



FAIRLIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

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Draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting - 28th January 2025 at Fairlight Memorial Hall 7.00 pm

Present: Cllr M Clarke Cllr L Cooke Cllr L Miller Cllr D Pichard Cllr G Smith (Vice Chair) Cllr S Stewart (Chair) Cllr S Whiteman.

In attendance: Danielle Gould, Clerk & RFO. Cllr Grohne and Cllr Mier of Rother District Council. Cllr Maynard of East Sussex County Council. Several members of the public were present.

The Chair will open the meeting at 7pm.

25/001 Item 1. The Chair will invite members of the public to comment or ask questions on any matters in respect of the business on the agenda. (Please note, questions cannot be asked in respect of confidential items).

In relation to Item 7, the question was asked why it was necessary for the Clerk to have delegated authority to respond to planning applications when there is a planning committee. The Chair and the Clerk explained that if the comment deadline on the application falls before the meeting date, the Clerk will be able to comment following a majority vote from Council.

25/002 Item 2. To receive reports and ask questions of the County Councillor Carl Maynard (to include report regarding Battery Hill Road markings) and the Rother District Councillors concerning County Council and Rother District Council matters.

Cllr Maynard gave a report on Government devolution and the reorganisation of local government. He said the application has now gone in and the outcome should be known in the next few weeks. He said that the May elections are likely to be postponed. The Chair requested that any updates on the devolution were sent to the Parish Council. Cllr Maynard also reported that he would be meeting with the Senior Steward on 29th January 2025 to discuss Battery Hill Road markings and overgrown vegetation.

Cllr Mier reported on Localisation and Planning Committees. He also gave a brief report on the Market Garden site and the Rother budget. Cllr Mier asked Cllr Maynard if during his time with the Steward on the 29th (January) he could have a look at the pavement outside of The Cove pub. Cllr Grohne also spoke about the devolution process and said he would like to meet with the Parishes separately to get their opinions on the matter.

25/003 Item 3. To record any apologies for absence

a) To receive and record apologies for absence. *Apologies from Cllr Baker*

b) To consider any requests for approval of reasons for absence, if any. *There were none.*

25/004 Item 4. Code of Conduct and Disclosure of Interests - To receive any disclosures by members, of personal or prejudicial interest in matters on the agenda. Members are reminded a) to repeat their declaration immediately prior to commencement of the item in question and b) complete the declaration of interests form.

Cllr Whiteman declared an interest in Item 11.

25/005 Item 5. Co-option of Councillor to fill the vacancy in Fairlight. The valid applicant's application form will be circulated to all Councillors before the meeting. The candidate will be offered the opportunity to speak in support of their application; this will be followed by a vote by way of a show of hands. A declaration of acceptance of office to be completed after co-option. **RESOLVED** A vote was taken to co-opt Cllr Thatcher. A declaration of acceptance of office was completed by Cllr Thatcher and he joined Council for the remainder of the meeting.

25/006 Item 6. To agree 25/26 budget. RESOLVED. 2025/2026 Budget was approved. Precept £74,867.00. It was also requested for the Clerk to contact the Church to confirm if the War Memorial is covered under their insurance.

25/007 Item 7. To consider and approve the signing by the Chair of the minutes of:

- a) Finance and Administration Committee meeting held on 2nd July 2024. **RESOLVED** Approved and signed.
- b) Full Parish Council meeting held on 10th December 2024. **RESOLVED** Approved and signed.

25/008 Item 8. Matters requiring a Decision by Council

Financial Matters

- a) To receive the list of items paid to date in November, December and January and list of items for payment. **RESOLVED** Approved and cheques signed.
- b) To receive receipts and payments report. **RESOLVED** Approved.
- c) To approve reconciliation from November and December. **RESOLVED** Approved and signed.
- d) To note Unity Trust have reduced their interest rate from 2.60% to 2.50%. **RESOLVED** Noted.
- e) To consider using Unity Trust as main bank account. **RESOLVED** It was agreed to open a current account with Unity Trust and use as main account.
- f) To approve CiLCA Trainer costs of £330. **RESOLVED** Approved.
- g) To approve a PO Box address for Clerk at cost of £353.50 per annum. **RESOLVED** Approved.
- i) To consider opening Business Savings Account with Nationwide. **RESOLVED** Nationwide are no longer offering Business Savings accounts to new customers. Clerk to investigate other options.
- h) To note £500.00 compensation received from NatWest. **RESOLVED** Noted.

25/009 Item 9. Planning Applications To consider giving the Clerk delegated authority to respond to planning applications. **RESOLVED** Council agreed to give the Clerk delegated authority.

25/010 Item 10. Defibrillator Donation To consider giving donation to Fairlight Community First Responders for new defibrillator battery and pads, cost of approx. £345.00 (£245.00 for battery, £100.00 for pads). **RESOLVED** It was agreed to donate the full amount of costs associated with new parts for defibrillator. The Clerk is to contact Fairlight Community First Responders to discuss payment.

25/011 Item 11. Fairfest 2025 To agree to use of Wood Field, Saturday 21st June for Fairfest 2025. **RESOLVED** Council agreed to the use of Wood Field for Fairfest 25, to include use of Activate hut. The Clerk will contact Hastings AFC to let them know the field will be unavailable that day.

25/012 Item 12. Grit Bin To consider applying for grit bin to be positioned at the Junction of Lower Waites Lane and The Avenue. **RESOLVED** Approved. Grit bin installation at cost of £63.00. The Clerk is to confirm if Rother or the Parish Council are responsible for the associated costs before ordering.

25/013 Item 13. CCTV To accept the costs of connection and unmetered electric agreement. **RESOLVED** Costs accepted. ESCC License from Highways to carry out the work at a cost of £419. Hannington Gilbert- £1,430.27. Continued annual usage circa £1,000.00 (to be verified).

25/014 Item 14. Knowle Wood – To consider pollarding Oak Trees. **RESOLVED** There was a brief discussion regarding the Oak Trees, concerns were raised that if the Parish Council paid for the trees in question to be pollarded, It would set a precedent for other residents with tree issues and could potentially cost the Parish Council a lot of money. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the resident and explain how they can apply to RDC for the trees to be assessed.

25/015 Item 15. Leases - Tennis Club and Bowls Club To consider proceeding with leases without the use of a Solicitor. **RESOLVED** The Clerk presented advice that was received from SLCC Solicitor stating Council should seek and budget for professional advice on matters regarding leases. Council resolved that the Clerk is to inform the Solicitor previously dealing with leases that their services are not required. Council agreed to write their own leases for Activate, Tennis Club and Bowls Club.

Matters for Information or Noting

25/016 Item 16. Correspondence - (Any late received correspondence will be tabled at the meeting).

a) Email regarding the appointment of the Clerk – The Chair explained the situation with the previous Council and Clerk. There was an Interim Parish Council formed. He explained that there is no law that states you must advertise for a Clerk if there is someone willing to do the job. He said enquiries were made to other Clerks. He also confirmed that advice was sought from Trevor Lego. Cllr Whiteman stated a job description and personal specification were drawn up. Cllr Grohne said that the transition was difficult for the new Council it was handled as it should have been. Cllr Clarke said that the Clerk should ideally not live within the Village.

b) Emails regarding Trooli - Telegraph pole installation. The Chair received an email from Cllr Grohne stating he had spoken to Trooli and they had confirmed that they are only putting four telegraph poles up in Fairlight. The Chair stated these are for extension purposes only. There were also concerns from residents that Trooli were to be installing a pole next to a drop curb which would restrict wheelchair/ vehicle access, Trooli emailed to confirm the location of the pole in question and confirmed it is not next to a drop curb.

25/017 Item 17. Reports from Councillors

Cllr Cooke gave an update on Pathfinders and asked if members of the public would attend the Southern Water drop in event on Thursday 6th February 3pm-7pm at Fairlight Village Hall.

Cllr Clarke gave a brief update on Footpaths 32/34 and said he would like to obtain quotes for the work to be carried out. the Clerk confirmed it will be an item on the February Agenda.

25/018 Item 18. Christmas Lights 2024 winners were announced -

1st Place 23, (new England), Rockmead Road.

2nd Place 31, Knowle Road.

25/019 Item 19. Items for Consideration for Future Agenda -

Tennis Court Access Route.

Pathways 32/34.

Benches for Village.

Fairlight Pavillion.

VE Day update.

25/020 Item 20. Date and venue for next meeting - Tuesday 25th February, 7 pm, Fairlight Village Hall.

To consider a resolution to go into confidential session on the grounds that the following business would disclose exempt matters.

25/021 Item 21. To ratify the appointment of the Clerk. **RESOLVED** The Clerk was retrospectively appointed. Hours and salary were confirmed.