undertaken. Falmer would remain in Lewes District

**NEXT MEETING May 31st 2022. 7.30pm
Annual Meeting. Followed by a normal meeting.**