

## FAIRLIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting held at Fairlight Village Hall on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016 at 7.15pm.

Present: Councillors Revd. V. Gibbs (Chair), J. Annetts, Mrs C. Gallagher, D. Greenup, A. King, S. Leadbetter, A. Mier and D. Thatcher. Also present: Dist Cllr R. Bird, Parish Clerk J. Edmunds and 12 members of the public.

**16036 Apologies for Absence:** County Cllr C. Maynard, Dist. Cllr C. Saint

**16037 Agenda additions:** None.

**16038 Code of Conduct and Disclosure of Interests:** Cllr King personal and pecuniary interest re item 6(a) Mopp and Village Hall. Cllr Leadbetter and Cllr Mrs Annetts both personal and pecuniary re item 6(a) Fairfest and in Cllr Mrs Annetts case also Fairlight Open Gardens. Cllr Revd Gibbs re item 6(c) Chair's allowance.

**16039 To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016.**

The minutes having been distributed prior to the meeting and made available to the Public at the meeting, were approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**16040 Matters arising from the Minutes not otherwise on the Agenda:** The Chair mentioned the Parish Assembly on 13<sup>th</sup> May and that a talk about a proposed Nature Reserve at Stonelynk would be given by Alastair Fairley and residents were encouraged to come along and listen and then discuss their thoughts with him. Cllr Mrs Gallagher stated that 3 Cllrs met briefly with Mr Fairley on 8th March, and that he explained that it was hoped to turn this land into a small nature reserve and intended to put the land in Trust, but all would be explained at the Parish Assembly.

**16041 Councillor Vacancy**

Mr Michael Jones had indicated that he was prepared to join the Parish Council and his summation had been distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Cllr Thatcher proposed Mr Jones as a new co-opted Cllr and Cllr Mrs Annetts seconded the proposal.

Cllrs voted unanimously to co-opt him as a new Parish Councillor. His form of declaration was completed in front of the Clerk and Mr Jones was invited to join the meeting.

**16042 Financial Matters**

**(a )**Discuss the following grant requests and decide the individual amounts to be granted:

**1. Mopps £1500, 2.Village Hall £1000, 3. Activate £300, 4.Playgroup £450, 5.Pett Level Rescue Boat £250, 6.Fairlight Open Gardens £50, 7.St Andrews Church Graveyard upkeep £1800, 8.Sussex Air Ambulance £50, 9.Rother Rural Trust £100, 10.Victim Support £50, 11. Fairfest £250, 12. John Lutman Award £150**

**1. Mopps.** Cllr King left the room whilst this and the Village Hall request were discussed and then he rejoined the meeting. In his absence, the requests for £1000 towards general running and £500 towards a Welfare Officer were discussed and Cllrs generally felt that this was a very worthwhile cause which had seen a large slice of its income reduced due to ESCC's decision to withdraw their funding. Cllr Greenup proposed that £1500 be the grant agreed which was seconded by Cllr Leadbetter. All voted in favour.

**Resolved.**

**2. Village Hall.** Cllrs discussed the requested figure and Cllr Leadbetter proposed that the grant should be £1000 as in previous years. Cllr Mier seconded the proposal. All voted in favour. **Resolved.**

**11. Fairfest.** Cllrs Mrs Annetts and Cllr Leadbetter left the room at this point. Cllrs then discussed the request which is requested to cover the Public Liability Insurance cost for the Annual festival. Cllr King proposed the grant be made available in the sum of £250. Cllr Mier seconded the proposal. All voted in favour. **Resolved.**

**6. Fairlight Open Gardens.** Cllr Greenup explained that the requested sum was to cover the cost of publicity and posters and that all proceeds from the weekend would go to Fairlight Preservation Trust. Cllr Mrs Gallagher proposed the grant be made available in the sum of £50. Cllr Thatcher seconded the proposal. All voted in favour. **Resolved.**

Cllrs Leadbetter and Mrs Annetts then re-joined the meeting.

The Councillors then debated the remainder of the requests and considered increasing some of the donations. Ultimately, Cllr Greenup proposed that the remaining requests be agreed as requested. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Gallagher. All agreed. **Resolved.** It was also agreed that the Clerk will, when sending the cheques, remind all grantees that in future no payments will be made unless a request is received.

**Resolved:** That the Council in accordance with its powers under section 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in

the interests of the area of its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with expenditure:- **Mopps £1500, Village Hall £1000, Activate £300, Playgroup £450, Pett Level Rescue Boat £250, St Andrews Church Graveyard upkeep £1800, Sussex Air Ambulance £50, Rother Rural Trust £100, Fairlight Open Gardens £50, Fairfest £250, Victim Support £50, John Lutman Award £150**

**(b) Amendments to the budget lines for 2016/17 were not necessary as the agreed grants were within the already agreed budget.**

**(c) Chairman`s Allowance 2016/17**

Having declared an interest in this item, Cllr Revd Gibbs vacated the Chair at 7.34pm whilst this item was discussed.

The Vice-Chair took over the Chair of the meeting . The Clerk advised that the current allowance was £250 and had been for the last 3 years. Cllr Mier explained how useful it had been whilst he had been Chair and gave details on how funds had been spent previously.

Cllr Mier proposed that the sum of £250 be available again for 2016/17. Cllr Leadbetter seconded the proposal.

All Cllrs voted in favour. **Resolved.**

Cllr Revd Gibbs rejoined the Meeting at 7.36pm and re-took the Chair of the Meeting.

**(d) Update re the replacement of the Notice Board at Shepherds Way/Channel Way**

Cllr King advised that a new notice board was now in place at the junction of Shepherds Way and Channel Way. The clerk then advised that the same problem had occurred with the notice board by the junction of Knowle Road and that a quote had been requested from Geoff Smith to replace it.

**(e) Update on the application for Borrowing Approval from DCLG re Phase 3 of the Cliffs project**

The Clerk explained that it was necessary for Full Council to approve that Borrowing Approval could be sought from DCLG for the Loan from Public Works Loan Board to make the contribution to the Cliff project. The Clerk reminded Cllrs that they had previously approved to borrow up to £80k by way of loan over 40 years and also £10k would be taken from reserves. At this stage however the exact amount was not known because a figure from Fairlight Preservation Trust was still awaited.

Cllr Mrs Gallagher proposed that the Borrowing Approval be sought and this was seconded by Cllr Thatcher. All voted in favour. **Resolved**

The Chair expressed concern over the current cost of running the pumps which remove water from the cliffs and the fact that the contract between WJ Groundworks and Rother appears to have been allowed by Rother to lapse. Brenda Mason from Rother has advised that it is a rolling contract and that the bill which was invoiced in February is not due to be paid until the end of March. Any repair works or servicing of the pumps which are currently inefficient will be carried out in April. There is a fear that the pumps have started to fail due to bio-fouling. This issue is to be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting in April.

**16043 Lutman Award**

It was decided that the committee of Cllrs King, Jones and Revd Gibbs will meet to discuss any nominations received by 30<sup>th</sup> April. Forms will be available at the Post Office and on-line. Publicity will be through the residents email system and the Fairlight website.

Mrs Lutman has been invited to present the award at the Parish Assembly.

**16044 Queen`s 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

A discussion took place regarding the lighting of the Beacon and also what form of celebration could take place on the official day.

Cllr Mier advised that George Hensher is willing to supervise the lighting and both Cllr Mier and Cllr Jones offered to help. It was decided to approach some local `younger` residents to help with the placing of the straw etc in the Beacon. Cllr King will ask around.

As it is the same weekend as the Gardens Open days, a suggestion is to have a street party starting at 4 pm along The Broadway and primarily outside the Village Hall. A grant of up to £500 may be available from Rother but the application will need to be in by 4<sup>th</sup> April. Cllr Mrs Annetts will deal with this with the help of the Clerk who will also check to make sure the Parish Council`s Insurance covers the Public Liability.

**16045 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.

**16046 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 advised that the only unresolved issue is for the proposed Telecoms mast on Battery Hill which Rother have asked the company concerned to put in a formal Planning request as there are some concerns being raised.

Cllr Leadbetter also advised that the Neighbourhood Plan is on track and moving forward. There was a meeting with Rother DC and AirS yesterday 21st March and the sites which had been put forward during the 'Call for Sites' are due to be visited shortly to ascertain their suitability. They are also looking at the potential for green space designation which could be used by local people.

The end of grant report is about to be submitted to Groundworks.

**16047 Land Management:  
(a) Monthly Report**

Cllr King reported the following:-

(1) The collapsed fence panels at the back of a property adjoining Wood field have been replaced and further fencing re-aligned.

(2) The bin in Wood Field has been replaced.

(3) The Notice-board previously mentioned has been replaced.

(4) The benches in Wood Field have been coated today and a second coat will be applied tomorrow.

**(b) Update re 'a suitably worded sign for Lower Waites Lane'**

It was decided that the sign is in place although a different coloured background may be more effective. A bigger problem could be the wearing away of the road surface as it is beginning to collapse in places. A quote for a sign in Channel Way East regarding the footpath which is now closed due to collapse has been obtained and is £81.46 plus VAT including post and fixings. The Clerk has been given the go ahead to order.

Cllr Mier advised that some undergrowth may need to be cut back to allow for the siting of the sign but that it was outside of the SSSI boundary.

**(c) Use of Wood Field by the PCC on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

The Chair read out a request from the PCC to use the field on 14<sup>th</sup> May for a families fun day with picnics and games being the aims for the day and forming part of the PCC's Church alive week. A copy of their Public Liability Insurance has been seen. It was agreed to allow the use of the field subject to the usual caveats concerning weather and marshalling.

**(d) Woodland Way Twitten**

Cllr Thatcher explained that ESCC were unwilling to pursue the original creation order but are willing to take over and maintain the twitten if it was purchased by the PC and then dedicated. It was agreed that a further letter would be written to the Solicitor's of the owner and would be delivered by hand to them with a copy going to the owner. Cllrs Mrs Annetts and Mrs Gallagher volunteered to deliver the letter and also Cllr Mrs Annetts would visit the owner.

**16048 County and District Councillors Reports:**

County Cllr Maynard was absent due to ill health and therefore a County report could not be delivered.

Dist Cllr Bird gave details of the suggested change to the District Councillor boundary's following the Electoral Review. It is still subject to consultation and residents can make their views known until 16<sup>th</sup> June. Details on how to view the recommendations and/or comment can be found on a poster on the notice board at the Village Hall. The proposed new area will be known as Southern Rother and include the Villages of Fairlight, Icklesham, Guestling and Pett. It will retain 2 District Councillor representation.

**16049 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>
1770	AB Fire & Security	49.39	8.23
1771	Mrs V King	xxxxxx	
1772	J Edmunds (Salary and Expenses)	xxxxxx	
1773	HMRC	xxxxxx	
1774	Mrs T Robertson	xxxxxx	
1775	Viking	114.88	10.15
1776	P Reid	27.39	
1777	G Smith (Noticeboard)	425.00	
1778	ROYAL British Legion Industries Ltd (sign)	97.75	16.29

**16034 Information and/or Future Agenda Items**

- **Correspondence**

**Correspondence Received:-**

**A Fairley re Stonelynk Nature Reserve**  
**A Rudd re Parish Assembly**  
**ESCC re Electoral Review Boundary Changes**  
**S Hardy re Rother Rural Trust**  
**Hayley Cook re Memorial Bench**  
**Murray Davidson (HBC) reply to letter 05/02**  
**RDC re dog waste annual charge**  
**Paul Capps**  
**PCC re use of Wood Field**  
**St Andrews – copy of PL Insurance**  
**Various grant requests**  
**Various Neighbourhood Plan correspondence**  
**Various SALC**  
**Weekly Rural News**  
**Weekly Police updates**  
**Wykeham Hurford re twitten (requesting resend of previous letters)**

**Correspondence Sent:**

**A Fairley re Stonelynk Nature Reserve**  
**A Rudd – Parish Assembly invite**  
**ESCC re signs LWL/Channel Way**  
**S Hardy re Rother Rural Trust**  
**Hayley Cook**  
**Neighbourhood Planning 16x consultation letters**  
**Paul Capps**  
**Planning Applicants x4**  
**Wykeham Hurford**

**Future events**

- **Look at sewage problems in Lower Waites Lane**

**Information**

The Chair wished to recognise the hard work and dedication Paul Capps had carried out for the Village over the years and was saddened that he had had to retire for personal reasons from Fairlight Preservation Trust. Whilst he would be a hard act to follow, she welcomed David Shortman into the role of Acting Chairman.

Other Cllrs were quick to give their own recognition of what Paul had achieved.

**16035 Date of next meeting** – Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016, 7.15pm at Fairlight.  
The formal part of the meeting closed at 8.43 pm

**Open Forum**

- John Pulfer (resident) thanked the PC members for the grant to the Pett Level Rescue Boat appeal.
- A resident asked Cllr Leadbetter about the sites being looked at as previously mentioned. Cllr Leadbetter expanded on the details of the sites to be looked at and explained why things had to be done formally.
- Trevor Lewing (Fairlight Residents) suggested a weight restriction for Lower Waites Lane could be considered. Cllr Revd Gibbs will look into it.
- David Shortman (Fairlight Preservation Trust) was delighted that the Borrowing Approval had formally been agreed. He agreed that the pumps issue is urgent and a problem especially as there cannot be a situation where the pumps fail. He re-iterated what had already been agreed regarding making sure a contract remains in place.
- Val King thanked the PC on behalf of Mopp for the grant monies agreed.
- Francis Beck inquired when the hedge on the Firehills would be replanted. Cllr Mrs Gallagher advised HBC would do it in November.
- John Pulfer suggested approaching the fire brigade to help with the Beacon.



**RR/2016/496/P**

**Stella Maris, Fyrsway, Fairlight, TN35 4BG**

Roof extension incorporating front and side dormer and raised central roof with rear balcony.

Parish Council comments:

- 1) Fairlight Parish Council has no objection to this application.
- 2) Planners should consider whether the rear balcony proposed in this application overlooks nearby properties to an unreasonable degree.
- 3) Any comments made by neighbours should be taken into account.
- 4) Planners should note that Land Registry sheet LX13 submitted with this application was very old and out of date and the wrong plot is highlighted.

**RR/2016/566/P**

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

Extension at first floor to form attic bedrooms.

Parish Council comments:

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

**Planning report weeks 9/10**

Nothing for Fairlight

**2) Planning Decisions**

**RR/2016/233/P**

**Moondarra, Gorsethorn Way, Fairlight TN35 4BQ**

Demolition of sun room and proposed erection of single storey rear extension.

Decision: Approved

**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).

Decision: refused for the following reasons.

The height, depth and close location to the eastern boundary of the site, the proposed two storey extension would have an unacceptable overbearing impact on Mirador to the detriment of its outlook,

The proposed extensive windows would also lead to a high degree of overlooking from a position close to the boundary with Mirador to the detriment of the amenities of the adjoining property.

The first floor extension proposed, with a similar ridge height to the existing pitched roof form, would add a significant amount of massing to the dwelling. In addition, the design approach is not considered to be subservient to the existing dwelling, and is out of keeping in this particular locality. The proposal would be a discordant addition in this particular location. While the design in itself is modern and interesting, it is not in keeping with the other properties along Channel Way.

Furthermore, the addition of an extension of this scale onto the modest chalet bungalow would result in a dwelling which, with a variety of roof styles, would look incongruous.

**RR/2016/205/P**

**4 Battery Hill, Stonelynk Farm, Fairlight TN35 4AP**

Erection of two bay garage.

Decision: Approved

Stephen Leadbetter  
Planning Committee Chairman  
16<sup>th</sup> March 2016

**3. Country Park Visitor Centre**

Report to Parish Council Meeting, 22 March 2016

The Visitor Centre Board has not met since my last report. However, I have received a written update from Murray Davidson on the progress of the various recent applications for funding by Groundwork South.

Two of the applications have received positive feedback.

#### 1 Interreg

Groundwork South joined other European partners to submit an initial expression of interest to one of the Interreg funding streams. The project is focused on straw bale constructed public buildings. Groundwork was informed earlier in March that the initial application was successful. Groundwork and their European partners have been invited to progress through to the next stage. This was a major achievement as it is one of only 21 projects out of 79 that were invited to work up detailed submissions. It one of only 4 projects under the Low Carbon funding stream that has been invite to submit further detail.

HBC and Groundwork are awaiting confirmation from Interreg as to the appropriate deadlines for these submissions but expect this to be within weeks. Value of the bid is £330,000.

If the bid is successful they still hope to meet a September construction start date.

#### 2 Heritage Lottery Funding

Groundwork South were advised by Heritage Lottery South that the initial enquiry to HLS 'Parks for People' funding stream in October 2015 should be re-routed to general heritage funding.

The initial enquiry to the subsequent funding stream was submitted in December 2015. Groundwork have received feedback and advice on how best to proceed but to do so successfully will require further work over a period of 6 months. Groundwork will undertake this work at their expense and hope to be in position to submit a significant, circa £500,000, bid to the HLF Main Heritage Grants Fund in early June for a decision in September.

Alongside these two major applications, Groundwork is also pursuing a number of smaller grant applications to support grant aid for the fitting out of the Centre.

As a consequence of all this feedback, HBC is considering delaying the tender process to better align with the timescales of these major grant applications. HBC will reach a decision on when to tender following further meetings with Groundwork South and on the direction of the Chair of the Project Board, Councillor Warren Davies.

The Project Board has been promised a full update on these developments in the near future.

Haydon Luke, March 2016