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**Minutes of Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 23rd April 2024
at 7.00 pm in Fairlight Village Hall**

Present: Councillors – Ms I Horsley (Chair), Miss C Sharpe, Mr D Greenup, Mr R Fellows-Turnbull, Mr D Williams, Ms L Cooke, Mr S Baker, Mr D Shortman

County and District Councillors – Mr A Mier and Mr T Grohne

Proper Officer/RFO - Mrs P Collins

Members of the Public – 20

ACTION

2117 Apologies for absence (Including resolutions to accept reason for absence by
2224 Councillors)

083 Apologies received from Cllrs – Mr C Maynard
Resolved to accept the reasons for absence.

2300 Chairman's Report

0224 The Chair welcomed members of the Public and presented their report

084 (See reports below)

2408 Code of Conduct and Disclosure of Interests

5 (a) To receive any disclosures by members, of personal or prejudicial interest in matters on the agenda
There were no declarations of interest

2408 Public questions in respect of items on the agenda

6 Standing orders were suspended

The Public wished to raise questions on agenda items –
11a) - £102 spent on publications at Waterstones and vat charge
13. – Grass cutting dates for the Circle

Standing orders were reinstated

ACTION

2408 Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 27th February 2024

7 The minutes were distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting and made available to the Public.

Resolved minutes were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

2408 Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda

8 There were no matters arising

2408 County and District Councillors reports

9 Cllr Mier and Grohne did not provide a report

2409 Parish Councillors

0 (a) To note the results of the by-election for two Parish Councillors

The appointment of Cllrs Baker and Cooke were note.

(b) The Chair requested an additional confidential item to be added to this item.

- “The appropriate use of Parish Council email accounts by Councillors”

Resolved to hold a confidential item and exclude the Public. Standing orders to be suspended to hold the open forum and the confidential item to be discussed after the Public have exited the room

2409 Policies and Practices

1 (a) To discuss and adopt the revised policies

- Co-option policy - To review the voting method to be used

Resolved to continue with the voting method stated in the policy.

2409 Co-option of Parish Councillors

2 (a) To receive candidates’ applications and presentations

Mr D Shortman made a short presentation

(b) To decide whether to proceed with the co-option process – subject to suitable candidates

Resolved to proceed with the co-option process

(c) To decide on individual candidates’ applications/presentations for co-option - subject to suitable candidates

Resolved to co-opt Mr Shortman as a Councillor to the Parish Council

2409 Financial Matters

3

- (a) To consider and approve schedule of payments and receipts for April 2024
The Proper Officer replied to the public question
Resolved to approve the payments for April 2024
- (b) To consider and sign the monthly bank reconciliations.
Resolved to note and sign the bank reconciliations as correct.
- (c) To consider monthly budget monitoring figures.
The budget monitoring figures were circulated to Councillors prior to this meeting.
Current expenditure was as predicted.

ACTION

2409 Planning Committee

4

- (a) To receive the monthly report
See report below

2409 Land Management Group

5

- (a) To receive the monthly report (Cllrs Horsley and Fellows-Turnbull)
See reports below.
A request had been received from the Activate Youth Club to hold a Fun Run on Wood Field on 28th April 2024.
Resolved to approve this request subject to appropriate insurance and safety provisions
- (b) To receive an update in respect of the CCTV power outage. (Cllr Williams)
Cllr Williams reported continued delays by ESCC/Balfour Beatty. Cllr Maynard will be contacted for assistance to try and speed up the process and investigate the delays. **DS**
- (c) To consider/approve the draft lease for Fairlight Tennis Club
The proposed lease was discussed. Cllr Shortman to review. **PO**

2409 Finance and Administration Committee

6

- (a) To receive a monthly report (Cllr Horsley)
(See report below)
Resolved not to hold a meeting of this Committee on 7th May 2024

2409 Drop-In Social Hub Group

7

- (a) To receive an update on the Drop-In Social Hub Group
Cllr Sharpe updated the meeting on current and future events/attendees to DISH.
Also, reported on the 1st Anniversary event held on 1st April 2024.

2409 Parish Council Website and Facebook

8

- (a) To receive a monthly report

Cllr Sharpe continues to support the current website and Facebook page and requested that if any omissions or errors were spotted to report them to her. A new website is being developed.

- (b) To consider/approve the change to an administered email accounts scheme

Cllr Sharpe and the Proper Officer to look into the options available

CS/PO

2409 War Memorial Steering Group

9

- (a) To receive an update on the project (Haydon Luke)

See report below

2410 Fairlight Pavilion Project (Mr G Smith)

0

- (a) To receive an update on this project

See report below

Cllr Horsley requested the Fairlight Pavilion Committee forward any details they wish to be included in the new lease.

2410 Hastings Country Park

1

- (a) To receive a monthly update (Haydon Luke)

See report below

ACTION

2410 D-Day 80 event – 6th June 2024

2

- (a) To discuss/approve proposed events

Permission has been received from the owner of Mountain Field to light the beacon. The Royal British Legion will be raising a flag at St Andrews Church. Cllr Sharpe proposing to hold a Fish n Chip event and discussions are being held with the FRA for their support.

Resolved to purchase signs for the Circle bollards

PO

2410 Fairlight Pantomime Group

3

- (a) To consider and approve the request from the Fairlight Pantomime Group

- The Parish Council to hold remaining funds if this Group ceased until a new organisation is formed

- To ring fence these funds for this purpose only.

Councillors made suggestions to this proposal – a reduction to 5 to 10 years to hold the funds, possible age range to receive the funds and Parish Council discretion to whom it is given.

Resolved Proper Officer to write to the Pantomime Group with suggested amendments

PO

2410 Parking Matters

- 4 (a) To note/discuss “Fairlight Village Parked Vehicles Action Plan” received from a local group.
Councillors reviewed this action plan and suggested a meeting with the Group in May. Proper Officer to make contact with the Group.

PO

2410 Training/meetings attended

- 5 No reports

2410 Correspondence

- 6 All correspondence had been circulated to Councillors and was available to the Public where appropriate.

2410 Information and/or Future Agenda Items

7 Future Agenda Items

- Possible additional CCTV

2410 Confidential Items

- 8 (a) To resolve that pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting during consideration of the following matters.
Resolved to accept this item and proceed to discuss the confidential item excluding public and press.
Resolved to suspend standing orders to hold the Open Forum prior to the Confidential item discussions

Standing Orders were suspended at this point for the public Open Forum to take place.

Standing Orders were reinstated and the Public left the room.

- (b) The appropriate use of Parish Council email accounts by Councillors
Discussions were held and resolutions made. Confidential report to Councillors only.

ACTION

2410 Date of next meeting –

- 9 Tuesday 28th May 2024 at 7.00 pm – Annual Parish Meeting

2411 Close of meeting

- 0 Meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Open Forum

Discussions and questions were raised in respect of the re-election of Cllr Cooke, past co-options, village caretaker position, sponsor a bus stop, possible village warden.

Signed: _____
Chair

Date:

REPORTS FOR PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - 23RD APRIL 2024

Agenda item 2 – Chairman’s Report

Firstly, and sadly, I wish to offer our condolences to Cllr Andrew Mier. Carol was a vibrant person who continued to be involved in many village groups and activities. She will be greatly missed by many.

I would like to welcome Mr. Stephen Baker to the Parish Council. For those who don’t know him he lives on Coastguards Lane and owns and runs the Coastguard Cafe. I would also like to welcome back Ms. Lyn Cooke who is already known to most of you.

The Parish Councillors have discussed the recommendations following the ruling on a code of complaint made against me. The complaint was not upheld; hence I am still here. The Councillors felt the changes made to public questions in meetings, and providing more clarity to residents about what is and isn’t allowed under Standing Orders, have addressed the first recommendation.

The new website will be easier to navigate to find the information on it, avoiding the need to request said information. The recording of meetings is still under discussion.

With that in mind can I remind everyone that this is a meeting of the Parish Council held in public, and comments from the Public during the meeting are only allowed in exceptional circumstances, and at the discretion of the Chair. There is a reminder about behaviour at Parish Council meetings, if you wish to take a copy, please take one of the un-laminated ones.

Councillors debate the agenda items i.e. they speak to the item once, unless to clarify matters of fact, it is not a discussion. Once all Councillors who wish to speak have done so, Councillors then individually decide how they will vote. Once voted on that is Parish Council policy and the whole Parish Council is responsible for implementing it. The majority decision is binding on us all.

At the ESALC Chairs meeting last night the problem of social media was discussed. The Met Police has produced a video about ways to curb its misuse, this will be circulated to Councillors. The local Police have assigned an Inspector to deal with Councillors concerns about being bullied or harassed. The Proper Officer will have their details. We were advised to have a policy for dealing with vexatious behaviour

I have talked a lot about mutual civility and respect, but following recent social media posts, I feel that as suggested in one post we should all be mindful in all our interactions, face to face via email and on social media, of the need for kindness, gentleness and consideration for the feelings of others even when you disagree with them. All I am asking is for a few moments thought about the impact your words and actions could have on a fellow resident of Fairlight.

Please remember all the Parish Councillors are volunteers, we do this for all residents of Fairlight

Agenda item 11(a) Schedule of Payments for April 2024

Date Paid	Invoice Date	Payee	Gross	Net	VAT	Details
DIRECT DEBITS						
15/04/2024	01/04/2024	Tesco Mobile	21.99	18.33	3.66	Tesco - Mobile phone inv 134204880465
PAYPAL						
02/04/2024	02/04/2024	Fasthosts	13.20	11.00	2.20	Web hosting inv 75983344
06/04/2024	06/04/2024	Fasthosts	10.20	8.50	1.70	Web hosting inv 76021946
CHEQUES						
23/04/2024	23/04/2024	Pauline Collins	****	****	****	Salary - April 2024
23/04/2024	23/04/2024	Pauline Collins	****	****	****	Mileage claim - April 2024
23/04/2024	Details below	Pauline Collins	--	--	--	Expenses claim - April 2024 - £237.56
""	24/03/2024	" "	6.28	6.28	0.00	Tesco - DISH Supplies
""	28/03/2024	" "	6.07	6.07	0.00	Aldi - DISH Supplies
""	30/03/2024	" "	9.63	9.63	0.00	Aldi - DISH Supplies
""	30/03/2024	" "	36.41	36.41	0.00	Booker - DISH Supplies
""	07/04/2024	" "	8.71	8.71	0.00	Aldi - DISH Supplies
""	12/04/2024	" "	102.00	102.00	0.00	Waterstones - Publications
""	14/04/2024	" "	8.46	8.46	0.00	Aldi - DISH Supplies
""	19/04/2024	" "	60.00	60.00	0.00	Currys - Cloud Backup
23/04/2024	23/04/2024	HMRC	****	****	0.00	HMRC 06/04/24 - 05/05/24
23/04/2024	01/04/2024	Rialtas Business Solutions	230.40	192.00	38.40	Accounting Software Maintenance inv 8120206
23/04/2024	03/04/2024	Rother District Council	1435.20	1196.00	239.20	Empty Dog Waste Bins 01/04/24-31/03/25 inv 86573193
23/04/2024	01/04/2024	ESALC Limited	563.41	563.41	0.00	ESALC and NALC fees 01/04/24 - 31/03/25 inv 1752
23/04/2024	08/04/2024	Autela Payroll Services	73.73	61.44	12.29	Payroll Services Jan - mar 2024 inv 13679
23/04/2024	15/04/2024	Beverly Price	120.00	120.00	0.00	Caretaker - April 2024
23/04/2024	23/04/2024	Activate Fairlight Youth	50.00	50.00	0.00	Use of hut by HFC for April 24
23/04/2024	23/04/2024	Fairfest	250.00	250.00	0.00	Grant 2024/25
23/04/2024	23/04/2024	Fairlight History Group	400.00	400.00	0.00	Grant 2024/25
23/04/2024	23/04/2024	Fairlight Playgroup/Nursery	1000.00	1000.00	0.00	Grant 2024/25
23/04/2024	23/04/2024	Fairlight Village Hall	1000.00	1000.00	0.00	Grant 2024/25
23/04/2024	23/04/2024	MOPPS	1000.00	1000.00	0.00	Grant 2024/25
23/04/2024	23/04/2024	St Andrews Church	1000.00	1000.00	0.00	Grant 2024/25

23/04/2024	23/04/2024	Fairlight Hall Riding for the Disabled	200.00	200.00	0.00	Grant 2024/25
23/04/2024	23/04/2024	Fairlight Gardening Club	300.00	300.00	0.00	Grant 2024/25
23/04/2024	23/04/2024	The Archive and Resources Centre	500.00	500.00	0.00	Grant 2024/25
23/04/2024	23/04/2024	Victim Support	50.00	50.00	0.00	Charitable donation 2024/25
23/04/2024	23/04/2024	Royal British Legion	100.00	100.00	0.00	Charitable donation 2024/25
23/04/2024	23/04/2024	Pett Level Rescue Boat	250.00	250.00	0.00	Charitable donation 2024/25
23/04/2024	23/04/2024	Unity Trust Bank	40000.00	40000.00	0.00	Transfer of funds to Instant Access Account

Additional Payments – March 2024

CHEQUES						
28/03/2024	26/03/2024	Rother District Council	2850.89	2850.89	0.00	Compressor electricity 01/12 - 29/02 inv 86572112
28/03/2024	01/11/2023	Waller Gray Consulting Ltd	2220.00	1850.00	370.00	Remaining fee inv INV-1354 - Replacement Q Chq no 2891 stopped
UNCASHED CHEQUES						
29/01/2024	01/11/2023	Waller Gray Consulting Ltd	-2220.00	-1850.00	-370.00	Remaining fee inv INV-1354 Q no 2891

Agenda item 12 – Planning Committee

Planning Applications –
None received

Planning Decisions –

RR/2024/214/P 53 Battery Hill, Brandon, Fairlight TN35 4AP
Extension to existing balcony across the rear elevation. (Retrospective)
Approved with conditions

RR/2024/327/O 35 Meadow Way, Igueldo, Fairlight TN35 4BN
Certificate of lawfulness for a proposed internal reconfiguration with loft extension
Refused Development Certificate

Agenda item 13(a) Land Management Group – Monthly Reports

Knowle Wood – Cllr Fellow-Turnbull

I met with several residents of Woodland Way last week who had issues with trees in the wood which lean over into their rear gardens. They pointed out how swaying in the canopy regions caused them distress, and, as it was quite windy when I attended, I could see this for myself. They deem them to be dangerous. These rear gardens ascend from the rear walls up to the wood perimeter so if one was to fall / get blown over it would probably cause considerable damage to outbuildings, conservatories and in some cases the house itself.

It was obvious too that a fair amount of water was running down from the wood causing damage to garden plants culminating in the lawns. I noted several points of seepage which carried on further into paved areas and against the rear wall of the property. One resident has a void under the ground floor approx. 4 feet high

which at times is half full of this water, causing her to remove all carpets because of the resultant damp. The wood flooring is distorted.

Communally they are considering having a professional survey of this area to ascertain what can be done to prevent further seepage. Ditto, trimming of the offending canopies, subject to planning permission.

They accepted the current state of water retention on the surface of walkways within the wood was not helped by rainfall figures over the past few months being the highest since records began.

They were aware of the recent work carried out within the wood.

I apprised them of FPC tree policy and in fact left a hard copy with them to peruse after highlighting caveats which deemed such work as cosmetic.

They are considering making representation to FPC, and probably Rother, to see if trimming can be conducted with the Council's support. They may seek a grant for this purpose. I must admit I have a certain sympathy with their plight.

In a more positive light Sue Clarke and her volunteers have carried out coppicing and trimming in the site and have removed several holly bushes impeding walkways, replacing them down by the quagmire lower path very close to the Woodland Way gardens. As holly bushes soak up a great deal of water it is hoped this will help with the seepage problem.

Agenda item 13(b) CCTV update – Cllr Williams

Rightfully so the residents are becoming increasingly more concerned of the outage now entering 6 months of a Balfour Beatty investigation and Fiona Kehoe has recently been questioning the initial need for the equipment along with reported crime increases in Fairlight since.

This came following a request from FPC for Balfour Beatty to license the cabinet and allow their connections and work to commence and then make the necessary changes or adjustments when Balfour Beatty completes their lengthy investigation.

Balfour Beatty has responded with:

“This matter is quite unique due to the unknown power supply and the FPC CCTV and we therefore **cannot** permit a connection, works or licence to take place.

Our investigations at times may seem lengthy, but they are necessary. I have escalated the matter internally and am awaiting a response”.

Along with the following questions our response whilst we felt irrelevant to the issue below each question. can you please advise if Fairlight has experienced an increase in crime since the CCTV has been out of action?

The query of whether there is an increase in crime or not since the system has been out of action is ambiguous and irrelevant.

The main factor being it is the prime tool in identifying any person/s indulging in anti-social behavior/crime, especially if a vehicle is concerned, whereby details can be made available to the police to further investigate. The perception of residents that it is operational is justification enough and reduces their concerns of being victims of such occurrences. It therefore follows that its in-operation would have the opposite effect. What was the reason behind the original requirement for CCTV at this location?

The decision to install the system was a joint venture between the Fairlight Parish Council and The Fairlight Residents Association, upon recommendations from Sussex Police.

Fairlight has suffered a disproportionate number of break-ins and burglary, every road in Fairlight had an incident. The Residents Association consulted the police and a CCTV scheme was thought to be the way forward. After receiving several quotations, the FRA and FPC became involved and took ownership of the venture. Following good Council practice the scheme was tendered, permission and licenses were gained from Highways and it was installed by AB Security. The cameras were registered with the Security Industry

Commissioner, warning signage was installed at both entry points. All break-ins stopped! The installation was made with Police support, probably from the Police Property Act Fund.

With significant help from Cllr Andrew Mier we have made some progress towards a better outlook, but as the situation remains unresolved. We have asked assistance from Rother/ESCC Councillors to take this higher up the chain, we are still awaiting confirmation from our request and any further response from Balfour Beatty.

Agenda item 17 – War Memorial Steering Group

When I last checked with EB on 9th April, I was told the granite has not yet been received from the de Lank quarries in Cornwall. I will continue to press for information. Meanwhile, we will think more about the most appropriate ceremony for the installation and dedication of the memorial. Suggestions welcome.

Agenda item 18 – Fairlight Pavilion Project – Mr G Smith

We are still waiting estimates/quotes from two building companies. We have now received quotes from three, Bookers and Best and Ashley Developments which includes all works and a quote from Paul Braisier of Fairlight Building and decorators for just the build of the new building. These are £802,000, £632,317 and £277,455. The Booker and Best quote is to be questioned as it seems excessive. We are also waiting on quotes from a further two companies that will do ground works (sewer run, foundations and future car parking area). This is to see whether it would be cost effective to use different contractors controlled directly by the project and the Principal Designer.

Initial talks have taken place regarding the rudiments of a lease agreement. This needs to be actioned as a matter of urgency by both parties. The lack of a lease is now holding up bank account opening and funding streams. It is also requested by the Charity Commission.

It has been agreed in principle with the Parish Council that the temporary car parking will be achieved prior main build, but this will need agreement along with the lease by the committee. Discussions are still ongoing with Southern Water/Pathfinders project for possibly actual and financial aid with the sewer run. The Facebook and webpage are coming along nicely and much more is to added presently, both are ‘live’ and showing interest.

As a project we are all ready to go with promotions and funding applications, but until all is in place with a lease and bank accounts, at present the project cannot move forward.

Agenda item 19 - Hastings Country Park

The main issue recently has been the running of the café in the Bale House which was not open over Easter. As at Friday 19th April it remains closed. Groundwork South’s statement of explanation is given below.

“As per our statement on the Bale House Visitor Centre Facebook page, regrettably we had to close the café part of the Visitor Centre over the Easter weekend – we appreciate this was unfortunate timing making it a very difficult decision for us to take.

On Thursday 28th March we discovered that the company Groundwork South had engaged to run the cafe concession, The Grumpy Cook Ltd, had been dissolved in November 2023. At a meeting with the former director of The Grumpy Cook Ltd on the 28th, it was suggested that their new company ‘Table 88 CIC’ could continue to run the café over the Easter period, under the proviso that Table 88 CIC could provide evidence of adequate insurance cover. Unfortunately, the insurance documents provided by Table 88 were unverifiable, and as a result Groundwork South had no choice but to inform them they could not operate the café over Easter. This instruction to not operate was initially ignored and further Groundwork intervention was necessary.

Subsequently, the insurance company named by Table 88 have confirmed that the decision of Groundwork South to not allow Table 88 CIC to trade was correct. Groundwork South made requests to meet with Table 88 after the Bank Holiday weekend to discuss this further. These were not responded to.

In light of these events, Groundwork South has regrettably informed Table 88 that it cannot continue to operate the cafe at The Bale House.

We do apologise to anyone whose plans had to change as a result of the closure. As we've highlighted, The Bale House visitor centre remains open, and we have a temporary plan in place to provide free light refreshments whilst we look to reinstate an alternative café provision as quickly as possible. We'd like to thank our staff and volunteers for continuing to offer a warm and welcoming spaces, and also to thank our visitors for your ongoing support."

I have had a discussion with Sue Learoyd-Smith, the Manager of the Bale House, and she assures me that it is Groundwork's intention to reopen the café as soon as possible and that the search for suitable tenants is ongoing. Meanwhile, as indicated above, free teas and coffees are available. Normal access to the visitor centre and the Country Park is being maintained.