

## FAIRLIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting held at Fairlight Village Hall on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7.15pm.

Present: Councillors A. Mier (Chairman), Mrs C. Gallagher, Revd. V. Gibbs, D. Greenup, A. King, S. Leadbetter and D. Thatcher. Also present: Dist Cllrs R. Bird, C. Saint, Parish Clerk J. Edmunds and 13 members of the public.

**16001 Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Mrs J. Annetts, County Cllr C. Maynard

**16002 Agenda additions:** None

**16003 Code of Conduct and Disclosure of Interests:** None

**16004 Resignation of the current Chairman and Election of Chairperson for the remainder of the municipal year and elect new Officers which may be required as a result of the vote. Followed by recognition**

Cllr Mier handed the Clerk a letter of resignation from the role of Chair. Cllr Revd Gibbs assumed the role and asked for nominations to stand as Chair. Cllr Mier nominated Cllr Revd Gibbs who confirmed her acceptance to stand. Cllr Mrs Gallagher seconded the nomination. No other nominations were received and Cllr Revd Gibbs was elected unopposed. Cllr Mrs Gallagher nominated Cllr Thatcher for Vice – Chair which Cllr Greenup seconded. Cllr Thatcher confirmed he was willing to stand and as there were no other nominations, he was duly elected unopposed.

There then took place a presentation to Cllr Mier to thank him for the hard work he had undertaken in the 4 years he had been Chair. Cllr Mier thanked all the Cllrs for their support whilst he had been Chair.

**16005 To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held 24<sup>th</sup> November 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 newly appointed Chair as a correct record.

**16006 Matters arising from the Minutes not otherwise on the Agenda:** None.

**16007 Financial Matters**

**(a) Discuss and agree an amount which may be required to contribute towards celebrating The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in the Village.**

As Cllr Mrs Annetts was not present and deemed to be the lead for this item, it was decided to defer the discussion on plans for any event to a later meeting. It was noted that the week of the Queen's birthday coincided with the Open Gardens week in Fairlight.

Cllr Mier proposed a sum of £500 be made available towards the cost of the celebrations. This was seconded by Cllr Leadbetter. **Resolved** all voted in favour.

**(b) Discuss those tenders received for the grass cutting contract and approve the contractor for the next three years.**

The Clerk had sent details of the Tenders received to Cllrs prior to the meeting and he confirmed all had complied with supplying details of their Public Liability Insurance. A member of the Gardening Club has also offered to cut the Circle's grass on the alternate weeks that the contractor does not in order to help keep it in good order. After a brief discussion, Cllr King proposed accepting the Tender of Kemp & Catt Ltd (£1822 + VAT – 2016 rising by 3% per year for 2017 and 2018). This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Gallagher. **Resolved** all voted in favour (except Cllr Leadbetter who did not participate in the discussion or vote due to his membership of The Gardening Club).

**(c) To discuss and vote on the proposal "To Increase the Precept for 2016/17 to £47000"**

Cllr Mier led the discussion on the proposal and explained why he was in favour. He had also only received one negative response following his email to residents at Christmas concerning a possible Precept increase. He had received several positive responses. The suggested increase will be about 5pence per week on a Band D Council Tax. After a brief discussion, Cllr Mier made the proposal as above which was seconded by Cllr Greenup. **Resolved.** All voted in favour.

**(d) Discuss the External Auditor appointment for 2017 onwards**

The Clerk explained the changes to the External Audit from 2017 and how it would affect Parish and Town Councils. The opportunity was there to choose an Independent Firm or accept the new arrangements via the Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd. The cost per year would remain the same as currently being paid but if an Independent firm was appointed, the cost is unknown. The arrangement will last 5 years.

Following a discussion, Cllr Leadbetter proposed no change to the existing arrangements. Cllr Thatcher seconded the proposal. **Resolved. All voted in favour.**

**16008 RALC report**

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. Cllrs Thatcher and Greenup gave a brief verbal summary of the report.

**16009 Training**

In view of the changes to Official roles, there is a need for various Training to be carried out. Some dates were given by the Clerk to Cllrs.

**16010 Emergency Plan**

Cllr Mrs Annetts was unfortunately not able to attend so this item has been deferred to February's meeting.

**16011 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.

**16012 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 including the new application for Pixie Wood and the 3 year approval for the lighting at St Andrew's Church which is to be monitored during this period. Cllr Leadbetter advised that the Neighbourhood Plan is on track although 1 or 2 problems have been encountered. There is a meeting with Rother DC on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016. The initial survey also generated 120 responses. There is to be an exhibition in the Village Hall on 20<sup>th</sup> February where details of the responses will be fed back along with other items. The current objectives are to convert ideas to draft policies. The Neighbourhood Plan is being reviewed every two weeks at Planning Committee meetings.

**16013 Land Management:  
(a) Monthly Report**

Cllr King reported the following:-

- (1) The dog bins continue to be emptied regularly each Tuesday.
- (2) The notice board at the end of Shepherds Way needs replacing as it has fallen apart. The Clerk will organise some quotes.
- (3) The new fox proof litter bin will be fitted and the seats refurbished in Wood Field as soon as the weather permits.

**(b) Discuss and approve a suitably worded sign for Lower Waites Lane to deter large vehicles from entering the lane and agree approaching ESCC about the sign.**

Large vehicles continue to try and enter areas in the Village that are simply inaccessible or impossible to turn around. Instances were given by Cllrs. It was agreed to approach ESCC with some appropriately suggested wording for signage to try and stop this. It was suggested to place the signage in The Broadway before Lower Waites Lane is reached. Suggested wording to be "**Unsuitable for large vehicles**" or "**No turning points**"

The clerk will write to East Sussex Highways and if the response means a cost will be incurred by the Parish Council then that will need to be discussed at the next Parish Meeting.

**(c) Discuss the recent flooding issues in Lower Waites Lane and Southern Water's response.**

A letter has been sent but a response is still awaited.

**(d) Discuss the recently made Tree Preservation Orders (TPO'S)**

Cllr Thatcher explained the recently received TPO's affecting the Market Garden Site and Streamside, Lower Waites Lane. It was agreed that the Clerk would write in favour of the TPO's as the trees help to take water out of the ground and this helps control some of the water issues seen in Fairlight.

**(e) Update on Warren Estate**

Unfortunately there was no new information to report at this time as no response to the recent letter had been received.

**Country Park Update**

Not formally on the agenda but Haydon Luke has supplied a report which is attached as an appendix to these minutes and the report has also been made available to the public at the meeting.

**16014 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 Cllr`s had discussed the Council Tax and it is likely to increase by 1.94% which is an annual increase of £3.13 for a Band D property. Full Council is yet to agree this increase and an online survey is available for residents until 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. It is on Rother`s website.  
 Dist Cllr Bird reminded residents that Rother applies the lowest Council Tax in East Sussex and this will be the first rise since 2010.

**16015 Approval and Payment of Accounts**

The Clerk tabled a list of payments to be made at this meeting.  
 Approved as follows:-

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Gross £</b>	<b>VAT(Reclaimable)</b>
1749	AB Fire & Security	49.39	8.23
1750	Kemp & Catt Ltd	741.20	123.53
1751	The Nautical Museums Trust	20.00	
1752	Viking	82.61	13.77
1753	E.Carpenter	88.00	
1754	AB Fire & Security	49.39	8.23
1755	Mrs V King	xxxxxx	
1756	J Edmunds (Salary and Expenses)	xxxxxx	
1757	HMRC	xxxxxx	
1758	Mrs T Robertson	xxxxxx	
1759	Wicksteed	108.00	18.00
1760	Fairlight Village Hall	43.00	
1761	A Mier (xmas lights)	39.98	

Nb: cheques 1749 – 1753 were signed in December 2015 ahead of this meeting.

**16016 Information and/or Future Agenda Items**

- **Correspondence**

**Correspondence Received:-**

**AirS – places of safety questionnaire**  
**Amber Rudd – re gorse x2**  
**A Wilson Patterson – complaint re Knowle Wood (to Cllr Thatcher)**  
**Clancy Docwra re water main on Battery Hill**  
**D Macdonald re planning application**  
**ESCC confirmation of receipt of PC comments re Adult Social Care**  
**ESCC re grit bin fill**  
**Glasdon - refund**  
**Grant request - Playgroup**  
**Grass cutting tenders (5)**  
**NALC re The Queen`s 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**  
**Natural England**  
**Neighbourhood Plan Consultation replies from Highways England and Marine Mgmt**  
**Rother DC re TPO`s issued at MG site and Streamside**  
**Rother DC reply to Gorse removal**  
**SALC – Good Councillor Guide**  
**Southern Water – complaint acknowledgement**  
**Various Neighbourhood Plan correspondence**  
**Various SALC**  
**Weekly Rural News**  
**Weekly Police updates**  
**Wellers Hedleys newsletter**

**Correspondence Sent:**

**AirS – completed questionnaire**  
**A Wilson Patterson (from Cllr Thatcher)**  
**Capital Holdings re Warren Road cycling and Warren Estate**  
**ESCC re Woodland Way twitten**  
**Glasdon re refund of 1 grit bin**  
**Grant letters x5**  
**Natural England re gorse**

**Natural England re meeting 29/01**  
**Neighbourhood Plan 16x Statutory Consultation Letters**  
**Planning Applicants x3**  
**Southern Water complaint re sewage discharge LWL**  
**Wykeham Hurford re Woodland Way Twitten**

**16017**      **Date of next meeting** – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016, 7.15pm at Fairlight.  
The formal part of the meeting closed at 8.30 pm

**Open Forum**

- Paul Capps (Fairlight Preservation Trust) advised that Lower Waites Lane is classified as a street and therefore ESCC may not allow gates at the Broadway end to be installed to stop vehicles and would need to be consulted. Also Natural England have yet to respond about the Cliffs. Southern Water have at long last agreed the minutes from the meeting in October. He agrees the support for the TPO`s as trees take 50 gallons of water a day and more in the summer months, especially with the Firehills issues. He also suggests putting shovels into the grit bins to help distribute the salt when necessary. Cllr Revd Gibbs suggested putting an appeal for any old shovels onto the Fairlight Residents email system.
- Jenny Stephenson (resident) advised that The Woodland Trust are looking for tree champions, to look after groups of trees not individual ones. She also remarked about water issues which prevail at the Market Garden site.
- Keith Jellicoe (East Field Residents) suggested reminding Rother planners that although Southern Water cannot refuse to accept new water discharge into their systems, Planners can. Cllr Leadbetter felt that the likelihood was that if planners refuse to accept a new development on those grounds, it may get overturned on appeal.

There being no further business, The Chairman thanked everyone for their participation and closed this part of the Meeting at 8.47 pm.

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**(Cllr Revd V. Gibbs Chair)**

**Dated** -----

**APPENDICES**

**1. Highways Report/Vice-Chair report**

Highways Report.

In spite of assurances from ESCC that more money will be spent on repairing potholes, we seem to have more potholes than ever. I have reported so many I have almost lost count. However, the ones you see marked up have works orders raised on them and should be repaired, hopefully soon. I have complained about the state of many of our roads in the village, including the really nasty hole at the junction of Farley Way & Waites Lane.

On the outer edges of the village, Rosemary Lane and Peter James Lane are now more pothole than road so please take great care on all of our roads.

Large vehicles going up on our verges are also a problem, caused mainly by inconsiderate and illegal parking on junctions. A large vehicle avoiding a parked vehicle often has no choice but to go up on the verge causing a lot of unsightly damage. If you see a vehicle consistently parked on a junction, please inform the police on 101 or report it on Operation Crackdown. [www.operationcrackdown.org](http://www.operationcrackdown.org) Speeding in the village is still a problem, please don't. Again, persistent speeders can be reported to the police on 101 or on Operation Crackdown. In all cases the registration number of the offending vehicle will be needed as will the time and place of the offence.

Keep safe.

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

## 2. Planning Report

### Planning Report for Fairlight Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016

#### 1) Planning Applications

##### **Planning report week 46**

**RR/2015/2839/O**

**Mallydams Wood Wildlife Centre, Peter James Lane, TN35 4AH**

Certificate of lawfulness in respect of existing bird/ seal pond enclosure.

Parish Council comments: As the decision will be based on fact rather than opinion the Parish Council has decided not to comment.

##### **Planning report week 47**

**RR/2015/2872/P**

**Fairway, Channel Way, Fairlight TN35 4BP**

Replacement dwelling

Parish Council comments:

- 1) Although parking provision meets the standard set by the Highways Authority, greater parking provision would be preferable as no other parking provision is available in Channel Way.
- 2) Planners should consider whether there is an issue of overlooking gardens at the rear. It is noted that obscured glass (Pilkington scale No.1) has been required for upstairs rear windows at neighbouring properties (Dream's End RR/2015/947/P) and at Little Herm RR/2011/2434/P (where on appeal the level of obscure glazing was reduced from level 5 to level 1)
- 3) Planners should consider whether the application represents overdevelopment of this plot.
- 4) Consideration should be given to the colour of roof covering, as red tiles are such a feature of houses in Fairlight.
- 5) A proper plan for the disposal of surface water should be a condition of the development as soakaways are not suitable for this area and there is already a problem with surface water running down the unmade Channel Way. Surface water entering the ground at this point is known to be a contributory factor in the Rockmead Road landslip, where it has been necessary to install over 50 pumps to remove groundwater from the cliff.
- 6) Any comments made by residents of neighbouring properties should be taken into account.

##### **Planning report week 48**

**RR/2015/2835/P**

**St Andrew's Church, Coastguard Lane, Fairlight TN35 4AB**

Installation of lighting to church tower, west door and boundary walls adjacent to path from car park

Parish Council comments:

- 1) Fairlight Parish Council are content with the application.
- 2) The operating hours of dusk to 11pm should be included in any consent.
- 3) Any comments made by residents of neighbouring properties should be taken into account.

**RR/2015/2883/P**

**Gensing, 17 Waites Lane, Fairlight TN35 4AR**

Change of use of agricultural land to domestic use (extension of garden).

Parish Council comments:

1. Fairlight Parish Council has no objection to this application.
2. This comment is specific to this application and does not imply that Fairlight Parish council support the conversion of agricultural use to domestic use generally.
3. It should be a condition of the consent that any boundary constructed between this land and the remaining property should be sympathetic and appropriate to the rural location. Hedging or open fencing should be used rather than close boarded or solid construction.  
It was noted that any new fence would be visible from the public realm.
4. Any comments made by neighbours should be taken into account.

**RR/2015/2934/T**

**The Heathers, Broadway, Fairlight TN35 4DA**

Works to trees.

Parish Council comments:

1. It is agreed that work proposed which is required to mitigate the effects of subsidence should be approved.
2. Planners should consider whether the trees which are removed could be replaced within the site by trees of a species appropriate to the location.
3. Any comment made by neighbours should be taken into account.

**Planning report week 49 & 50**

Nothing for Fairlight

**Planning report week 51**

**RR/2015/3063/P**

**Alborada, Farley Way, Fairlight TN35 4AS**

First floor extension to form attic bedrooms.

Parish Council comments:

1. Fairlight Parish Council have no objection to this application subject to Planners being satisfied that there are no issues of overlooking.
2. Any comment made by neighbours should be taken into account.

**Planning report week 52**

Nothing for Fairlight

**Planning report week 1**

**RR/2015/3145/P**

**Seaglint, Channel Way, Fairlight TN35 4BP**

Demolition and rebuild of existing garage with new rear extension and new first floor extension over garage. (Alteration to the design at first floor of RR/2014/3097/P).

Parish council comments: Not yet considered by Parish council

**RR/2016/34/P**

**Full Moon Barn, Warren Road, Fairlight TN35 4AN**

Erection of open glass room.

Parish council comments: Not yet considered by Parish council

**Week 2**

**RR/2016/34/P**

**15 Waites Lane, Four Gables, Fairlight TN35 4AR**

Change of use from agricultural land to domestic use (extension of rear garden).

Parish council comments: Not yet considered by Parish council

**2) Planning Decisions**

**RR/2015/1824/P**

**Thyme Cottage, Rosemary Lane, Fairlight TN35 4EB**

Erection of triple garage with accommodation over, and storage shed.

Decision: Approved

**RR/2015/2691/P**

**Homestead, Shepherds Way, Fairlight TN35 4BB**

Proposed extensions to provide annexe accommodation.

Decision: Approved

**RR/2015/2514/P**

**Moon Cottage – Land to the East - Friars Hill , Fairlight TN34 4HJ**

Demolition of existing “ old chapel “ outbuilding and replacement with new bungalow on existing footprint.

Decision: Refused

The application does not fit the strict criteria for building new homes in the countryside. The change of the large garden to residential use would erode the AONB.

**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.

Decision: Refused

- 1) By virtue of the separation, scale and position outside the curtilage of the main dwelling design it is not ancillary to the main dwelling but unrelated and inappropriate new development in the countryside.
- 2) It is not subservient and the appearance and use is detrimental to the rural character of the area.

**RR/2015/2839/O**

**Mallydams Wood Wildlife Centre, Peter James Lane, TN35 4AH**

Certificate of lawfulness in respect of existing bird/ seal pond enclosure.

Decision: Certificate of lawfulness agreed as it appears that the work was completed over four years ago.

**RR/2015/2651/P**

**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.

Decision: Approved subject to conditions relating to the following:

- Provision of a construction management statement including storage of plant and materials, site access, parking within the site and working hours.
- Diversion of the public sewer.
- Protection of trees and provision of replacements where removed.
- Provision of samples of materials to be used.
- Provision of bird nesting and bat roosting boxes to replace lost habitat.
- Various provisions to protect wildlife during the nesting season.

Full details of the conditions can be seen on the Rother website at:

[http://planweb01.rother.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/viewDocument?file=dv\\_pl\\_files%5CRR\\_2015\\_2651\\_P%5CRR\\_2015\\_2651\\_P-DN.pdf&module=pl](http://planweb01.rother.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/viewDocument?file=dv_pl_files%5CRR_2015_2651_P%5CRR_2015_2651_P-DN.pdf&module=pl)

**RR/2015/2883/P**

**Gensing, 17 Waites Lane ,Fairlight TN35 4AR**

Change of use of agricultural land to domestic use (extension of garden).

Decision: Approved

**Planning report week 47**

**RR/2015/2872/P**

**Fairway, Channel Way, Fairlight TN35 4B**

Replacement dwelling

Decision: Approved

**RR/2015/2835/P**

**St Andrew's Church, Coastguard Lane, Fairlight TN35 4AB**

Installation of lighting to church tower, west door and boundary walls adjacent to path from car park

Decision: Approved for 3 years only to allow the effect of the lighting to be monitored.

Stephen Leadbetter  
Planning Committee Chairman  
19<sup>th</sup> January 2016

**Fairlight Parish Council Planning Committee – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015  
Notes of Meeting**

**Present:** Councillors S. Leadbetter (Chairman), A. Mier, Revd V. Gibbs, Mrs J. Annetts, Mrs C. Gallagher. Reverend Richard Barron, Mr K Devine, Mr H Kleinschrod.

**Apologies for Absence** - Birgit Gunz

**1) Code of Conduct and Disclosure of Interests:**

The Chairman disclosed a prejudicial interest in RR/2015/ 2872/P as he lives close by and wants to be able to comment on the application personally. He stated that he would withdraw when the discussion took place.

**2) Planning Applications**

**RR/2015/2835/P**

**St Andrew's Church, Coastguard Lane, Fairlight TN35 4AB**

Installation of lighting to church tower, west door and boundary walls adjacent to path from car park.

Richard Barron outlined the application which is designed to give a wash of discreet light to the upper

part of the church and to provide low level lighting for public safety. It uses LED technology and will be used only between dusk and 11pm. It is being financed by an individual benefactor.

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

- 1) Fairlight Parish Council are content with the application.
- 2) The operating hours of dusk to 11pm should be included in any consent.
- 3) Any comments made by residents of neighbouring properties should be taken into account.

### **RR/2015/2872/P**

#### **Fairway, Channel Way, Fairlight TN35 4BP**

Replacement dwelling

The Chairman left the meeting at this point having previously declared an interest.

Councillors noted that there had been one letter of objection on the Rother website.

Councillor Mier asked about car parking. Apparently there is provision for two cars. He had some concerns about how adequate this was bearing in mind that there is no parking available in Channel Way.

Overlooking of Gardens – The applicant is taking recommendations and advice from Rother to minimize this.

Councillor Gallagher had no objections but that asked that neighbours' comments should be taken into consideration.

Councillor Revd. Gibbs asked about drainage. There is proposed a rainwater harvester which overflows into the foul sewer.

Councillor Annetts said she was concerned about overdevelopment of what is a narrow plot. She was also concerned about parking provision when parking in the roads nearby was limited.

After consideration Councillors decided that comments to Rother should be:

- 1) Although parking provision meets the standard set by the Highways Authority, greater parking provision would be preferable as no other parking provision is available in Channel Way.
- 2) Planners should consider whether there is an issue of overlooking gardens at the rear. It is noted that obscured glass (Pilkington scale No.1) has been required for upstairs rear windows at neighbouring properties (Dream's End RR/2015/947/P) and at Little Herm RR/2011/2434/P (where on appeal the level of obscure glazing was reduced from level 5 to level 1)
- 3) Planners should consider whether the application represents overdevelopment of this plot.
- 4) Consideration should be given to the colour of roof covering, as red tiles are such a feature of houses in Fairlight.
- 5) A proper plan for the disposal of surface water should be a condition of the development as soakaways are not suitable for this area and there is already a problem with surface water running down the unmade Channel Way. Surface water entering the ground at this point is known to be a contributory factor in the Rockmead Road landslip, where it has been necessary to install over 50 pumps to remove groundwater from the cliff.
- 6) Any comments made by residents of neighbouring properties should be taken into account.

### **3) Neighbourhood Plan**

- a) **Questionnaire** – This has now been circulated by the Fairlight News distributors and their help is very much appreciated by the Parish Council. A drop box has been placed in the parish hall and those who wish to do so can reply by e-mail to [FairlightNP@hotmail.com](mailto:FairlightNP@hotmail.com). Councillor Gallagher offered to analyse responses.
- b) **Logo** – Committee members are very happy with the logo and Councillor Mier will arrange for the Parish Clerk to write thanking Colin for his help. Councillor Gallagher will contact him to find out how the logo can be copied, pasted and sized into other documents.
- c) **Terms of Reference (Constitution)** – Terms of reference were formally adopted.
- d) **E-mail, Twitter and Facebook Accounts** – These have been set up and access details will be circulated separately.
- e) **Village Hall Fair on 5<sup>th</sup> December** - Councillors approved the display material for the event. It was agreed that the table in the main hall could be used for directing residents to the display in the committee room, but we may need to be flexible as to how we operate. Display boards have been promised.
- f) **Open day following analysis of survey** - It was agreed that we would try and arrange this for a Saturday in February. By then we should have formed a core group and discovered who may volunteer for the topic groups.
- g) **Project Plan** – The Chairman ran through the Project Plan. While some tasks are a little behind schedule we should be able to complete the first stage by the end of March 2016.

#### **4) Any Other Business**

None.

Meeting closed at 3.30pm

#### **5) Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 15th December 2015 at 2.30pm in Fairlight Village Hall, subject to confirmation.

Stephen Leadbetter  
Fairlight PC Planning Committee Chairman  
2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015

### **Fairlight Parish Council Planning Committee – 15th December 2015 Notes of Meeting**

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

**Apologies for Absence** – Councillor Mrs J. Annetts,

#### **1) Code of Conduct and Disclosure of Interests:**

None

#### **2) Planning Applications**

##### **RR/2015/2883/P**

##### **Gensing, 17 Waites Lane TN35 4AR**

Change of use of agricultural land to domestic use (extension of garden).

Councillors discussed the application and noted that extending gardens by purchasing land from Wakeham's Farm had been approved for other properties. It was agreed that comments to Rother should be:

1. Fairlight Parish Council has no objection to this application.
  2. This comment is specific to this application and does not imply that Fairlight Parish council support the conversion of agricultural use to domestic use generally.
  3. It should be a condition of the consent that any boundary constructed between this land and the remaining property should be sympathetic and appropriate to the rural location. Hedging or open fencing should be used rather than close boarded or solid construction.
- It was noted that any new fence would be visible from the public realm.
4. Any comments made by neighbours should be taken into account.

##### **RR/2015/2934/T**

##### **The Heathers, Broadway, Fairlight TN35 4DA**

Works to trees.

Councillors discussed the application and considered that the works proposed were necessary to protect the structure of the property. It was agreed that comments to Rother should be:

1. It is agreed that work proposed which is required to mitigate the effects of subsidence should be approved.
2. Planners should consider whether the trees which are removed could be replaced within the site by trees of a species appropriate to the location.
3. Any comment made by neighbours should be taken into account.

#### **3) Neighbourhood Plan**

- h) **Questionnaire** – Closing date is 18<sup>th</sup> December following which returns will be registered and analysed. The prize draw will take place openly to avoid any suggestion of bias.
- i) **Open day following analysis of survey** - It was agreed that we would try and arrange this for a Saturday in February. We will discuss with the Consultant and the Chairman will check availability of the hall.
- j) **Project Plan** – While some tasks are a little behind schedule we should be able to complete the first stage by the end of March 2016. The consultant will be asked to update it based on information provided by the Chairman.

- k) **Windfall Sites** – The Chairman will ask the Consultant whether she has challenged their definition of windfall sites, currently less than six properties.
- l) **Meeting with Consultant** – The Chairman will invite Faustina to our meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January.

#### **4) Any Other Business**

**Letter to Rother concerning speaking rights at Planning Committee** - Councillor Mier's draft letter to Rother was agreed and he will arrange for it to be sent following minor amendments.

**Christmas and New Year arrangements** – The next scheduled meeting is on 12<sup>th</sup> January. Applications made between now and the New Year will be dealt with by e-mail and phone. In the event of a contentious application we will make special arrangements.

**Application in Mill Lane, Hastings** – It was agreed that this application was not sufficiently close to Fairlight for us to comment to Hastings.

Meeting closed at 3.15pm

#### **5) Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 2.30pm in Fairlight Village Hall, subject to confirmation.

Stephen Leadbetter  
Fairlight PC Planning Committee Chairman  
16th December 2015

#### **Fairlight Parish Council Planning Committee – 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

Present: Councillors S. Leadbetter (Chairman), A. Mier, Revd V. Gibbs, Mrs C. Gallagher.  
Councillor Mrs J. Annetts, Faustina Bayo - AiRS consultant.

##### **1) Code of Conduct and Disclosure of Interests:**

None

##### **2) Planning Applications**

None

##### **3) Neighbourhood Plan**

**Progress Report on Previously Agreed Actions** - The notes from the meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> November were reviewed to assess progress.

- a) **Public Consultation** – The consultation took place at the Village Hall Christmas Fair as planned. Questionnaires were circulated to all addresses in the parish and just under 120 returned. The prize draw has taken place.

**Action: Questionnaires are being analysed by Cllr Gallagher who will seek assistance as required.**

- b) **Call for Sites** – Has taken place via Village Voice, e-mail scheme, posters and through Rother Planning. Will be readvertised this week as a final call.

Faustina advised that we could target people who may have sites and also try and determine the type of development based on evidence from survey.

**Action: Chairman to contact Norman Kwan to see if any interest has been expressed to him and whether he contacted landowners as agreed.**

- c) **Core Group and Thematic Groups** – If surveys do not indicate volunteers, direct approaches can be made once key themes emerge from the survey.

**Action: All to consider those who should be approached to be on groups.**

- d) **IT and Communications Strategy** – We will continue to use Village Voice, e-mail scheme, posters and village website. We now have Facebook and Twitter accounts. After some discussion the consensus was that the discussion thread on the village website was little used and was not worth pursuing.

- e) **Statutory and Local Consultees** – Letters have now gone to all Statutory Consultees. Still need to identify and write to Local Consultees

**Action: Chairman to prepare and circulate proposed list of Local Consultees for comment.**

f) **Vision and Objectives** – Have been agreed.

#### **Project Plan**

The chairman produced an update of the Project Plan. Apart from forming Thematic Groups we are on track.

The next steps are:

- Identifying green spaces and Assets of Community Value ( ACVs )
- Assessing focus group findings
- Agree and consult on preferred sites
- Develop pre submission plan.

**Action: Faustina will send criteria and sample reports**

#### **Contact with Rother**

Faustina contacted Norman Kwan about the definition of windfall sites being sites of less than 6 properties. He argues that it is part of the Local Plan and has been accepted by the Inspector. If we could put together a package of sites of under 6 properties we could have an arguable case. We should consider not just current sites but those that could become available during the life of the plan.

Norman would like to meet us and AiRS and has suggested dates in Weeks commencing 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January.

**Action: Review potential sites**

**Agree meeting dates with Rother ( via Faustina ).**

**Check if Sustainability Appraisal is required**

#### **Open Day**

Agreed that 27<sup>th</sup> February would be best for Open Day ( now amended to 20<sup>th</sup> As hall not available on 27<sup>th</sup> and date OK for everyone ).

Purpose of the day is to:

- Update residents on survey results
- Agree the key issues to be developed as part of the Neighbourhood Plan
- Update on the call for sites and discuss type of development required
- Share and agree vision and objectives

The Open day will probably run from 10 – 1pm and will consist of a presentation , Q&A, exhibition and refreshments. Details to be confirmed.

#### **Locality Grant - Progress on items to be completed by financial year end**

The Chairman explained that the grant from Communities had to be spent by the end of March 2016 or was repayable.

The consultancy tasks to be completed were:

Development of Neighbourhood Profile including census info – 2 day x 375 = £750

Advice on draft project plan and communication strategy – 0.5 X 375 = £187.5

Advice on draft terms of reference and Setting up steering group – 0.5 x 375 = £187.5

Community consultation, evidence and studies – 4 days x 375 = £1500

Run open day and workshop – 1 day x £375

Support on Call for sites and criteria for selection 1.5 x 375 = £562.5

Development of Vision and Objectives 1 day x 375

Develop residents' survey 1 day x £375

Faustina confirmed that these tasks had been or would be completed and that AiRS could provide a statement to allow us to comply with the terms of the grant. AiRS are familiar with the process.

The remaining £139.50 is for hall hire which the Parish Clerk will account for.

#### **4) Any Other Business**

The recent flooding in Lower Waites Lane was discussed. There were 3 serious flooding incidents in just over a week. Councillor Rev Gibbs will write to southern Water expressing the parish council's concerns.

This was agreed as further evidence that the drainage system could not cope with further development without upgrading.

### **5) Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 6.15pm in Fairlight Village Hall, subject to confirmation.

Stephen Leadbetter  
Fairlight PC Planning Committee Chairman - 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016

### **3. Country Park Visitor Centre**

Report to Parish Council Meeting, 26 January 2016

At the conclusion of my last report I said that the onus was now on Groundwork to come up with some grants or other funding and some firms who could tender for the construction and fitting out of the proposed Visitor Centre within the overall resource envelope - whatever that finally turned out to be. So far as the Country Park Visitor Centre Project Board has been told, this is the present situation.

Shortly before Christmas Groundwork South reported that there were currently three active applications for funding which had been placed. They were:

1. Interreg application – this seeks EU funding support.
2. Heritage Lottery Funding – the initial application to the ‘Parks for People’ funding stream of the HLF was deemed inappropriate and an alternative suggested (see below).
3. The H.B. Allen Charitable Trust.

#### **1 Interreg**

Groundwork South joined other European partners to submit an initial expression of interest to one of the Interreg funding streams. Groundwork contributed €3,000 from their own funds towards the cost of the expression of interest. The project is focused on straw bale constructed public buildings. Groundwork expects to hear in January 2016 whether it can proceed to full application. If the decision were favourable the timescale would be as follows.

\* Application submission: February 2016

\* Final decision: March/April 2016. Project start date – 1 September 2016

\* Value: €221,600

#### **2 Heritage Lottery Funding**

Groundwork South was advised by HLS that their initial enquiry to the HLS ‘Parks for People’ funding stream in October 2015 should be re-routed to their general heritage funding. The initial enquiry to the subsequent funding stream was submitted in December 2015. Groundwork South expects to hear by the end of January if it can proceed to full application. If the green light is given the anticipated timescale would be as follows.

\* Application: 7 March 2016

\* Decision: June 2016

\* Value: £200,000

#### **3 The H.B. Allen Charitable Trust**

Groundwork South has applied to the HB Allen Charitable Trust for costs for interpretation. (Essentially this would cover the costs of fitting out the Visitor Centre with exhibition panels etc)

\* Application: December 2015

\* Final Decision: Expected by March 2016, no exact date given

\* Value: £50,000

Essentially the key player of these 3 is the HLF because without a substantial grant the amount of money available to HBC from within its own resources (c. £225,000) to construct the centre is inadequate. The attitude of the HLF is therefore crucial.

Haydon Luke, 18/01/16

### **4. RALC report**

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016  
Emmanuel Centre, Harrier Lane, Battle

#### **Police report**

- 1) No rise in violent crime, just a slight increase in criminal damage, mainly due to one individual.
- 2) Ongoing problems re' crime in Caravan Parks.
- 3) Re-affirmation that PCSO's will be diverted to any given area that it is felt needed.

I asked the Police spokeswoman what is the point of having a PCSO/Policeman/Woman if we are not going to have regular presence.

Her reply indicated what the Police said at the previous meeting, and that was they are concentrating on actively dealing with "a problem" wherever that may be, and diverting PCSO's to the area in question. I said that a visible presence would deter crime, not wait for it to happen and then deal with it.....no positive answer forthcoming to that one I'm afraid!

4) As of the date of this meeting, there is still no firm decision on having a designated PCSO for any given area.

(IMO, this seems to tie in with the policy of diverting them to an incident, but we would lose any rapport with a "regular" PCSO.)

5) It is anticipated there will be a reduction of PCSO's by about 20%

### **Waste & recycling**

There is still a supply problem for people awaiting a Brown Bin.

### **Broadband in Sussex**

Chairman of Brighton Council gave a talk on the roll out of super fast Broadband.

There are still problems re' this issue, namely those that have a good fast connection are getting as good if not better service, those in the middle range are getting a slightly better service, whereas those at the bottom end, are generally getting (still) a poor service re' speed.

A working Party is to be set up to push the various bodies to see improvement.

### **Highways matters**

As per the SALC e-mail I forwarded the other day, it looks that in the future that Pothole reporting will be to the private Contractor who will be responsible for the work.

I was highlighted by a representative about who will be ultimately responsible for damage caused by Potholes.....clarification is needed on this point.