

# MINUTES OF FALMER PARISH COUNCIL

**Tuesday May 20<sup>th</sup> 2025 7.30pm**

**PRESENT.** Chair Melanie Cutress (MC) Andy Pearce (AP) Martin Gapper (MG) Annie Heining AH  
**APOLOGIES** Helen Herbert (HH)

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 addressed as the meeting progresses.

## **MATTERS ARISING:**

### **1. Stadium Issues**

There were a number of issues which MC would raise at the end of season liaison meeting with Brighton Hove Albion FC. These were continual concerns over too much parking on matchdays, counterfeit car passes, too much taxi parking, many disabled badges. MG pointed out that there will be new stewards at Mill Street next year. Derek Chapman pointed out that for a vehicle to have a counterfeit pass, a villager must have lent them a pass in the first place. MC pointed out that stewards consistently say that those parking on match days who are not villagers have all been authorised by a resident.

### **2. Village Maintenance**

- Falmer pond. The tree survey to decide which trees were to be removed will be on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The archaeology survey by Archaeology Southeast had been conducted. This was a desk top survey. There was low potential for finds but the report recommended that a watching brief be maintained during all excavation works. Both these surveys were requirements of the heritage lottery award.
- MC thanked Derek Chapman who had again used his contacts to secure a meeting with Balfour Beatty about village potholes and other problems. This resulted in a walk round with James Kelly from BB on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. This resulted in many potholes being repaired and some road markings including Cyclist dismount pavement signage. Cyclists were still riding over the footbridge. However, the road outside Falmer farm shop needs a patching machine and this will be done in September.
- The Ridge Rd Street sign would be replaced. Jill Burt pointed out that the Park Street sign at the traffic lights needed repair.
- East street passageway was being repaired on 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> May.
- James Kelly was liaising with different BB teams to see what can be done at Mill Street. The idea is to clear the mud, repair the kerb stones and extend and widen the footpath without the grass. No date yet.
- Middle Street. The muddy area at the junction of Ridge Rd and Middle Street would be cleared.
- James Kelly had asked for a land search to ascertain who owned the wall in Rudge Rd and a letter would be sent to the owners to ask for cut back of vegetation and wall repair.
- The vandalised bus shelter would be patched up.

- There was no suitable location for a post box Falmer South.

### **3. PLANNING**

- Polowood Shoot SDNP/22/05978/LDC. Decision pending
- 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. Decision pending
- SDNP/21/01818/FUL The Stables East Street. Installation of solar panels. FPC would object to the west facing roof panels which will be visible and detrimental to the next-door Grade 2 listed St Laurence Church.

### **FINANCE**

- The accounting statements had been prepared and signed by our RFO Annette Brown.
- The Annual Internal Audit report was received and was noted.
- The Annual Governance Statement was approved and signed by the chair and clerk.
- The Accounting Statements were approved and signed by the chair.
- The date for the commencement for the exercise of public rights was set for June 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- FPC as a smaller authority, had been selected for Intermediate review for the 2024/25 reporting year as part of the required 5% sample of those who would otherwise be subject to a basic review. Therefore, the auditor had also specifically requested the relevant minutes and agenda papers at which the annual review of risk management arrangements was discussed during 2024/25. FPC would be submitting their papers from the current meeting May 20<sup>th</sup> 2025 with an accompanying letter of explanation.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS.**

- FPC continues to have two signatures on every payment check issued. Every payment has a receipt and monthly bank statements are received.
- Precept payments are paid directly into our bank account by Lewes District Council
- VAT repayments are paid directly into our bank account by HMRC.
- Every PC meeting has a statement of expenditure and income which is always published on our website with the other PC papers.
- FPC owns no land or buildings.
- FPC has no employees and pays no allowances.
- All assets are insured, and an asset register is kept. There have been no additions since 2017.

### **AOB**

- MG's wall had been knocked down by a speeding motorist. MG would get in touch with James Kelly to ask about crash barriers on the roundabout.
- Jill Burt asked if the road sweeper had been round recently. MC said that it only now came twice a year due to local council cutbacks.

**Next meeting Tuesday August 5<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm 2025**