

FAIRLIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held at Fairlight Village Hall on Tuesday 19th May 2015 at 7.15pm.

Present: Councillors A. Mier (Chairman), Mrs J. Annetts Mrs C. Gallagher, D. Greenup, A. King, S. Leadbetter and D. Thatcher. Also present: Dist Cllr R. Bird, Parish Clerk J. Edmunds and 8 members of the public.

- 15073 Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed newly elected Councillors and those who had been re-elected.
- 15074 Apologies for Absence:** were received from District Cllr Saint (at Pett PC meeting) and Cllr Revd Gibbs (unwell).
- 15075 Agenda additions:** None
- 15076 Code of Conduct and Disclosure of Interests:** None
- 15077 Election of Chairman:** The Chairman indicated that he was willing to continue as Chairman. The Vice-Chair was unwell and not in attendance. The Clerk took over control of the Meeting and asked if there were any other nominations. As there were not, it was unanimously **resolved** to elect Cllr. Mier as Parish Council Chairman for 2015/16.
- 15078 Election of Vice-Chair:** Cllr Mier took back control of the meeting and advised that Cllr Revd Gibbs had confirmed her availability for re-election. The Chairman asked if anyone wished to propose another Cllr for the position. Cllr Revd Gibbs was elected unopposed, having been nominated by Cllr Mier and seconded by Cllr Leadbetter.
- 15079 Appointment of Members to Committees and Working Groups :** The Chairman read out the roles for each Cllr which they had previously carried out in 2014/15 and asked each one if they were prepared to continue with their responsibilities for the coming Year. All agreed with their proposed roles and the only roles left to be filled were Grants Officer and liaison with Fairlight Preservation Trust which had become vacant due to Cllr Mendelson's resignation. Cllr Mier asked newly elected Cllr Greenup if he was willing to assume the roles previously undertaken by former Cllr Mendelson and he agreed. Cllr Greenup also agreed to be the Police Liaison Officer.
- The list of all the appointments and committee contacts is at the end of these minutes reference Appendix 4.**
- 15080 Appointment of Members to official roles within the Council and representatives to outside bodies: :** The Clerk advised that the only appointments needed to be made were to the Rother Association of Local Councils (RALC) and also East Sussex Association of local Councils where two representatives are required to attend their AGM in November. The Chair asked if there were any volunteers and Cllr Thatcher said he was willing to attend. Cllr Greenup also agreed to represent the Parish and it was resolved to appoint both Cllr Greenup and Cllr Thatcher as the Council's representatives at RALC and ESALC meetings and it was also agreed that Councillor Mier would attend RALC if required.
- 15081 To Approve The Minutes Of the Meeting held 28th April 2015.**
The minutes having been distributed prior to the meeting and made available to the Public at the meeting, were approved and signed by The Chairman as a correct record.
- 15082 Matters arising from the Minutes not otherwise on the Agenda.**
Two matters arose from the last meeting. Firstly, a decision to allow Fairfest the use of Wood Field on 26th July from 4pm to 10pm had officially not been given. Councillors unanimously agreed to the use as it is an Annual event. Permission was given on the understanding that the ground had to be deemed suitable for use on the day and that Car park marshalling was carried out.
Secondly, Southern Water. The Chairman gave a brief recap on the issues and then suspended standing orders at 7.35 pm to allow Paul Capps (Fairlight Preservation Trust) the opportunity to speak. Paul recapped the history of letters between various parties in 2003,2004 and 2007 and the contradictory nature within the letters issued by Southern Water. He felt that SW had still not answered the questions posed, agreed the minutes of the meeting in March 2015 nor provided the correspondence from 2007 which now appeared to be an email.
The Chairman re-instated standing orders at 7.41 pm and immediately asked members for their views.
A discussion took place and Cllr Leadbetter made the point that if a piece of correspondence cannot be found, then it should not be relied upon in any decision making process and only current correspondence used, which other Cllrs agreed with. It was conceded that SW are at last looking at the capacity and proper working of the combined sewer overflows.
It was decided that the Clerk should write again to SW asking once more for the missing correspondence and requesting agreement or suggested alterations to the minutes of the March 2015 meeting.
- 15083 Financial Matters.**
(a) The Clerk had previously circulated relevant papers to members and had distributed copies of the relevant sections of the Annual Return. The Clerk reported on the year end position and explained that the figures reported at April's meeting had changed slightly due to Interest of £1.31 being added. No questions were asked and the Council adopted the accounts as submitted and agreed that the Council could answer "Yes" to all the questions in the Annual Governance Statement and that the return could be signed by the Chairman.
The Clerk also explained that Littlejohn LLP were this Year's External Auditor and they had brought the Appointed day forward to 8th June. The period for Inspection of the accounts was from 8th May to 5th June and the notice was already posted on the main Parish Council Notice-boards within the Village.

(b) The Clerk recommended no changes to the current Standing Orders or Financial Regulations and they were formally re-adopted. The Clerk did however ask Members to consider electronic banking for the future and gave details on how it worked. It was agreed that this was a sensible step forward especially where regular payments are made and the Clerk will find out more information from the Parish's Bankers and report back.

15084 Highways

(a) The Highways Report had been circulated prior to the Meeting and made available to the Public at the Meeting. The Report is attached as an appendix to these Minutes.

(b) Fingerposts

Following the request at the last meeting, two quotes had been received for the repair/replacement of the 3 fingerposts on Battery Hill/ Pett Level Road. Details of the quotes were read out by The Chairman but as 1 quote was still awaited, it was agreed to wait until it has arrived before deciding which one to accept.

15085 Planning

The Planning report and Planning Committee meeting notes for the last month had been circulated prior to the meeting and made available to the Public at the meeting. They are also attached as an appendix to these Minutes.

Cllr Leadbetter mentioned that the next stage of the Neighbourhood Planning is to arrange the contract and it was agreed that the Clerk can now set this up with AirS for signature.

15086 Land Management:

(a) Cllr King reported on the following:-

(1) A quote has been received from Sovereign Leisure for replacement of the surface (currently playpark) at the Playground but this appears expensive so a quote from Wicksteed will be requested for comparison.

(2) The picnic tables are being refurbished by Geoff Smith who has also agreed to turn the basketball net round following a request from a resident.

(3) A complaint from a resident on the Channel Way/Shepherds Way corner has been received because walkers continuing to the eastern dead end of Channel Way and returning cause her dog to bark. Signs will be erected requesting walkers to turn into Shepherds Way in order to stay on the Saxon Shore Way.

(4) Dog bin problems continue in Meadow Way. The Clerk will contact Rother DC.

(5) The Gardening club have received permission from East Sussex Highways to place planter pots around the Village at agreed sites although there is still a way to go to get permission for the plans at The Circle.

The Chairman advised details of the visit in May and July by Natural England to the SSSI site as they will be undertaking a survey looking for rare plants. The Chairman has written to residents of Channel Way advising them of the visit and reminding them about the SSSI as some rubbish has been dumped on the edge of the site. He has received some feedback.

(b) CCTV – burning of discs

The Clerk advised that where discs are required by the Police for evidence purposes, at present AB Security burn the discs at a cost which they waive. However this may not continue and suggested that some Cllrs may wish to learn how to do it in case of need. Cllrs Thatcher and Mrs Annetts indicated a willingness to learn. It was also thought that Cllr Revd Gibbs may be interested. The clerk will check and also arrange some training.

(c) Hastings Country Park Visitor Centre

The Chairman recapped the situation and events which had occurred since the project started. He advised that a meeting had taken place the previous day (18th May 2015) at Hastings Town Hall. Those present were:- Cllrs Dawn Poole and Cllr Street from Hastings along with Murray Davidson (HBC), Cllr Mier, Trevor Lewing (Fairlight Residents Association) and Haydon Luke (Fairlight resident).

A note from the meeting has been circulated by Cllr Mier and he read out the salient points. The note is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

The Chairman suspended standing orders at 8.35 pm to allow Trevor Lewing (Fairlight Residents Association) to address the meeting. Trevor felt that there had been progress and a way forward had been found. Trevor believes that there should be a push to get a representative on the Project Board and preferred not to go down the official complaint route although it could be kept should Hastings not provide reasonable representation for local people.

Cllrs agreed that it was best to keep it amicable and look for representation with a Council nominated person being put forward for the Project Board.

Standing Orders were re-instated at 8.44pm.

The Chairman suggested that a letter be written to Hastings Borough Council requesting a nominee be on the Project Board and reserve the right for objection if needed. This was proposed as a resolution by Cllr Mrs Annetts and seconded by Cllr Mrs Gallagher. All voted in favour. **Resolved.**

15087 Vice-Chairman's Report

For this month, it has been included within the Highways report and is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

15088 County and District Councillors Reports:

County Cllr Maynard was not present and therefore his report could not be delivered. Dist Cllr Bird advised that as the Election had been so recent, there was little to report although he gave details of the turnout for Marsham district and in particular for Fairlight was 80%. The Chairman congratulated those who were elected and commiserations to those who were not.

A question was asked about the change of collection days and Dist Cllr Bird confirmed that the day is changing to Fridays. He will establish when the change commences.

15089 Approval and Payment of Accounts

The Clerk tabled a list of payments to be made at this meeting.

Approved as follows:-

| Cheque No. | Payee | Gross £ | VAT | (Reclaimable) |
|------------|----------------------------------|---------|-----|---------------|
| 1668 | AB Fire & Security | 49.39 | | 8.23 |
| 1669 | Mrs V King | xxxxxx | | |
| 1670 | J Edmunds | xxxxxx | | |
| 1671 | HMRC - Income Tax | xxxxxx | | |
| 1672 | Miss T Robertson | xxxxxx | | |
| 1673 | Zurich Insurance | 1078.10 | | |
| 1674 | ABC Signs | 60.00 | | |
| 1675 | RALC (SUBS 2015/16) | 35.00 | | |
| 1676 | Rother District Council (Cliffs) | 1456.10 | | |

15090 Information and/or Future Agenda Items

- **Correspondence**

Correspondence Received:-

- **Activate**
- **Association of Carers – Thank you letter (tyl)**
- **B Patience**
- **Charles Mendelson**
- **D Ware-Lane (to Chairman)**
- **Fairlight Playgroup – tyl**
- **Geoff Padgham (fuzion 4)**
- **HBC RE Visitor Centre**
- **Kent, Sussex and Surrey Air Ambulance - tyl**
- **Mopp – tyl**
- **NALC**
- **Natural England re Field Survey**
- **Robin Patten**
- **Rother District CAB - tyl**
- **Rural Rother Trust - tyl**
- **St Andrews Church - tyl**
- **Southern Water reply to complaint**
- **Sovereign Leisure re Playground**
- **Sussex Police re Junior Neighbourhood Watch**
- **Weekly Rural News**
- **Weekly Police updates**

Correspondence Sent:

- **Capital Estates**
- **Channel Way residents (sent by Chairman)**
- **D Ware-Lane (from Chairman)**
- **Geoff Padgham (fuzion 4)**
- **HBC re Visitor Centre meeting with HBC Cllrs**
- **Natural England**
- **Planning Applicant x3**
- **Rother re Election expenses**

- Cllr King advised that he had been approached by the Table Tennis club about the possibility of the Parish Council meetings to be held in St Peter's Church hall as the table tennis numbers have increased.

15090 Date of next meeting – Tuesday 23rd June 2015, 7.15pm at Fairlight.
The formal part of the meeting closed at 8.52 pm

Open Forum

- Trevor Lewing advised that he felt the brown bins supplied by Rother were substandard and that many bins in the Village had split. Dist Cllr Bird advised anyone who owns a split bin to report it and Rother DC would supply a new one.
- Cllr Mier reminded everyone about the Parish Assembly on Tuesday 26th May.
- Paul Capps (Fairlight Preservation Trust) advised that the reply from Southern Water gave a link to the Market Garden Site planning application which then referred to a final viability study. He felt that it was important to discover who had commissioned the report and why.
A meeting had taken place with himself and Paul Draper of FPT, Cllr Mrs Carole Gallagher, Janet Whitman (Natural England) and Murray Davidson (HBC) to discuss the water run-off from Firehills following the gorse removal. As a result of the meeting, a bund is going to be built by using the spoil from an area to be used for bird habitation on the Firehills and it will be built near to footpath at the top of Channel Way. This will be built by May 2016. Paul wanted a ditch but Murray Davidson was concerned over the maintenance. Janet

Whitman has confirmed that the SSSI boundary begins one metre south of Channel Way and a gully to help with water run-off can be placed within the metre's width between Channel Way and the SSSI land..

There being no further business, The Chairman thanked everyone for their participation and closed this part of the Meeting at 9.00 pm.

(Cllr A Mier – Chairman)

Dated -----

APPENDICES

1. Highways Report and Vice-Chair

Under Highways, pothole reporting is ongoing as always. Our Highways Steward is keeping an eye on the BT works on the bend in the Broadway. Under Vice Chair, I've reported 3 water leaks outside Royd in the Broadway, the junction of Knowle Rd & Waites Lane and the one on the Fairlight Rd near Pineridge which SW cannot seem to sort out! Lastly I would appeal to all drivers to slow down in the village, a minority of folk are driving at excessive speeds and I fear that there will be a serious accident one day especially in Waites Lane.

Val Gibbs. Highways Officer & Vice Chair. Fairlight Parish Council.

2. Planning Report

Planning Report for Fairlight Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 19th May 2015

1) Planning Applications

Planning report week 16
Nothing for Fairlight

Planning report week 17
Nothing for Fairlight

Planning report week 18

RR/2015/947/P

Dreams End, Channel Way, Fairlight TN35 4BP

Variation of condition 2 of RR/2013/247/P to replace ridge glazing with rooflights; Variation of rear dormer detail; Insertion of rear rooflight; Removal of second floor room.
Not yet considered by Planning Committee.

RR/2015/1060/P

Pangkor, Sea Road, Fairlight TN35 4DR

Variation/deletion of Condition 3 (site loading), variation/deletion of Condition 6 (demolition of existing building) and deletion of Condition 8 (removal of trees) RR/2013/1094/P Conditions(s) 3 and 8.
Not yet considered by Planning Committee.

RR/2015/1138/P

Firecliff, Shepherds Way, Fairlight TN35 4BD

Proposed new Conservatory.
Not yet considered by Planning Committee.

2) Planning Decisions

RR/2015/596/P

Seascape, Fyrsway, Fairlight TN35 4BG

Demolition of garage and erection of side extension.

Decision: Approved

Stephen Leadbetter
Planning Committee Chairman
12th May 2015

**Fairlight Parish Council Planning Committee – 5th May 2015
Notes of Meeting**

Present: Councillors S. Leadbetter (Chairman), A. Mier, Mrs C. Gallagher
Mrs J. Annetts, Revd V. Gibbs.

Mr G Whitley, resident of Thyme Cottage

Apologies for Absence - None

1) Code of Conduct and Disclosure of Interests:

None

2) Planning Applications

**a) Planning Application – RR/2015/785/P
Thyme Cottage, Rosemary Lane, Fairlight, TN35 4EB**

Proposed triple garage with holiday let accommodation over in the roof void. Proposed tool and agriculture equipment shed.

Councillor Mier commented that the garage building appeared to be over 6 m tall but that it was difficult to gauge this accurately from the size of plan available. He also queried whether disabled access would be a requirement for a new build holiday let. Mr Whitley explained that disabled access could be incorporated to the first floor if required, due to the land levels.

Overall Councillors agreed that the buildings were not visible from the road and were not overly intrusive.

Parish Council comments agreed as:

- 1) The Parish Council have no objection in principle to this application.
- 2) The use of the garages should be limited to storage of vehicles and ancillary equipment only, unless a future planning application for change of use is approved.
- 3) Any comments made by neighbours should be taken into account.

**b) Planning Application – RR/2015/774/P
Hillcliffe, Fyrsway, Fairlight, TN35 4BG**

Provision of dormer window to rear elevation. Alterations to roof including raising of ridge.

The full width dormer with a flat roof was felt to be visually unattractive but similar to many other extensions in the village and acceptable in terms of planning requirements.

Parish Council comments to be:

- a) The Parish Council have no objections to the proposal in principal.
- b) We would prefer the roof tiles for the extension to match the style of the existing tiles.
- c) Any comments made by neighbours should be taken into account.

3) Any Other Business

Hastings Country Park

Councillor Gallagher reported back on a meeting she had held with officers of Hastings Borough Council, representatives of Natural England and Paul Capps and Paul Draper of Fairlight Preservation Trust.

It had been agreed that due to concerns about water run off from the Country Park, Hastings would create a buffer close to the Fairlight end of the park to reduce water flow and direct it on to the cliff at that point, rather than running down Channel Way towards the Rockmead Road slip.

Natural England had conceded that on Channel Way the SSSI did not start immediately on the cliff side of Channel Way and that a drainage gully down the side could be created.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman explained that contracts had not been signed as AIRS had wanted us to agree the scope of the service offer first, which had not been picked up from previous correspondence. The Chairman identified a few areas where we might need additional advice and these were agreed by the committee. The Chairman will ask the Parish Clerk to reply accordingly so contracts can be signed and the project got underway.

Meeting closed at 3.15pm

4) Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Tuesday 19th May 2015 at **6.30pm** in Fairlight Village Hall, subject to confirmation.

3. Hastings Country Park Visitor Centre – meeting

COUNTRY PARK VISITOR CENTRE

BRIEF NOTE OF A MEETING AT HASTINGS TOWN HALL

9.30am – 10.30am Monday 18 May 2015

Present –

Cllr Richard Street, Ore Councillor and Chair Hastings Planning Committee

Cllr Dawn Poole, Old Hastings Councillor and Leisure & Amenities Portfolio Holder

Mr Murray Davidson, Hastings Environment and Natural Resources Manager

Cllr Andrew Mier, Chairman Fairlight Parish Council

Mr Trevor Lewing, Chairman, FRA

Mr Haydon Luke, Fairlight (“top end”) Resident

1. Introductions were effected and Cllr Street chosen to chair the meeting
2. There was a discussion in which Fairlight argued for a relocation of the Centre to a site to the north and west (site No.1 on Hastings’s documents) or at least further away from the houses. Hastings was not prepared to contemplate this. DP said the inland site would be bypassed unnoticed by visitors to the park and a more prominent place was essential. MD said that those consulted (principally the Friends of the Country Park which included Fairlight Residents) had all been in favour of the chosen site. It was noted that later, more public, consultation did not include the inland site, but MD said objections had not been raised at that later stage.
3. AM questioned the lack of a site visit by the Planning Committee. Members needed to study the plans together in the context of the site, especially in such a high profile case. RS was adamant that this was usual practice in the case of locations visible from public places and he had no intention of changing the practice.
4. There was a discussion between HL and MD. MD said Hastings was discussing a 10year lease with Groundwork. There could be no assurances Hastings would not do or not do anything in the future, but there were no current plans for anything beyond that presently permitted by the Planning Committee. HL was concerned that we had a Trojan Horse and anything could happen in five or ten years. MD said that Hastings would retain ultimate responsibility for the construction. He explained there would be an architect and a Hastings Oversight Board. HL asked if the Board would include a Fairlight rep and DP replied that the Friends of the Country Park were involved and that HL was a member of that. MD did not agree to Fairlight representation on the Board beyond the Friends. HL would prefer stronger input and questioned whether Groundworks would involve the community. DP said the architects were good at consultation. She was comfortable with the Project Board and said concerns could be fed through the Friends and the Project Board. However, MD emphasised that the Project Board is there to deliver the project. In reply to HL, RS said that if there was any breach of planning permission that would be dealt with by Hastings Planning Enforcement, or it could be passed to him and he would pass it on.
5. MD said he saw no reason why the brief to Groundwork should not be made available and put in the public domain.
6. Tenders for the building would be out in July, and a business plan should be available by then.

7. DP did not envisage a kitchen for hot food, only tea cakes, scones etc. There might be vending machines. Hastings was prepared to work with the Coastguards Tea Rooms by way of providing signage etc.
8. TL raised the question of security at the site. Would there be CCTV? MD said not at present. There would be shutters for security. HL asked about dark skies. We were lucky to be able to see the Milky Way. MD confirmed there was no plan for flood or street lighting and that the light pollution aspect was understood and appreciated. At some point a telescope might be installed to view the dark skies.
9. AM tentatively raised the question of anti-social behaviour, particularly driving, in the car parks at night. MD was aware of the problem and Hastings was working with the police. It would be impractical to fence off and lock the car parks at night. TL noted that the parking charge machines were locked and unlocked. MD said he would take the anti-social driving matter back to Groundwork.
10. AM said that Fairlight residents present at the Planning Committee meeting had formed the impression, probably wrongly, that they had been disadvantaged in not being allowed to speak. AM acknowledged that no member of the public can speak at a Rother meeting, but that a representative of petitioners had a limited right to address the Hastings Committee, whether or not from Hastings. RS confirmed this was the case (the position did not apply across all council meetings, but it did apply to Planning). RS acknowledged that the website could deal with this better and he was working with the web design team.
11. There was a discussion of unruly or intimidating behaviour from Fairlight residents at the Committee meeting. AM had been aware of reports of cries of "shame" at the end of the meeting, but Hastings reps felt this had gone further. AM felt this was regrettable, and not his experience of Fairlight residents at our own PC meetings.
12. I think it fair to say that all present hoped that lines of communication would be kept open.

4. Appointments list

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Mr. Andrew Mier Chairman | Planning Committee |
| Revd. Valerie Gibbs Vice Chairman | Highways Officer Planning Committee Community Transport Emergency Planning Broadband Link |
| Mrs. Jennifer Annetts | Emergency Planning Planning Committee Land Management Working Party |
| Mrs Carole Gallagher | Standards Committee Planning Committee |
| Mr Tony King | Standards Committee Land Management Working Party Village Hall Social Affairs |
| Mr. Stephen Leadbetter | Planning Officer Planning Committee Land Management Working Party |
| Mr Derek Greenup | Grants Officer Liaison with Fairlight Preservation Trust Police Liaison |
| Mr David Thatcher | Standards Committee Footpaths Officer Tree Liaison Officer |