

MINUTES OF FALMER PARISH COUNCIL

Tuesday September 15th 2022 7.30pm

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

Apologies Andy Pearce (AP)

3 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.

STATEMENT FROM CHAIRMAN MELANIE CUTRESS.

Following the death of Queen Elizabeth 11 on September 8th, the parish council wishes to pay tribute to her 70 years of service to the United Kingdom. She has helped to keep the United Kingdom's reputation strong worldwide by her personal values of duty, dignity, decency, hard work and stability. It is hard to imagine the country without her as our figurehead.

A book of condolence has been opened by Lewes District Council at their offices in Southover and it will remain open until the day after the queen's funeral on Monday September 19th.

MATTERS ARISING:

1. Stadium Issues

- The new liaison officer was Tomislav Majic. His official title was Safety and Security co-ordinator.
- Car passes for the 2022/23 season had been delivered.
- The match on Sept 17th was cancelled due to a train strike.
- There was a match on Sept 25th ...women's super league.
- There will be a winter break for the World Cup in Qatar from 14th Nov-26th Dec.
- Stewards are parking in the village on match days. BHA had been dealing with the problem. There was available steward parking at the Bridge car park. MC had been to a meeting with Ady Limmer and Ali Marr of AAA events agency. They were concerned with fluctuating numbers of people parking at Mark Rahman's house and some of those who should park at his house park on the street.
- Stewards were now wearing cameras and would report abusive people to the police.
- They would like to see the weekday parking restrictions we have in the village extended to weekends. There was discussion amongst councillors who concluded this would not be possible as it would affect the business of the Swan pub, the village hall and the church. Also, residents who work would have to have parking permits for weekends when they currently don't need them.
- A new official BHA car park was operating at Court Farm for 40 cars. This was for sponsors. After parking in the farmyard, they were transported to the stadium by taxi. This went against all the transport strategy of the stadium which was to get people on to public transport. MC had complained to the Transport Management group.

- However, as BHA had planning permission to be able to park 3,000 cars within 1.5km of the stadium there was no possibility of the car park being stopped. Adrian Morris and Tommy Magic had held a meeting with MC on 25th August. They told MC that Mark Woolley had approached them about parking cars at Falmer Court. Russell Wood had visited Mark Woolley but concluded it was not possible to park cars as it was a wedding venue. Mark Woolley had put them onto Eric Huxham who had agreed parking. There had been no discussion with the parish council or with villagers. It was hoped that this new influx of cars would not create problems and traffic chaos.

2. Village Maintenance.

- Falmer pond had nearly dried up in the hot summer weather with two heatwaves in July and August. Fish had died yet again and had been continually removed. The park ranger Nick Lane had said it was impossible to oxygenate the pond due to low water and mud.
- A new group Friends of Falmer Pond had been set up by Matt Thompsett and were in touch with BHCC.
- BHCC had made another bid for funding to repair the pond. This was with the SDNP and Heritage Lottery fund. They hoped to hear if they had been successful in September.
- Avian flu signs had been removed.
- Extra grass cuts of road verges by ESCC continued until 7th November.
- The Cumbrian clock company should be servicing the church clock this month. The church clock had stopped so there might be a more serious problem.
- The fallen trees in St Laurence church graveyard extension had been cleared away.
- The Lewes bus shelter had new graffiti. Putting in completely new glass would not be a sensible idea as it would probably, very quickly be graffitied. MG would ask his window cleaner for advice.
- Parts of east street road surface had been repaired.

3. St Marys Polowood shoot and associated problems resume.

- Our March meeting had been attended by Steve and Denise Bryant and Greg Kent who had raised the issue of the Polowood clay pigeon shoot happening most days and making their lives a misery with constant noise. LDC councillor William Meyer was now dealing with this issue. Senior LDC planning officers are reviewing the situation.
- Traffic issues. We had requested SLOW DOWN signage. This had been turned down by ESCC highways as Ridge Rd had a good record with no accidents. However, posters would be put up for 3 months carrying a road safety message

PLANNING

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.
- AD and MC had met with Mark and Fran Woolley on August 20th to discuss issues.
- The conditions set by the SDNP to be discharged before events could take place were not yet in place. There are 32 conditions set by the SDNP attached to the grant of planning permission which the Woolleys are working on.
- The weddings of July 23rd and 30th could be heard by Mr Huxham and Mrs Starley Newman at Orchard cottages and by Mr and Mrs McCrae at the Old Granary. Music noise should not

exceed 85 decibels. And the equipment to ensure this was in place had been used at the weddings.

- Only 30 weddings/parties could take place a year for 50-200 people. Unlimited events could take place for under 50 people.
- Work on the new buildings would begin toward the end of 2022 and into spring 2023
- Hiring the barn out for events needed to be distinguished from private parties.
- Before any events take place in 2023 the Woolleys will put a letter round the village with details of how to make a complaint.
- Signage will direct guests to the tithe barn to avoid mistakes being made with Court Farmyard as the venue.
- The new events manager is Nick Barnard.

Bennetts field

- Student halls of residences for 555 bedrooms. Planning application LW/22/0175.
- No news yet on this application.

FINANCE

- The accounts were submitted and accepted by councillors.
- £2,000 would be transferred to our current account from our business account.

ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD.

1. Boundary festival 24th September at Stamner park. MG had asked for stewarding after all the issues of 2021 with drugs, litter and threatening behaviour of festivalgoers toward his children.
2. Flower festival at St Laurence church 24th/25th September.
3. Request for a bus stop on Village Way near the traffic lights in a westerly direction.
4. Discussion by Jackie Whitford about an oil buying group but this had been tried before. It hadn't worked due to different size households using oil at different rates due to house size and family size.

Next meeting November 15th.