

**Minutes of the ordinary Firsdown Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday
8th February 2023 at 7.30 pm in Winterslow Village Hall**

Present

Cllr Simon Brown (Chairman)
Cllr Jeremy Beavan (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Paul Kennedy
Cllr Steve Smith

In attendance: Catherine Purves (Clerk)

Also present: Four members of the public, PC Pete Jung

Public Session:

Notification of updates to website – a query was raised about the inability to access council information on the website, despite having signed up to receive notifications of new postings of items. Cllr Beavan agreed to look into this.

Wiltshire Councillor Rich Rogers had sent his apologies because of a previous engagement, but had submitted a written report:

Highways - Potholes continue to be a priority for repair, and works will continue, primarily to minimise risks associated with potholes, with follow up works planned for later in the year.

Highways - The safety mirror for Dunstable Crossroads has been purchased and will be installed by the current contractor, Ringway before 17th March in preparation for the new contractor taking over on the 1st April.

Highways – The highway maintenance programme for the next five years has been published and circulated to the parishes in Southern Wiltshire. Comments from Parish Council are welcome to ensure the correct schemes are being prioritised, and these will be fed back to the Highways Team via the Area Board.

Finance - The WC budget for 2023/24 has been approved by Cabinet and will be presented to Full Council for final approval on the 21st Feb. An increase 2.99% to the core element is being recommended with an additional 2% for the social care levy. This will be followed by a total increase of 3.99% for FY24/25 and an increase of 1.99% for FY25/26.

Area Board - The next meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd February in Alderbury, and will be highways focussed, including a Q&A with Chris Hilldrup from Highways England who will discuss plans for the A36 into and through Salisbury.

Promotion – Cllr Rogers was honoured to accept the role of Portfolio Holder for Contracts, Procurement and Commissioning within Wiltshire Council. This is a wide-ranging brief, and one I hope to bring value in delivering more effective, and value for money contracts to Wiltshire.

Thanks - sincere thanks to Cllr Simon Brown for his outstanding work tackling the drainage issues in the village. From talking to the onsite contractors, the system had become quite blocked, so was long overdue some attention! Great work Simon and all the PC.

PC Pete Jung – advised of an incidence of rogue traders in Juniper Close, and an increase in the theft of cars as the electronic signals from the key fobs have been duplicated. All were recommended not to deal with cold callers, and to store keys in foil away from the front of the house. “No Cold Callers” signs could be obtained from Wiltshire Council, and a notice will be displayed on the noticeboards

COUNCIL BUSINESS

The meeting began at 7.35pm

1.23 To receive apologies for absence

Resolved: To receive apologies from Cllr Ginette who was indisposed and Cllr Nigel Walsh.

2.23 To receive any Declarations of Interest from Members

a. To receive any **Declarations of Interest** in respect of matters contained in this agenda

Resolved: to note none were made

b. To consider any **Dispensation Requests** received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered.

Resolved: to note none received.

3.23 Minutes

Resolved: To approve and sign as a correct record, the minutes of the extra ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 14th December 2022 with one amendment.

4.23 To consider any items raised in the public session (Note no decision can be made)

Resolved: to note nothing raised.

5.23 To receive reports from:

a. *The Chairman* – Cllr Brown advised he had nothing to report.

b. *The Parish Clerk* – nothing to report other than there have been no applications for co-option to the FPC.

c. *Area Board report* – The next meeting is on Thursday 23rd February 2023 at 7.00pm in Alderbury Village Hall. The Chairman and Clerk will attend.

6.23 Finance

a. **Resolved:** To confirm the payment of a schedule of payments for February 2023 in the sum of £616.72

b. **Resolved:** To note the February 2022.2023 Budget Monitoring form. No questions raised.

7.23 New Issues raised for consideration and action as necessary

a. *To consider creating a stand-alone Firsdawn PC website under a new Firsdawn-pc.gov.uk domain name, and retain the existing .org website as a community website*

After a short discussion, during which it was noted that the FPC had already purchased the firsdawn-pc.gov.uk domain name as a precaution, and that the .org suffix was used by the charitable sector rather than the local government sector, it was

Resolved: to retain the current arrangement of a community website which covered the FPC as well, and to move it from the .org to the .gov.uk domain, with new .gov.uk email addresses issued to all councillors and the Clerk. **Action:** The Clerk and Cllr Beavan

b. *Cutting back trees along footpath FIRS 6* – three quotes had been obtained to action this work, and the neighbouring resident's agreement had been obtained. The three quotes (to cut back the overhanging trees to the boundary, leave the large pieces for the neighbour, and to dispose of the rest) were for £1300 plus VAT, £720 plus VAT and £650.00. After a short discussion, it was

Resolved: to instruct Mark Walsh to carry out the work as soon as possible for the sum of £650.00. **Action:** The Clerk

c. *Outside equipment* – adult gym equipment, pétanque (boules) terrain – initial information about the type of equipment available had been circulated, but after a short discussion, during which it was noted that this type of facility was rarely used when provided in rural areas, and that a pétanque terrain, allowing team games in local leagues which would

encourage social interaction, no firm conclusion was reached, and so it was

Resolved: to conduct a short survey of residents to establish their views. **Action:** The Clerk and Cllr Beavan and Cllr Kennedy.

8.23 Highway/Parish Steward/Footpath matters.

a. To note any new Highways issues for referral to Wiltshire Council – no issues raised.

b. To note any new tasks for the Parish Steward – no immediate tasks were identified.

c. To note any new footpath issues – no issues raised.

d. To note an update on existing Highways/Footpath issues:

i. Dropped kerb at Firs Rd/A30 junction – landownership check of location reveals no registered owner, and it is not within the recorded public highways database either. Wiltshire Council will start work to investigate how to claim, which may incur legal costs in the future.

ii. Dunstable Crossroads – the design work has been done, the works order ticket will be issued to the new contractor, so this will be actioned in the new financial year.

iii. Firs Road name plate: - referred to Traffic Signing Team, works order ticket to be issued to new contractor.

iv. Access to FIRS5 via FIRS6 – removal of pole, and relocation of 30mph sign – works order ticket to be issued to new contractor.

v. Replacement 30mph sign at Firs Road/A30 junction - no further news. This will be chased.

Action: The Clerk

vi A30 resurfacing works – works required on the Andover side of the Pheasant traffic lights have been brought forward to FY 2023/24

vii Drainage – In order to establish the cause of the flooding of gardens in Firs Road, Cllr Brown carried out further investigations to the state of the outfall pipe in the byway during December 2022 and established it was collapsed and blocked in multiple locations. A report was sent to Wiltshire Council. Following this, Wiltshire Council has jetted through the entire drainage system along Firs Road, and has carried out a CCTV survey as a record of the system. The contractors still need to access the byway to complete the work there, but access can only be obtained from the Roundbarrow Farm side. The relevant WC contact details have been given to the contractors. Once all the survey work has been completed, Wiltshire Council will develop a plan for remedial works to resolve the problem. WC will be requested to attend to the drains on the side roads in due course.

viii Speed Indicator Device – the Chairman is now collecting the data regularly and forwarding it to the police, so that they can review the information to see where the speeding issues are, and deploy enforcement officers to the locations for formal speed checks.

ix Community Speed Watch – now had four trained members, carrying out speed checks for a fortnight every six weeks by sharing the speed detecting equipment with Porton and Winterbourne. The equipment is currently with the police for repair, and there was some discussion about the FPC buying its own equipment. This would be reviewed later in the FY 2023/24 to see if funds might be available.

9.23 Planning

a. To consider a response to planning applications received: None

b. To consider a response to applications notified between the publication date of the agenda and the date of the meeting, if necessary. None notified.

c. To confirm the response determined by email for applications received since the last meeting: None received.

d. To note any planning decisions made by Wiltshire Council since the last meeting:

PL/2022/08580 – certificate of lawfulness for the use of existing building as an annexe at 67 Firs Road, Firsdown. Approved 24th January 2023

It was noted that another mobile home had been located to the rear of Clearway Garage on the A30, and that planning consent had not been obtained. **Resolved:** to contact

Enforcement. **Action:** The Clerk

10.23 To review other ongoing matters for further action as necessary

a. Councillor training – no further news

b. Map lectern project – lectern ordered, and the third noticeboard will now be ordered with the new email address to be displayed on the header board.

c. Bank mandate – sent to bank, acknowledgment received.

d. Replacement swing – delivery and installation now anticipated for April.

e. Coronation event – Cllr Smith advised he would be developing ideas within the next week., and that the £400 allocated in the budget may not be enough.

Resolved: to note these updates. **Action:** The Clerk as necessary

11.23 Items for the next agenda

None noted

12.23 To note the dates and time of the next ordinary meeting of the Council

Resolved: to note the next meeting will be held on Wednesday March 1st at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room of Winterslow Village Hall

13.23 To close the meeting

The meeting closed at 8.32 pm

Councillors considered the following when discharging their duties: Equal Opportunities (Race, Gender, Sexual Orientation, Marital Status, and any Disability), Crime & Disorder; Health & Safety; Human Rights; Bio-Diversity