

MINUTES OF FALMER PARISH COUNCIL

Tuesday January 30th, 2024, 7.30pm

PRESENT. Chair Melanie Cutress (MC) Andy Pearce (AP) Martin Gapper MG

APOLOGIES Helen Herbert, Annie Davies

2 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

- No Concerns

2. Village Maintenance

- Falmer pond. The Heritage Lottery bid, due to be submitted in February would now be submitted in May. This means that there will be no decision on the bid until September. If the bid is successful, then work will begin in 2025.
- Nick lane the BHCC ranger was arranging a walk round the ponds with conservationists and parish council to decide on removing trees which take too much water from the pond. Eric Huxham pointed out the slippage of the banking near the church and suggested posts to stop cars from doing more damage when parking.
- Potholes round the pond had been reported and a few had been repaired.
- Southern roundabout road markings awaiting action. Judy Deane from ESCC highways had reported that this work would be done in February. Our request for yellow box lines at the traffic lights to aid exiting at peak times, had been passed on to the relevant department.
- Markings at Mill Street also needed refreshing and this request had been passed to Shelley Atfield at Sussex University who had referred it on to Highways Area 4.
- Broken wall at Ridge Rd and over hanging brambles reported to Sussex University.

PLANNING

- Bennetts field Student halls of residences for 555 bedrooms. Planning application LW/22/0175. APPEAL had been held in August. The Inspector had approved the appeal, Details of his decision were now available on Lewes Districts planning website. Pauline reported that she had been told that if students didn't take up rooms, then after a year, they could be taken by anyone. This was happening to empty rooms in student blocks on Lewes rd. MC said she would try to find out if this was true.
- 2 Swan Cottages SDNP/23/01743/HOUS. Change of use from a garage to an independently occupied dwelling. Application refused. Possible enforcement action.
- Polowood Shoot SDNP/22/05978/LDC. Application still in process. There are now 502 documents on the planning site.

FINANCE

- The accounts were reviewed and accepted.

ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD

- Request for a defibrillator to be installed on the outside wall of the village hall would now be handled by the village hall committee.
- **Tithe barn.** Pauline was concerned that a new event of football match day pre and post-match hospitality plus parking including overnight parking was being offered at the barn. She thought this was not permitted by planning permission. She had contacted MC by e mail and made her concerns known.
- MC had investigated and it had been confirmed by SDNP enforcement dept that hospitality and parking on football match days, an event for up to 50 people, did not contravene planning permission.

Next meeting Tuesday March 26th.