

MINUTES OF FALMER PARISH COUNCIL

Tuesday January 31st 2023 7.30pm

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

MATTERS ARISING:

1. Stadium Issues

- The liaison officer was Tomislav Majic. Who was Safety and Security co-ordinator.
- Manchester Utd fixture had been moved to Sunday March 19th. 2pm.
- MC continued to walk round the village on all match days and there are plenty of spaces.
- The Barrier at Sussex Uni sports complex continues to be lowered.
- Stewarding on Mill Street ceases at Kick off. Why? MC to contact BHA.

2. Village Maintenance.

- Park Ranger Nick Lane had reported that BHCC had been successful in phase one of their bids for funding to repair the pond. This was jointly with the SDNP and RSPB and the bid was to the Heritage Lottery fund. They had funding now to employ a company dealing in specialist aquatics work to be appointed to draw up a restoration proposal of necessary repairs and improvements. However, there is no guarantee that the bid funding for this next phase 2 will be successful.
- A photographic record would be made of the improvements if the bid was successful and work went ahead. Cost £846 + VAT. Councillors agreed that the remaining CIL money ... about £550 would go toward this.
- Avian flu signs had returned.
- The Cumbrian clock company had serviced the church clock on October 19th. The engineer said the clock was in good working order. However, it stopped again on November 3rd. The trip switch in the organ loft had tripped. Electrician Justin Burt had investigated this. He had updated the electrics and the housing for the equipment was updated to waterproof housing to keep moisture out. He put in a new battery. Cost £189.00 to come out of our CIL award.
- Lewes bus shelter graffiti.MG had asked his window cleaner for advice but unfortunately there were no cleaners that could clear the windows. Carl Scutt from Highways England had cut back the surrounding vegetation which helped improve the area.
- Potholes on Ridge Rd needed repair. HH and AP to report.
- ESCC had marked three potholes outside the farm shop and three outside the village hall.

- Two new bus stops had been installed on Village Way near the traffic lights.
- Network Rail had been stabilising the cutting at the entrance to the Falmer rail tunnel since December 24th. Work was now going on until March. AD reported how noisy and disturbing this was for villagers whose homes backed onto the work area.

3. St Marys Polowood shoot and associated problems

- No news about any developments.
- MG reported that he had been told it was illegal but had no details.

4. Boundary Festival at Stanmer Park.

- MC had been contacted by e mail by Charlie Locke who introduced himself as the new contact and wished to meet up sometime soon. MC had agreed it was a good idea. MG to receive the contact details. MG told the meeting that rumours were that Tom Jones would be appearing.

PLANNING

Bennetts field

Student halls of residences for 555 bedrooms. Planning application LW/22/0175. **APPEAL**

Tithe barn.

No new information of any work starting on the new laboratory, office building or accommodation building. Fran Woolley should be producing a newsletter about events and complaints procedure in the spring.

FINANCE

- The accounts were reviewed. £2,000 had been transferred to our current account from our business account.
- We also still had £733 of our CIL award to spend. It had been agreed at our previous meeting that it would be spent on the church clock electrical work. It was agreed that the remaining amount would be spent as a contribution to the photo project for restoration of Falmer pond if the restoration went ahead.

ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD.

- Coronation of King Charles III would take place on Saturday May 6th and government had asked for celebrations to be held with street parties on Sunday 7th May. MG was happy to organise again after his very successful and much appreciated street party for the Queens jubilee.
- May local elections. Voter ID was now needed.

Next meeting March 21st