

FAIRLIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at Fairlight Village Hall on Tuesday 24th November 2015 at 7.15pm.

Present: Councillors A. Mier (Chairman), Mrs J. Annetts, Revd. V. Gibbs, D. Greenup (from 7.45), A. King, S. Leadbetter and D. Thatcher. Also present: Dist Cllr R. Bird, Parish Clerk J. Edmunds and 15 members of the public.

- 15171 Apologies for Absence:** County Cllr C. Maynard, Dist. Cllr C. Saint, Cllr Mrs Gallagher
- 15172 Agenda additions:** None
- 15173 Code of Conduct and Disclosure of Interests:** Cllr King expressed a personal interest in item 9 as a member of Mopps. Cllr Leadbetter expressed a personal interest in item 12(f) as a member of Fairlight Gardening Club.
- 15174 To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held 27th October 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.
- 15175 Matters arising from the Minutes not otherwise on the Agenda:** None. The Chairman decided to move item 9 to item 5 (a).
- 15176 Bus route 101**
The Chairman advised that this was an update following last month's meeting and he has been advised that the service has improved and the drivers are friendlier. There has however been a complaint made by a resident to Stagecoach about dangerous driving.
Cllrs made the point that when driving towards the double decker buses they look intimidating and Cllr Revd Gibbs is continuing to log problems and is monitoring the service.
Residents are reminded that if they have a specific journey to make, they can, before leaving home, ring Customer Services (**01424 441115**) and check the bus has not had any delays. It is also possible to use the App *Traveline GB* which also has the information about specific bus routes.
- 15177 ESCC Adult Social Services**
The Chairman decided to take this item now in case there was an impact on item 15178.
The Chairman set out the proposals for Adult Services review which East Sussex County Council are undertaking as a result of them having £40 million less to spend on these services by 2019. Marsham Older Peoples' Projects (Mopps) currently benefits from an ESCC Grants and has this agreed until 2016/17. It is not clear if this is protected until the end date. The current grant is £4600 rising by £200 per annum. Therefore Mopps are directly affected. ESCC have produced a consultative document which residents can access on their website and make comments.
Robert Pasterfield (Mopps) set out the objectives of Mopps in a written note and advised that savings would need to be made unless the current income could be maintained.
The Chairman advised that the Government had announced that a Social Care Precept of 2% (based on the current Precept) might be available to Councils.
Councillors debated the issue and all agreed that Mopps does a fantastic job for the Community and it would need to be supported in whatever way was agreed. The Parish Council will make a formal response to the consultation pointing out the importance of Mopps to the community, and the knock-on effect on other public expenditure if Mopps' services were to be cut.
- 15178 Financial Matters**
Discuss the Budget requirements for the Financial year 2016/17 and agree the respective Budget Lines, including a general discussion for next year's Precept.
The Clerk explained the current financial position and the expected end of year position from information known. Councillors had been sent a proposed budget for next year prior to the meeting and the Clerk explained which lines he felt could be changed to reflect the requirements for 2016/17. A copy of the figures is attached as an appendix to these minutes.
The Chairman explained the current portion of Council Tax for band D properties in Fairlight towards the Precept amounted to £52.51 pence per annum. Of the 32 Parishes in Rother, this placed Fairlight in the middle cost wise. The decision on the Precept needs to be taken at the January meeting and Councillors were asked to put forward any thoughts they may have for funds by then. If the thoughts are to increase the Precept then The Chairman wishes to consult the electorate in good time.
- 15179 East Sussex ALC report and Emergency Plan**

The report has been circulated prior to the meeting and made available to the public at the meeting. It is attached as an appendix to these minutes. Cllr Mrs Annetts had nothing to add to the report and there were no questions. Cllr Mrs Annetts confirmed that the Emergency Plan would be re-printed in 2016.

15180 Coastal Project – Fairlight Cliffs

"To note, with approval, the recommendation of the Preliminary Draft Study Report prepared by the East Kent Engineering Partnership that the option to be taken forward is the construction of a rock bund between the existing Rockmead Road and Sea Road bunds and to communicate the Parish Council's approval to Rother District Council with a statement of full support for the project"

The Chairman gave a recap on the report and advised that following a meeting held by Rother DC and at which Fairlight Preservation Trust were also represented, the PC need to send a written note by 27th November showing agreement to the Coastal Project proposals to enable Rother Cabinet to discuss. Cllr Greenup proposed the motion as quoted in bold italics above and this was seconded by Cllr Leadbetter. All Councillors voted in favour. **Resolved.** For the avoidance of doubt the option referred to is the one numbered three in the report.

**15181 Highways
Monthly report**

The Highways Report had been circulated by Cllr. Revd. Gibbs prior to the Meeting and made available to the Public at the Meeting. The Report is attached as an appendix to these Minutes.

15182 Planning

The Planning Committee's report and notes from their meetings for the last month had been circulated prior to the meeting and made available to the Public at the meeting. The Reports were noted and are attached as appendices to these Minutes. Cllr Leadbetter highlighted some of the main points of the report (Skyscape rejection by Rother Planners and Gentian Cottage rejected by The Inspector on appeal). There is a new application for Pixie Wood which appears to be much less intrusive.

Cllr Leadbetter advised that the Neighbourhood Plan is at the initial consultation with residents stage and a questionnaire has been developed for distribution to every household. It is currently being printed. A public exhibition will be arranged, and will be at the Christmas Fayre in the Village Hall on 5th December where residents will be able to discuss the NP and also return questionnaires. A formal request will also be made to the Village Hall committee to place a returns box in the VH for any returned questionnaires. The purpose of the questionnaires is to identify any possible development sites within the Parish.

There will be a need next year to formally seek a reply paid licence for any posted back replies to letters which will need to be sent out and to which replies will be needed.

**15183 Land Management:
(a) Monthly Report**

Cllr King reported the following:-

- (1) The grit bins have been fitted and filled. The new dog bins are being emptied regularly each Tuesday.
- (2) The net on the football goal needs replacing. The Clerk will organise.

Cllr Thatcher advised that the tree overhanging the path in Knowle Wood had been dealt with.

(b) Firehills clearances and Fire Brigade Exercise

The Chairman advised that following representation, the exercise by the Fire Brigade (which would have involved burning gorse) had been cancelled.

Letters have also been sent to Natural England and others concerning the gorse removal on The Firehills. Replies are awaited.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Mrs Gallagher and Cllr Greenup for the time and work they had put into the task.

(c) Damage to Channel Way East and discuss the potential meeting of the residents of Channel Way with Fairlight Preservation Trust .

The Chairman explained a refuse cart had become stuck, badly damaging the road surface. Despite all the hassle he was pleased Kier had repaired the road so quickly. He thanked Brenda Mason from Rother DC for resolving the issue quickly.

This did however lead to a further question over the long saga of road ownership for Channel Way and expected it to be discussed in the Open forum.

(d) Country Park Visitor Centre update

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders at 8.29 pm to enable Haydon Luke (Fairlight representative on the HCP project Board) to present his report which is added as an appendix to these minutes.

The Chairman re-instated Standing Orders at 8.34 pm.

(e) Update on Warren Estate

Unfortunately there was no new information to report at this time.

(f) The Gardening Club`s plans for The Circle

The Chairman advised that the work had begun with the areas to be developed having been marked out and some plants planted. The Holm Oaks have been trimmed and despite a request to remove them, it has been decided to keep them as they look good and will offer protection to the new young plants.

15184 County and District Councillors Reports:

County Cllr Maynard was not present and there was therefore no County Cllr report. Dist Cllr Bird reported that Rother`s Overview and Scrutiny Committee had conducted its quarterly Key Performance Indicators review and there was an improvement on the previous review. Unanswered calls had improved although the data was not available and also Recycling was again above 50%. He urged residents to keep recycling as this will bring in income for Rother. The bin in Lower Coastguard lane which had previously been causing concern has been replaced with a closed top one. Cllr Leadbetter praised the online reporting system which Rother employs.

15185 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)
1732	AB Fire & Security	49.39	8.23
1733	Mrs V King	xxxxxx	
1734	J Edmunds (Sal & Expenses)	xxxxxx	
1735	HMRC	xxxxxx	
1736	Mrs T Robertson	60.00	
1737	Valuation Office	900.00	150.00
1738	Gardening Club	50.00	
1739	Mrs J Annetts (expenses)	9.90	
1740	S Leadbetter (NP Expenses)	193.00	
1741	D Richards	1100.00	
1742	Wellers Law Group LLP	772.80	128.80
1743	J Edmunds (Dec Sal)	xxxxxxx	
1744	HMRC (Dec)	xxxxxxx	
1745	A Mier (Expenses)	21.50	
1746	AB Fire & Security	2836.84	472.80
1747	Rother District Council	2148.46	
1748	Glasdon	358.16	59.69

15186 Information and/or Future Agenda Items

- **Correspondence**
- **Correspondence Received:-**
- **Amber Rudd MP, HBC and Rother DC (on behalf of Carl Maynard).**
- **Andrea Ingram (Rother) re tree at VH**
- **Clancy Docwra re trial holes on Battery Hill**
- **ESCC Highways re Broadway road closure**
- **Fusion 4**
- **East Sussex cc highways liaison team re over hanging branch**
- **ESCC (Cllr Bentley) re Adult social care cuts**
- **Ian Davidson**
- **Maggie Sullivan**
- **Mopps re Adult social care cuts**
- **Rother DC re Channel Way**
- **Sussex Police Commissioner`s community safety fund**
- **Various Neighbourhood Plan correspondence**
- **Weekly Rural News**
- **Weekly Police updates**

APPENDICES

1. Highways Report/Vice-Chair report

Highways Report. November 2015.

Not very much to report this time, pothole reporting is ongoing as usual. I would say however, that I wish they would repair properly rather than simply 'patch' some of the holes. Such a 'repair' simply does not last for very long. A false economy in my opinion.

The SW trial hole work is ongoing, thank you for your patience with the traffic control that is in place. The work should go on for another couple of weeks. Hopefully this will mean we shall have a new, larger fresh water main in due course.

The large dip in the road at Gorsethorn Way continues to be monitored.

The recent high winds have brought down some trees and branches. There is a lot of tree debris around. This serves to remind us that winter is upon us and we need to be extra careful when venturing out in adverse weather conditions.

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

2. Planning Report

Planning Report for Fairlight Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 24th November 2015

1) Planning Applications

Planning report week 42

Nothing for Fairlight

Planning report week 43

RR/2015/2649/P

Birchen Knoll, Peter James Lane, TN35 4AH

Change of use out existing out buildings from storage to annexe ancillary to main house, with adjoining astro turf badminton court, bay oak framed garage, with room over and log store.

RR/2015/2651/P

Pixie Wood, House, Farley Way, Fairlight TN35 4AS

Erection of a chalet bungalow and parking area adjacent to Pixie Wood, including new parking area for Pixie Wood.

RR/2015/2691/P

Homestead, Shepherds Way, Fairlight TN35 4BB

Proposed extensions to provide annexe accomodation.

Planning report weeks 44 and 45

Nothing for Fairlight

2) Planning Decisions

RR/2015/2206/T

Autumn Cottage, Shepherd's Way, TN35 4BB

Work to oak tree

Decision: Part refused - 25% crown reduction was refused. Trimming lateral limbs by 2 – 2.5 metres, crown lift and removal of dead or dangerous branches within the crown was agreed.

RR/2015/2296/P

Skyscape - Land at rear, Channel Way, (fronting Shepherds Way), TN35 4BP

New dwelling.

Decision: Refused for the following reasons (my summary).

- a) Development would be cramped due to its relationship to Hillside and Firecliff
- b) It would be dominant and overbearing and result in loss of light to adjacent properties.
- c) The windows on the east elevation would directly overlook the rear garden of Skyscape.
- d) It would be out of scale with nearby properties and would not provide sufficient amenity space for residents.

RR/2015/2332/P

Barn House, Warren Road Fairlight TN35 4AN

Two storey extension for kitchen dining room and sun room (previously approved under RR/2011/1281/P)

Decision: Approved

3) Appeals Against Refusal to Grant Planning Permission.

APP/U1430/W/15/3035984

Gentian Cottage – Land adjoining, Hill Road, Fairlight, TN35 4AE

Outline Development of land into dwellinghouse

Refused as outside the development boundary of the village and does not meet any of the criteria which would allow development in such locations.

Applicant appealed to the secretary of State and the matter has been determined by the inspector.

Decision: Appeal refused on the following grounds (my summary).

- 1) The application is to build on undeveloped land outside the development boundary of the village – It is not required to support agriculture, land based industry or affordable housing.
- 2) The proposed site is mature and dense woodland and provides irreplaceable habitat for a range of wildlife species.
- 3) It would have an unacceptable impact on the appearance and character of the countryside.

Stephen Leadbetter
 Planning Committee Chairman
 17th November 2015

**Fairlight Parish Council Planning Committee – 3rd November 2015
 Notes of Meeting**

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

Members of the Public: Mr A Marchant (applicant), Mr M Smith (architect).

Apologies for Absence - None

1) Code of Conduct and Disclosure of Interests:

None.

2) Planning Applications

RR/2015/2514/P - Moon Cottage – land east of, Friars Hill, Fairlight, TN35 4HJ

Demolition of existing ‘Old Chapel’ out-building and erection of single bedroom bungalow on same footprint.

Mr Smith outlined the proposed scheme and explained that the intended materials were the most suitable given the limitations of the size of building proposed.

Invited to comment on the issues raised by a neighbour, Mr Delaney, He explained that the “window” complained of was actually a high level light but could be obscured if necessary. He also stated that the site would provide adequate off road parking.

Councillors discussed the proposal and had no objection.

Comments to Rother were agreed as:

- 1) Fairlight Parish Council has no objection to the proposal.
- 2) Any comments made by neighbours should be taken into account.

3) Neighbourhood Plan

No discussion as the Neighbourhood Planning meeting had taken place before the Planning Committee.

4) Any Other Business

Shed erected in front of 20 Lower Waites Lane to be referred to Planning Enforcement as no planning application made.

Meeting closed at 4.10 pm

5) Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Tuesday 17 November 2015 at 2.30pm in Fairlight Village Hall, subject to confirmation.

Stephen Leadbetter
Fairlight PC Planning Committee Chairman
3rd November 2015

Fairlight Parish Council Planning Committee – 17th November 2015 Notes of Meeting

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

Apologies for Absence - None

1) Code of Conduct and Disclosure of Interests:

None.

2) Planning Applications

RR/2015/2649/P

Birchen Knoll, Peter James Lane, Fairlight, TN35 4AH

Change of use of existing out buildings from storage to annexe ancillary to main house with adjoining astro turf badminton court.

After consideration Councillors decided that the comments to Rother should be:

- 1) Fairlight Parish Council are content to allow Rother Planners to determine the application.
- 2) Any comments made by residents of neighbouring properties should be taken into account.

RR/2015/2651P

Pixie Wood, Farley Way, Fairlight TN35 4AS

Erection of a chalet bungalow and parking area adjacent to Pixie Wood including new parking area for Pixie Wood.

After consideration Councillors decided that comments to Rother should be:

- 1) Planners should ask to see samples of the brick and tiles to be used to ensure that they are in keeping with, and sympathetic to, the surrounding area.
- 2) No nearby street parking is available, so it would be better if there were more than the minimum requirement of two parking spaces for each property.
- 3) Due to the absence of street parking a compound should be created within the site, and it should be a condition of the consent that all construction and contractors vehicles be contained within this during the construction phase.
- 4) Any comments made by residents of neighbouring properties should be taken into account.

RR/2015/2691/P

Homestead, Shepherds Way, Fairlight TN35 4BB

Proposed extensions to provide annexe accommodation

After consideration Councillors decided that comments to Rother should be:

- 1) The site plan shows a drainage ditch to the south side of the property which now appears to be covered. Planners should ensure that a live drain is not covered or compromised during construction.
- 2) It is not clear from the plans submitted how close the walls of the new extensions would be to the property boundaries. Planners should check that the proximity to adjoining properties will be appropriate.
- 3) Any comments made by residents of neighbouring properties should be taken into account.

3) Neighbourhood Plan

- a) **Questionnaire** – It was agreed that sufficient copies for each property in the village plus 250 extra should be ordered from Carpenters. Preferable to print on a distinctive colour such as pale green. We will arrange a collection point at the village hall and let hall users know. We will collect from those who cannot deliver, or need assistance. Carole to check with Royal Mail the cost of them delivering. Some minor changes were agreed.
- b) **Strapline and Logo** – Andrew is working on the logo but has been given details of a resident who may be able to help. Stephen proposed as a strapline for Fairlight Neighbourhood Plan “ Planning our future – Preserving our heritage “. There were no alternative suggestions but Councillors were invited to propose alternatives within the next few days if they thought of something that sounded better.
- c) **Vision and Objectives** – Stephen submitted a proposal which was discussed and some amendments proposed. These will be circulated shortly and amendments can be made if required as we progress.
- d) **Terms of Reference (Constitution)** – These were agreed in principle although some minor changes were requested. These will be made and the constitution signed by group members at the next meeting.

4) Any Other Business

Councillor Rev Gibbs asked if trees at an address in Lower Waites Lane were covered by a Tree Preservation Order. Since confirmed that they are not

Meeting closed at 4.10pm

5) Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Tuesday 1st December 2015 at 2.30pm in Fairlight Village Hall, subject to confirmation.

Stephen Leadbetter
Fairlight PC Planning Committee Chairman
18th November 2015

3) Neighbourhood Plan

Neighbourhood Planning – Progress Report and Future Programme of Work Report for Fairlight Parish Council on 24th November 2015

1. This report sets out what has been achieved so far, but more importantly what has to be achieved between now and the end of March 2016.

Progress Reported to Parish Council Meeting on 27th October 2015

2. At its meeting on 24th February 2015 the Parish Council confirmed its intention to proceed with the Neighbourhood Plan.
3. Following negotiations with Action in Rural Sussex (AiRS), in May 2015, we agreed the services to be provided, and the likely costs, which are in the order of £13,000.
4. On 24th June 2015 the Planning committee met with the AiRS consultant to discuss the process and tasks required to progress the Neighbourhood Plan.
5. On 29th July formal notice was submitted to Rother District Council to designate the parish of Fairlight as a Neighbourhood Plan area. Rother have confirmed that we are eligible and the consultation required by law on the area to be included is underway, running from 9th October until 6th November.
6. During July and August 2015 a Community Evidence report was jointly produced by AiRS and the Parish Council. It sets out information about the character of the parish, and factual and statistical information about Fairlight, its residents and access to services. This is a document which will be developed as the plan proceeds and will be a key part of the plan.
7. On 18th September a grant application was submitted to Communities, the government agency which deals with Neighbourhood Planning, for £4,452 . This was agreed subject to a due diligence process. The required evidence and supporting documents have been submitted and the grant was approved on 19th October.
8. ***The grant must be spent on the activities detailed in the application by 31st March 2016 or must be repaid.***

Progress since Meeting on 27th October

9. **Consultant** – A meeting was held with our consultant Faustina Bayo of Action in Rural Sussex on 3rd November at which progress was checked and the next set of objectives agreed
10. **Core Group** - We have some residents who have agreed to assist with the Neighbourhood Plan. The Core Group will be finalised following our initial survey of the parish because one of the questions asks if people are interested in joining us.
11. **Public Consultation** - We have finalised a questionnaire for a survey which will take place between now and mid-December to find out residents' priorities for the Neighbourhood Plan. We will use the Village Hall Christmas Fair as part of this process and are working on final arrangements for distribution and collection of the survey. There will be three prizes of store cards for £25, £15 and £10 to encourage participation.
12. **Call for Sites** – This has been circulated by the Residents Association e-mail system and is also being publicised in Village Voice. It seeks to identify if there are alternative or extra sites which could be developed in addition to those already identified. It should be noted that Rother anticipate that such sites would be within or abutting the existing development boundary.
13. **Vision and Objectives** – These have been drafted and are attached as Appendix 1. They can be amended as the plan and priorities develop following consultation.
14. **Terms of Reference** – These have been broadly agreed and will be formally adopted following some minor amendments.

Matters Still to be Progressed

15. **Thematic Groups** – Arising from the consultation we will need to set up groups to look in detail at the key areas we decide to focus on. These could be matters such as coastal erosion, housing numbers and design, the local economy, transport and services.
16. **Contact Local and Statutory Consultees** – To advise that we intend to develop a Neighbourhood Plan.
17. **Develop Communication Strategy** – We need to keep residents informed of progress and events, using the village website, social media, press, posters and other means to be decided.
18. **Agree Sites and Start to Develop pre-Submission Plan** – Based on information fed in from all of the above, start to develop the plan.

Future Commitment

19. A Neighbourhood Plan involves a community deciding on how it wishes to see the area develop and working on the plan together to allow that to happen.
20. Until now work on the Neighbourhood Plan has been limited to a very small number of people supported by a consultant.
21. Having been successful in obtaining a grant we have now reached a critical stage where we need to speed up progress and where greater involvement by those who wish to see a Neighbourhood Plan is required. This will be tested at the submission and inspection stages and the plan is unlikely to succeed without such involvement.

Councillor Stephen Leadbetter
 Chairman of Fairlight Parish Council Planning Committee
 17th November 2015

Appendix A – Vision and Objectives

Fairlight Neighbourhood Plan Planning Our Future – Preserving Our Heritage

Vision for Fairlight

Fairlight has a special character as a coastal cliff top village bounded by a Country Park, ancient woodland, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a cliff which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and part of which is particularly vulnerable to erosion.

While the age profile of the parish is older than the district and national average it is a vibrant and social community with many activities available for people of all ages, most of which are centred on the village hall.

We want development of the village to be planned in a way that meets the needs of current and future residents, and businesses, while respecting the features that make it a special place.

Objectives

- 1) Development should be carried out in a way that minimises the risk of damage to the cliff.
- 2) Although it may not be possible to prevent all development in the AONB, any such development should be sensitive to the impact on existing residents and the countryside.
- 3) Local infrastructure, particularly drainage and the road system, has little capacity to accommodate significant growth without being upgraded. The need for upgrading needs to be considered as part of the development process.
- 4) Local businesses such as the village pub, the Post Office, shops and the café need to be supported to help them survive and grow, protecting services for residents and employment opportunities.
- 5) Many in the village depend on the bus service for access to education, employment, shopping and social activity. The existing level of service needs to be supported.
- 6) Community facilities need to be maintained to support the excellent level of community cohesion in Fairlight.
- 7) Open space and trees within the built environment need protection and open areas should be designated within any new development.
- 8) Safety of residents should be protected through sensitive design.

3. Country Park Visitor Centre

There is one development to report since the last PC meeting. At the Board's last meeting on 16th October 2015, the Board directed officers to seek **an Independent Quantity Surveyor's views on the costs of a traditional build and the likely costs involved in preparing a specification suitable for procurement purposes and then, if cost effective, include in tender options.** By way of implementing this request, officers were requested to meet with and seek guidance from the council's in-house building surveyor. Officers also sought advice from Planners on any planning implications for a brick and block build.

After obtaining that advice, the Assistant Director of Environment and Place and the Environment and Natural Resources Manager (Murray Davidson) met Councillor Warren Davies, Chair of the Project Board, on 4th of November to outline their findings. **Based on the points outlined below, Cllr Davies, the Chair, concluded it would not be in the council's interests to pursue this option further. The bricks and block option will therefore not form part of the forthcoming tender package.**

Board members were informed of this on 6th November.

These were the points raised in the advice:

- *A brick and block building will require foundations to be built. This will require the submission of a new application. The Board had previously concluded a new planning application was not in the council's interests, and would be a last resort.*
- *To facilitate a new application new archaeological survey work and ecology work would be required. The cost of additional surveys is estimated to be around £3k.*
- *Furthermore Natural England would require to be consulted as a statutory consultee. There is no guarantee that Natural England would support the digging of foundations in the Reserve, thereby potentially jeopardising the entire project.*
- *As well as producing detailed plans, we would need a detailed specification to be used by tenderers for this option. Along design costs associated with the planning process this could be between £5k and £10k*
- *The engagement of consultants to provide specialist reports on archaeology, ecology and building drawings and specifications will incur additional cost to a project that is already on a very tight budget.*
- *Erection of a straw bale or timber frame building is quicker on site than a traditional masonry built house. Many of the components are made off-site and the main walls can usually be erected in a matter of days rather than weeks.*
- *Straw or timber frame construction is generally lighter in weight than traditional brick and block techniques, requiring less or shallower foundation work and or is more suitable for problematic ground conditions.*
- *Trades relying on a dry interior like electricians and plasterers can start earlier with a straw bale or timber frame building. Interior finishes and services can be installed at the same time as any external cladding.*
- *Timber frame or straw bale walls are able to contain a larger amount of thermal insulation material and usually achieves better air-tightness performance than a similar thickness of masonry wall. Consequently, timber frame or straw bale construction creates higher insulated buildings offering higher levels of thermal comfort for their occupants.*
- *Timber frame or straw bale walls do not absorb heat like masonry walls, so the space heating systems in buildings using this type of construction are generally of smaller capacity and more responsive, being able to heat up and cool down the interior more rapidly than in masonry built buildings.*
- *The capital costs of building services plant for heating and cooling, along with their associated pollution and environmental costs of energy production are also reduced.*

- *Wood and straw are produced by photosynthesis, a natural process, fuelled by solar energy and have very low embodied energy. Both timber and straw are renewable, straw itself is essentially a waste product. Apart from the ability of trees to absorb and store CO₂, they also create less CO₂ when being processed into building materials when compared with clay bricks and concrete blocks which have to be mined, transported and when processed require large quantities of energy and create significant amounts of waste. In contrast, there is almost no waste in timber or straw production. Sawdust is used for chipboard or paper production and left-over straw can be either composted or used as soil mulch.*
- *By using timber frame or straw bale construction it can be used as part of a strategy to promote the use of environment-friendly materials to the wider population.*

The interpretation I put on this is that HBC is still very keen to have the straw bale construction they originally dreamt up with Groundwork South and the Cave Consultancy. This is generally believed to be a very environment-friendly form of construction.

It also seems clear from the bullet points above that the HBC Quantity Surveyor (QS) and the HBC planners have provided as much ammunition as possible to head off any possible redesign option involving a new planning application. I think this is both for time reasons (they still hope to start construction early in 2016) and from a belief that to return to the planning process would possibly be contentious.

The fact that the Chair of the Project Board (Cllr Davies) has already accepted these findings is indicative of (a) they want to press ahead as fast as possible, and (b) the Board is being reminded that it is a consultative not an executive body!

So the pressure is now on Groundwork to come up with some grants or other funding and some firms who can tender within the overall resource envelope - whatever that finally turns out to be. From remarks made at the Board meeting by the Groundwork representative, it seems that they still hope to get some of the work on the VC done by workers on some sort of job creation/training scheme. Details hazy.

Haydon Luke 22/11/15

4. SALC report

SALC AGM – 12TH NOVEMBER 2015

Lord Amphill was re-elected as President. All the current Directors nominated by the District Associations for election to the Board were elected on block. The Vice Presidents Dr. Alex MacGillivray and Mrs. Marion Shepherd DL were also re-elected.

The motion by the Board that late payments of subscriptions and invoices by members will incur a late payment fee of 4% over base rate or £10 whichever is greater was passed as was that any Member leaving membership and then wishing to re-join would be charged a re-joining fee of 10% towards administration costs.

PARISH COUNCILS – HAVE TO BE TRANSPARENT

There is 1.4 million NALC money available for small Parishes with a precept of less than £25,000 towards setting up their own website. Parishes are advised to put in a bid if they have not already done so. This funding includes money for a printer scanner, 2 hours per month cost for clerk's fee and means there is no longer a need to pay external audit. The deadline for this is February. Further information on their website.

THEME OF RESILIENCE & EMERGENCY PLANNING

This was largely about FLOOD RISK

We were reminded about *riparian ownership* and their responsibility for maintaining the watercourse that borders or runs through their property.

RAISING AWARENESS

One thing that did come out of the meeting which I thought might be useful was a COMMUNITY INFORMATION POINT – information is on our website but I think should also be on the Notice Board outside the hall and possibly the other two Parish Notice Boards. This could make people aware of the Emergency Plan and Street Warden Scheme. Names of Emergency Response Wardens and address phone number of main Assembly Point.

Two-way radios were another point mentioned which we have discussed in the past.

BUILDING ON POSSIBLE FLOOD SITES

Useful information can be found on www.eastsussex.gov.uk/environment/flooding

5. Budget Proposals 2016/17

Fairlight Parish Council - Budget Proposal- year end 2016/17

	2016/17 Proposed	Budget	2015/16 budget to date	2015/16 spend to date	variation	Amount of increase decrease
Salaries and Wages	9000.00	8500	4959	4916.00	-43	500
Training	500.00	750	438	0.00	-438	250
Maintenance of Grounds						
Wood Field	1000.00	1000	583	287.00	-296	
Playground	500.00	1000	583	0.00	-583	500
Knowle Wood	1000.00	1000	583	500.00	-83	
Dog Bin Emptying	1250.00	1100	642	908.00	266	150
Other/Beacon	1000.00	1000	583	5525.00	4942	
Repairs & Renewals Fd. Contrib.	1000.00	1000	583	0.00	-583	
Grass Cutting	2000.00	1800	1050	1133.00	83	200
CCTV	600.00	750	438	636.00	198	150
Car allowance - Clerk	300.00	300	175	130.00	-45	
Travel - Councillors	250.00	250	146	29.00	-117	
Insurance	1500.00	1500	875	1078.00	203	
Audit	500.00	500	292	320.00	28	
Hire of Halls	750.00	500	292	232.00	-60	250
Admin/phone/stationery etc.	1000.00	1000	583	429.00	-154	
Subscriptions/other expenses	1000.00	1000	583	890.00	307	
Neighbourhood Plan	10000.00	5000	2708	6523.00	3815	5000
Grants	6000.00	6000	3500	6154.00	2654	
Reserves		7800	4450	0.00	-4450	
Cliff Protection Scheme	2500.00	2500	1358	1456.00	98	
Election Costs	0.00	550	321	165.00	-156	550
VAT				2977.00		
Loan repayment	6100.00					
Total	47750.00	44800	26132	34288.00	8156	1950
Chairmans allowance - part of other exp line		250				
Total		44800				