

# MINUTES OF FALMER PARISH COUNCIL

**Tuesday April 13th 2021 7.30pm**

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

**APOLOGIES** None.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.** were signed as a true record of that meeting.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None

**QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR.** No members of the public attended.

## **MATTERS ARISING:**

### **1. Stadium Issues**

- ⌚ Football matches continue to be played behind closed doors due to the coronavirus pandemic. However smaller crowds self distancing will be allowed after May 17<sup>th</sup> at the earliest.
- ⌚ AD and AP wondered why the pre match tannoy safety announcement was always made about 7.30 am in the morning. MC to investigate.

### **2. Village Maintenance**

- ⌚ ESCC had sent their invoice for 4 extra grass cuts of road verges. cost £168. Dates confirmed so far April 16th and 28<sup>th</sup> may. We also receive 2 cuts paid for by council tax.
- ⌚ AD was waiting to hear from Darren Edwards for a date for the bus shelter renovation to start. Estimated cost £553. This money would come from the CIL award.
- ⌚ MC had written twice to Robert Walker Head of BHCC parks and gardens to ask about any plans for the pond and fish this summer in case of drought. To ask about cutting down self seeded bushes on the pond banks which were taking away beautiful views. Also to ask if there would be regular grass cuts. She had not received a reply.
- ⌚ AD was concerned about fishing in the pond. MC would see if community wardens from LDC would pay some visits to watch out for this.
- ⌚ Fiona Gush of Balfour Beatty (BB) had been in touch offering their volunteer service to help with any jobs. MC would write to Robert Walker again and ask for permission to use BB offer of help to cut down the vegetation which was blocking views.
- ⌚ Falmer church clock at St Laurence had been reset after it ran slow. No cost incurred.
- ⌚ Larger Pot holes around Falmer pond had been filled by ESCC highways. They had refused to do the many pot holes outside the farm shop or on the bend.
- ⌚ Derek Chapman of St Mary farm who owned Adenstar building company was going to resurface Ridge Rd from Moon corner to the farm. His shoot on his land has become very popular and AP and HH thought that this was the reason for resurfacing. Better access.
- ⌚ The footpath /cycle path to Woodingdean was being resurfaced over 14 weeks. Work had started in March.

- ⌚ There was a potential circular walk around the south side of the village incorporating the footpath. But it was being blocked by locked farm gates by farmer David Taylor. There was lack of access across Eric Huxham's field behind the graveyard called The Pond Meadow. Farmland agents for BHCC Savills had been in touch to say they would be get their Rights of way officer to visit in the near future to sort out a path and signage and the gate problem.

### **3 .Sussex University**

Two of the three empty properties had now been renovated.

- ⌚ 80 Mill St vacated Nov 2016 now occupied.
- ⌚ 81 Mill St vacated June 2018 now occupied.
- ⌚ 71 Park St vacated Sept 2017 work was underway.

### **4. Stanmer Park and church.**

- ⌚ MG informed councillors about all the recent changes at Stanmer Park and the current action being taken to try to find a purpose for the church which had been closed for 12 years. But wasn't deconsecrated. Stanmer villagers were keen to see the church being used as a community hub. Ideas had to be put before the diocese by May. MG thought that £500,000 was needed to be spent on repairs.
- ⌚ Sue Craig of Stanmer preservation society had invited FPC to comment on ideas for the church plus she had asked for support. It was felt that the Stanmer community were the ones to decide. No comment to be made to Sue Craig.

### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**

- ⌚ Old Granary conversion. Mr and Mrs MacRae . This was going ahead because they had reverted back to the planning permission granted in July 2018.
- ⌚ Court Farm Barns .Mr Huxham. Change of use to a dance studio and art gallery. SDNP/20/ 02491/FUL Decision date had been expected Sept 10<sup>th</sup> 2020. No decision yet.
- ⌚ Park Farm Shop. Matthew Lenihan SDNP/20/04259/PA3R. Application granted. This had recently come to light although the parish council had never received the application or decision. MC was investigating.
- ⌚ New house in the garden of Rose Cottage. East Street. SDNP/20/04592/FUL. Refused.
- ⌚ New garage with office in the roof. Rose Cottage East St. SDNP/21/00655/HOUS. The parish council found no grounds to object. It was an attractive design built using traditional materials. It was thought that in future there would be an attempt to make it into an annexe.
- ⌚ Renovation of medieval Barn plus new build 3 associated buildings at Falmer Court. SDNP/21/01191/FUL and SDNP/21/01192/LIS. Site visit on Friday April 16<sup>th</sup> 6pm. This application had been called in by the SDNP.

### **FINANCE**

- ⌚ All councillors approved the end of year accounts. See attached.
- ⌚ AD suggested we made a donation to citizens advice who do such valuable community work. All agreed to donate £200.
- ⌚ Donation of £100 to the Air ambulance service.
- ⌚ Membership of CPRE £36 to be renewed

### **ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD.**

None.

**NEXT MEETING July 6<sup>th</sup> 2021. 7.30pm**