

**DRAFT Minutes of the ordinary Firsdown Parish Council meeting held on
Wednesday 6th September 2023 at 7.30 pm in Winterslow Village Hall**

Present

Cllr Simon Brown (Chairman)
Cllr Jeremy Beavan (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Nigel Walsh

In attendance: Catherine Purves (Clerk)

Also present: One member of the public, PC Harry Murphy, Wiltshire Councillor Rich Rogers

Public Session:

No issues raised.

Wiltshire Councillor Rich Rogers gave his report:

- Wiltshire Council would be consulting on its draft Local Plan from Wednesday 27th September to 22nd November via various live events and online.
- The next Ask the Leader Event will take place on Tuesday 26th September at Alderbury Village Hall.
- The next Cabinet meeting would be considering a proposal to add £10m to the Highways maintenance budget (for the whole county) for preventative work. £15k of this would be shared between the LHFigs.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

The meeting began at 7.38 pm

73.23 To receive apologies for absence

Resolved – to accept Cllr Kennedy's and Cllr Buckley's apologies due to a previous engagement, Cllr Stewart's apologies due to family issues, and Cllr Steve Smith who had work commitments.

74.23 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 there were none

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

Resolved: to note none received

75.23 Minutes

Resolved: To approve and sign as a correct record without amendment the minutes of the re-arranged ordinary meeting held on 20th July 2023.

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

77.23 To receive reports from:

a. *The Chairman* – Cllr Brown advised he had nothing to report that was not covered elsewhere

b. *The Parish Clerk* – the Clerk advised she will attend the next Society of Local Council Clerks' meeting later in September, where Clerks will be discussing best practice. I also attended the Area Board's Social event in July, and the LHFigs meeting in August.

c. *The Council's representative to the Southern Area Board* – Cllr Brown advised the next meeting would be held on Thursday 7th September at 7.00pm in Winterslow Village Hall.

78.23 Finance

a. **Resolved:** To authorise the payment of a schedule of accounts for September 2023 in the sum of £1673.71

b. **Resolved:** To note the 2023.2024 Budget Monitoring form for September. No questions were asked.

c. **Resolved:** To note the bank balance as at 31st August 2023 stood at £30,547.01

d. **Resolved:** To note the acknowledgement of receipt by the external auditor PKF Littlejohn LLP of FPC's Certificate of Exemption for 2022/2023.

e. **Resolved:** to approve a grant application for £150.00 from Winterslow Village Hall towards the purchase cost of £200 for a projector and screen for the Meeting Room.

f. **Resolved:** to agree the Clerk's attendance at the SLCC's practitioners' conference on 31st January/1st February 2024 at a maximum cost of £54.00 plus mileage of £15.52

79.23 New Issues raised for consideration and action as necessary

a. *Purchase of parish owned speed enforcement guns* – deferred to next meeting

b. *Installation of specific recycling bins* – deferred to next meeting

c. *Consequences of the crash at Dunstable Crossroads on 30th July 2023, and residents' petition* – it was noted that Winterslow PC had organised a petition calling on Wiltshire Council to take action to mitigate speeding through the crossroads. This was also available on the FPC website and notice boards. Wiltshire Councillor advised he would be arranging a site meeting of representatives from Winterslow, Firsdown and Pitton & Farley PCs towards the end of September/beginning of October.

d. *Appointment of a Tree Warden for the parish* – it was noted that the Parish Council has no land of its own, and so felt the scheme, although worthy, was not applicable to the parish, as it was too small. **Resolved:** not to pursue this.

e. *Purchase of a plant shredder* – deferred to next meeting.

f. *Volunteers for the Best Kept Village competition 2024* – deferred to next meeting.

g. *Councillor training* – it was noted Cllr Buckley would be undertaking Play Equipment Inspection training in November.

80.23 Highway/Parish Steward/Footpath matters for consideration and action as necessary

a. *To note any new Highways issues:* Cllr Brown advised that Wiltshire Council had responded to his request for repairs to Firs Road, particularly the stretch from no 99 to the A30 junction, proposing two types of repair to the delamination and pot holes. However, there was no firm commitment from Wiltshire Council for it to carry out the work. Cllr Brown will continue to press for the work to be done, and noted Wiltshire Councillor Rich Rogers' assistance in the matter.

b. *To note any new tasks for the Parish Steward:* Cllr Brown, as the Parish Steward contact, had requested the removal of the gutter and kerb weeds along Firs Road and Firs Close which was yet to be done, and the clearing of vegetation obscuring the white entry gates and Firsdown name plates at the A30 junction.

c. *To note any new footpath matters:*

i. Cutting back the BOAT from the play area to the Pitton Road – after a short discussion, during which it was noted that the Footpath Group found it difficult to trim the undergrowth because of the deep ruts, and consequently that residents found it difficult to use, it was **Resolved:** to ask Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way team to fill in one set of ruts with scalplings, and to arrange the strimming of the right of way. **Action:** The Clerk

ii. Broken stile at the junction of FIRS 2 and FIRS 3 – the Clerk advised that this has been reported to Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way Team, with a request that the stile is either repaired, or replaced with a kissing gate, with the work to be done at the same time as the

new Right of Way is created between Firsdown and Pitton.

d. To note any updates from the Local Highways & Footpaths Improvement Group:

i. Dunstable Crossroads – safety mirror installed in July.

ii. New dropped kerb at Firs Road/A30 junction - WC Legal Services have been investigating the status of this land and have found some limited evidence of previous work that suggests that this land may previously have been dedicated as public highway. Legal Services are trying to find the file containing the previous work to confirm if this is the case. If the land has not previously been dedicated as public highway, they have suggested that the simplest way to claim this land as public highway would be under Section 31 of the Highways Act where a case would need to be made that the public have had free and uninterrupted use of the land for 20 years or more. The Clerk has posted a request in the newsletter and to the Facebook forum for long standing residents to contact her with any information/knowledge they may have about the site.

iii. Firs Road nameplates - Works pack issued to Wiltshire Council's contractor Milestone. Works provisionally programmed to be undertaken during week commencing 18/09/2023. Exact date of works to be supplied to the PC once known.

iv. Speed limit assessment A30 (within Firsdown Parish) - Speed limit assessment ordered with Wiltshire Council's contractor Atkins. Completed assessment report expected in October 2023.

v. Replacement 30mph sign at Firs Road/A30 junction – second request submitted.

e. To note any updates from the Community Speedwatch Team – it was noted that the CSW Team would be resuming their activities the following week, and Wiltshire Police's speed Enforcement Team are making regular visits. It is understood they have the resources to impose tougher measures. **Resolved:** to thank the police for their support via the letters page in Salisbury Journal. Action: The Clerk

81.23 Planning

a. To consider a response to planning applications received:

PL/2023/07086 – single storey rear extension at 55 Firs Road, Firsdown. Resolved: No objection

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

c. To note planning decisions made by Wiltshire Council since the last meeting: None made.

82.23 To review other ongoing matters

a. New Parish Council laptop – this is now in use.

b. Bank mandate – an amended mandate is required. This will be circulated to councillors for signing.

c. Replacement swing – installation date still to be confirmed.

d. Roundbarrow Farm – the new Right of Way is scheduled to be created late summer/early autumn.

Resolved: To note

83.23 Items for the next agenda

To note any items for the next agenda

a. Parish owned speed enforcement guns

b. Installation of specific recycling bins

c. Purchase of a plant shredder

d. Volunteers for Best Kept Village competition

84.23 To note the date and time of the next ordinary meeting of the Council

Thursday November 2nd 2023 at 7.30 pm in Winterslow Village Hall

85.23 To close the meeting

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

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

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