DRAFT Minutes of the Firsdown Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 5th November 2026 at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room of Winterslow Village Hall

Present
Cllr Simon Brown (Chairman)
Cllr Jeremy Beavan
Cllr Jim Buckley
Cllr Nigel Walsh
In attendance: Catherine Purves (Clerk)
Also present: Wiltshire Councillor Rich Rogers

Public Session:

Wiltshire Councillor Rich Rogers gave his report:

- Wiltshire Council aims to complete its new Local Plan by April 2029.
- Calling in planning applications for determination by committee – now no longer possible for most types of applications, and Wiltshire and several other Planning Authorities are challenging this
- Household Recycling Centres – the trial requiring pre-booking continues, uncertain when it ends, or the criteria for success.
- Community Governance Review – ongoing. He noted Firsdown required no change.
- Local Housing & Footway Improvement Group – second phase for street name plate replacement is now live, please let Cllr Rogers know
- Bleed Out kits – Wiltshire Council has funding for 100 kits available.
- Veterans Support - £450k is available to build a Veterans' hub at Tidworth and for outreach support.
- Road maintenance – long-awaited works commencing on Firs Road on 12th November 2026

COUNCIL BUSINESS

The meeting started at 7.41pm

67.26 Apologies
None received, all members present.

68.26 To receive any Declarations of Interest from Members
a**. Resolved**: to note there were no Declarations of Interest
b. **Resolved:** to note that no Dispensation Requests had been received.

69.26 Minutes

a. **Resolved:** To approve and sign as a correct record without amendment the minutes of the ordinary Firsdown Parish Council meeting held on10th September 2026

70.26 To consider any items raised in the public session (Note no decision can be made)
Concerns were raised about the lack of notification to residents, access arrangements and bus diversions for the forthcoming road repairs. Wiltshire Councillor Rogers will pursue these matters

71.26 To receive reports from:
a. The Chairman: Cllr Brown advised he had nothing to report.
b. The Parish Clerk – the Clerk advised she had nothing to report.

c. The Council's representative to the Southern Area Board: The Clerk advised she had attended, and the Youth Support project had received further Area Board funding. There was also a presentation on how Wiltshire Council responds to all types of anti-social behaviour.
d. Firsdown Conservation Group: Cllr Walsh advised he had attended a Conservation Event in Winterslow, and with the work available at Roundbarrow Farm, he was hopeful that young people in the village would be attracted to conservation generally.
e. Community Speed Watch: Cllr Buckley advised that the team had lost one volunteer, but monitoring sessions were continuing.

72.26 Finance
a. **Resolved:** To note the bank balances as of 31st October 2026:
Current: £451.70, Deposit: £47,621.03

b. **Resolved:** to approve the following internal bank transfers undertaken by the Clerk:
   i. 11th September 2026 – £1000.00 from deposit to current
   ii. 21st September 2026 - £1800.00 from deposit to current
   iii. 8th October 2026 - £2250.00 from deposit to current

c. **Resolved:** To confirm retrospectively for payment a schedule of accounts for October in the sum of £3808.00
d. **Resolved:** To confirm for payment a schedule of accounts for November in the sum of £1649.74
e. **Resolved:** To note the October 2026.2027 Budget Monitoring form
f. **Resolved:** To note the October 2026 bank reconciliation
g. To consider a draft budget for 2027/2028 – a draft budget had been circulated to all, and was discussed, but in the absence of the Council Tax base figure for 2027/2028, it was:
   Resolved: to make a final decision regarding the budget and precept figure to the January 2027 meeting, when full information would be available.

73.26 Governance
a. To note updates on outstanding actions recommended by the 2025/2026 Internal Audit Report:
R2 – To consider and resolve to adopt an updated Model Code of Conduct and to resolve to sign up to the Society of Local Council's Civility & Respect Pledge – see items 73.26 b and c below.
R3 – **Resolved**: To note and confirm that digital and data security is now included in the General Risk Register
R4 – Resolved: To note and confirm that the Clerk has been issued with the new National Association of Local Council's model contract of employment which reflects her continuous terms of employment from 2018

a. **Resolved:** To adopt a revised Dignity at Work policy
b. **Resolved:** To adopt the updated Code of Conduct for Councillors
c. **Resolved:** To sign up to and implement the Society of Local Council Clerks Civility & Respect Pledge **Action:** The Clerk

74.26 New Issues raised for consideration and action as necessary – none noted

75.26 Highway/Parish Steward/Footpath matters.
a. To note any new Highways issues: No new issues
b. To note any new tasks for the Parish Steward: no new tasks
c. To note any new footpath matters: a tree which had fallen across the permitted path in the woods had been removed by Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way contractor.
d. To note any other updates:
i. Dropped kerb at Firs Road/A30 junction – Following his meeting with the LHFIG Officer, Cllr Brown reported that the LHFIG Officer was drawing plans to either approach the

landowner to request to buy the small piece of verge necessary, or to install a dropped kerb opposite the bus stop with a footway to the car wash entrance.
ii. Proposed works at Dunstable Crossroads: the proposed scheme is still being worked on
iii Proposed additional lining and signage at Old Malthouse Lane/White Way/A30 junctions: with Wiltshire Council's contractor M Group to be implemented before March 2027

76.26 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
c. To confirm the response determined by email for applications received since the last meeting:
i. PL/2026/06073 – Prior approval part 3 Class R for the change of use of an agricultural building to flexible commercial use within Class E (ci, cii, ciii) – financial services, professional services and other appropriate services at Ford Farm, Old Malthouse Lane, Ford – **Resolved:** no objection
ii. PL/2026/05515 – external garden landscaping including construction of a retaining wall (revised scheme) at Shanaway, Maple Drive, Firsdown –**Resolved:** no objection
d. To note planning decisions made by Wiltshire Council since the last meeting:
i. PL/2026/03622 – Certificate of Lawfulness re the existing use of the container, container area and associated access, confirming they have been in continuous existence for more than 10 years at The Old Chalk Pit, Old Malthouse Lane, Ford. Approved 11th September 2026 **Resolved:** to note

77.26 To review and note other ongoing matters or decide on further action. As appropriate
a. Purchase of second replacement bench (memorial bench) – **Resolved**: to be ordered week commencing Monday 16th November 2026. **Action:** The Clerk
b. Hedge/trees and grass cutting on the byway – trees in the hedge have been attended to, the hedge itself has been cut inadvertently by the Roundbarrow Farm contractor, and so will not be cut in 2027. The grass has also been cut.
d. Joint gully emptying project with Grimstead, Idmiston and Pitton & Farley Parish Councils – the Clerk advised that Allington and Alderbury parish councils have expressed an interest in joining this project.

78.26 Items for the next agenda
- Finalisation of the 2027/2028 budget

79.26 To note the date and time of the next ordinary meetings of the Council
Thursday 7th January 2027 at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room of Winterslow Village Hall
Thursday 4th March 2027 at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room of Winterslow Village Hall

80.26 To close the meeting
The meeting closed at 9.00pm.