

**Minutes of the Firsdown Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 6th
November 2025 at 7.30pm in Winterslow Village Hall**

Present

Cllr Simon Brown (Chairman)
Cllr Jeremy Beavan
Cllr Jim Buckley
Cllr Nigel Walsh

In attendance: Catherine Purves (Clerk)

Also present: One member of the public

Public Session: No items raised

COUNCIL BUSINESS

The meeting began at 7.31pm

75.25 To receive apologies for absence

All councillors present

76.25 To receive any Declarations of Interest from Members

- a. To receive any **Declarations of Interest** in respect of matters contained in this agenda
- b. To consider any **Dispensation Requests** received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered.

Resolved: to note there were no Declarations of Interest, and no Requests for Dispensation.

77.25 Minutes

Resolved: To approve and sign as a correct record without amendment the minutes of Firsdown Parish Council meeting held on 9th October 2025.

78.25 To consider any items raised in the public session (Note no decision can be made) No issues raised requiring further action.

79.25 To receive reports from:

- a. *The Chairman* – Cllr Brown noted the police mobile van had recently visited Firsdown offering support. The Pitton Nature Trust would be updating the community the following evening. The bees are still present in the play area, but nature is taking its course. He will continue to monitor the situation. Pitton Community Shop has secured a grant from the Wiltshire Rural Hub Grant Scheme of £97k to enable to complete and fit out the shop, with the aim to open in September 2026.
- b. *The Parish Clerk* – The Clerk advised she would be attending the Society of Local council Clerk's Bootcamp at Cosham on 19th November, and Branch meeting on 21st November.
- c. *The Council's representative to the Southern Area Board* – Cllr Brown advised the next meeting is on 20th November at Whiteparish Memorial Hall where there will be an update on the youth support project and Rights of Way maintenance.
- d. *Firsdown Conservation Group* – Cllr Walsh advised there was nothing to report.

80.25 Finance

a. **Resolved:** To note the bank balances as of 31st October 2025:

- i. Current account £265.52
- ii Deposit account £46,297.57

b. **Resolved:** To approve the following internal bank transfers undertaken by the Clerk:

- i. 8th April 2025 £900.00 from deposit to current account
- ii. 9th May 2025 £750.00 from deposit to current account
- iii. 8th July 2025 £1739.67 from deposit to current account
- iv. 4th August 2025 £5000.00 from deposit to current account
- v. 10th October 2025 £750.00 from deposit to current account

c. **Resolved:** To confirm for payment the November 2025 schedule of accounts in the sum of £1,324.50, plus two additional invoices, £29.00 to Winterslow Village Hall and £47.00 to the Information Commissioner's Office. Total sum approved £1400.50

d. **Resolved:** To note the October 2025.2026 Budget Monitoring form

e. *To consider a draft budget for 2026/2027* – a draft budget was considered and it was **Resolved:** deferred for final approval to the January meeting, as the Council Tax base figure was not yet available to calculate the impact on Band D households.

f. *To consider quotes for two replacement benches in recycled plastic* – quotes from three suppliers were considered, and after a short discussion, it was

Resolved: to purchase two benches, flat packed, from Glasdon in the sum of £585.00 plus VAT each, one in 2025/2026, and one in 2026/2027. **Action:** The Clerk

g. *To receive an update concerning Parish Online, mapping software for assets etc* – the Clerk advised she had taken out a subscription of £75.00 per year to enable the parish's assets to be recorded, and to map the gullies and drains etc in Firs Road and adjacent roads. **Resolved:** to note and approve the purchase of the subscription.

h. *To consider a quote for a solar power Speed Indicator Device from the existing supplier* – the Clerk had obtained a quote of £2990.00 including delivery plus VAT from the existing supplier. After a short discussion, during which it was noted that the lampposts would not carry the weight of a SID plus solar panels, and installing the appropriate posts was a long a convoluted process, it was **Resolved:** to delegate to the Clerk the power to spend upto £2200.00 net to purchase a third battery operated SID as soon as possible, with Cllr Brown continuing to change the batteries. A rota showing the rotation of sites is to be shared.

Action: The Clerk

i. **Resolved:** To agree the Clerk's attendance at the SLCC Practitioners Conference 2026 in the sum of £247.00

81.25 Governance

- a. **Resolved:** To consider and adopt the recommended amendments to the adopted IT policy. **Action:** The Clerk
- b. **Resolved:** To adopt the recommended draft Cyber Security policy. **Action:** The Clerk
- c. **Resolved:** To note the Internal Auditor reports that the External Auditor will not change its view, and so this year's figures will need to be reinstated on the 2025/26 AGAR

82.25 New Issues raised for consideration and action as necessary

None noted

83.25 Highway/Parish Steward/Footpath matters.

- a. *To note any new Highways issues* – none noted
- b. *To note any new tasks for the Parish Steward* – various potholes have been reported.
- c. *To note any new footpath matters* – Footpath PIFA43 needs reinstating following the ploughing of the field.
- d. *To note any updates, particularly from the most recent Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group, October 2025:*
 - i. *Signing & lining improvements at the junction of the A30 London Road and Old Malthouse Lane (in conjunction with Pitton & Farley Parish Council)* - The LHFIG contribution was confirmed at Area Board in September. The Traffic Officer will submit this work to M Group in November for programming, which will be actioned hopefully before the end of March 2026, depending on the weather.

ii. Dunstable Crossroads safety improvements - (in conjunction with Winterslow and Pitton & Farley Parish councils) - The Traffic Officer reported that a draft proposal to realign the crossroads had been discussed with a member of the Wiltshire Council substantive bid panel, and advised it is thought a formal proposal is unlikely to succeed, based on the nature of the proposal, the number of collisions, the cost to benefit ratio and an uncertainty over land requirements. The costs were estimated near £1m. The Traffic Officer is working on a cheaper scheme (£16.7k) which includes enhanced signing and lining and coloured tarmac across the junction area. A speed survey will be carried out, and it is possible that a chequerboard will be deployed, similar to that at Broughton Crossroads. It was also noted that the FPC has earmarked £4000 as its contribution to this project.

iii. Dropped kerb at Firs Road/A30 junction - there have been no legal objections, and the project has moved to the implementation phase, although it has not yet been programmed.

iv. Amendments to the B.O.A.T. designation – nothing to report. It was agreed to leave it on the agenda for another 12 months.

v. A30 London Road/Firs Road junction speed reduction project – Wiltshire Council's contractors have been instructed, with a 10-to-12-week lead time, work should be done by the end of January 2026, allowing for weather.

84.25 Planning

a. To consider a response to planning applications received:

PL/2025/08317 – part demolition of existing garage and formation of utility room at 96 Firs Road, Firsdawn **Resolved:** No Objection

b. To consider a response to applications notified between the publication date of the agenda and the date of the meeting, if necessary

PL/2025/08621 – single storey rear extension and relocation of front porch forward to main frontage at 108 Firs Road, Firsdawn **Resolved:** No objection

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

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

PL/2025/07215 – TPO fell 1 x sycamore tree at 66 Firs Road, Firsdawn. Refused 30th October 2025.

85.25 To review and note other ongoing matters or decide on further action. As appropriate

a. Possibility of the FPC buying the woodland at the northwestern end of Firs Road from the Christie-Miller Estate – nothing to report

86.25 Items for the next agenda

- Finalising the 2026/2027 budget and precept requirements
- Adoption of a Data Retention policy

87.25 To note the date and time of the next ordinary meetings of the Council

Thursday 8th January 2026 at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room of Winterslow Village Hall

Thursday 5th March 2026 at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room of Winterslow Village Hall

88.25 To close the meeting

The meeting closed at 9.03pm

Marital Status, and any Disability), Crime & Disorder; Health & Safety; Human Rights; Biodiversity.