

All minutes are draft and subject to approval at the next meeting

## FERRING PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of FERRING PARISH COUNCIL held on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023** the Village Hall. The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

### **Present:**

**Parish Councillors:** Councillor Clare Royal (Chairman), Councillors Terry Jackson, Lesley Young, Graham Bootle & Roger Elkins (arrived 7.50pm).

**West Sussex County Councillor:** Councillor Roger Elkins

**Arun District Councillors:** Councillors Roger Elkins & Mark Turner

**Residents:** There were two residents in attendance

Councillor Clare Royal, Chairman, welcomed all present to the meeting and commenced the formal proceedings.

### **01-09-2023 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Ruth Arnold, John Tero & Andy Walker. The apologies were accepted.

### **02-09-2023 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **03-09-2023 Public Questions**

A resident advised that the History Group has an opportunity to investigate one of the oldest Tudor buildings in the village and enquired if the Parish Council offer financial grants to help fund the investigations. The Clerk advised that if the History Group representative would like to contact her, she will provide a grant application form.

Another resident read the following from a script referring to agenda item 9.d.b Dogs' matters - The Committee agreed that the Parish Council will approach ADC to request that a further Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) Consultation is undertaken and the possibility of signage at specific locations.

"At agenda item 9.d.b – Dogs' Matters, Council are "noting" that the Roads, Community and Sports Committee has agreed that the Parish Council will approach ADC to request a further PSPO consultation with regards to dog control measures and the possibility of signage at specific locations. Does this therefore mean that the Committee is now decision making rather than advisory as there seems to be no motion to approve this decision by Full Council?

Secondly, can Council publish the objective evidence to quantify that dog fouling is an "increasing" problem as stated in the recent flyer and the Roads, Community, and Sports Committee meeting minutes rather than it being a recurring complaint and evidence that there is a problem on the beach in particular.

Thirdly, whilst the resident acknowledges that the PSPO process is the appropriate mechanism and democratic approach in that it includes public consultation, what is not democratic is the committee's and therefore council's stated intent to "*ask ADC if signage asking residents to keep their dogs on leads could be erected in various locations of the village including the beach and the Glebelands*". This has not been subject to any

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consultation, appears to be an attempt to undermine the established process, has potential to create a situation similar to that with cycling on Patterson's Walk and establish Ferring as the only Parish in Arun looking to restrict dogs on the whole beach and other areas thereby alienating and effectively punishing responsible dog owners."

The resident referred to Council minutes of 24th January 2022, and suggested that the Parish Council work with Arun District Council to enforce existing PSPOs.

The resident was thanked for his comments and Council advised that the Roads, Community & Sports Committee Meeting minutes may be slightly unclear and that no decisions have been taken at this time. In its discussions on this matter, the Committee were conscious that it was important to have up-to-date information from ADC with regards to dog matters and it has been some time since the Parish Council had conversed with them. Therefore, the Committee had agreed to open the conversation and that this is an exploration exercise at this time to ensure that as a Council we are fully apprised of this. Any consultation which may proceed in the future would of course be open to all residents whether or not they are dog owners.

#### **04-09-2023 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were approved by Council. The minutes were signed by the Chairman presiding as a correct record.

#### **05-09-2023 Actions update from the last meeting**

There was nothing to mention.

#### **06-09-2023 Vacant Council Positions -**

The Chairman advised the Council that following the recent elections, there are currently four vacancies for Councillors, and we have received one application. The Chairman welcomed Simon Bromley (the applicant) to the meeting and asked him to make a short presentation about himself, his interests in the Parish Council and his reasons for wishing to become a Councillor. Following the presentation, Councillors were given the opportunity to ask any questions to the applicant.

The result of the ballot **RESOLVED** to co-opt Simon Bromley to serve as a Councillor until the next ordinary election.

Simon Bromley was welcomed and asked to join the meeting and to read out his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and signed the Declaration Form. The Clerk issued the newly co-opted Councillor with further documentation to complete including Code of Conduct and Register of Interests.

#### **07-09-2023 To approve Terms of Reference for each Committee**

Council approved Terms of Reference for each Committee.

#### **08-09-2023 To approve dispensation for each Committee**

Council approved dispensation for each Committee.

The above was **RESOLVED** by Full Council

**09-09-2023 To receive and consider reports from Committees including the authorisation of orders for payment:** – Relevant minutes have been circulated with no further comments or questions.

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- a. **Environment Liaison Committee** - Councillor John Tero, no meeting held  
There was nothing further to report.
- b. **Planning & Licensing** – Councillor Ruth Arnold, meeting held 21<sup>st</sup> August & 4<sup>th</sup> September  
Councillor Clare Royal advised that a Planning & Licensing Committee had met earlier this evening and reviewed the current applications with no objections.
- c. **Neighbourhood Development Plan Committee** – no meeting held
  - a. Council to consider scheduling Neighbourhood Development Plan Meeting.  
Councillor Roger Elkins advised that ADC has begun the process of reviewing the Local Plan and suggested that FPC could arrange their own Neighbourhood Development Plan meeting to discuss the Ferring Neighbourhood Plan review.

It was agreed that the Clerk will liaise with ADC to obtain any relevant guidance and background information and liaise with any local parishes that have completed a review of their Neighbourhood Plan.

It was noted that the original Neighbourhood Plan was prepared by consultants and that the Parish Council may need to engage with the consultants to assist with the review. The Clerk will circulate possible October meeting dates.

The above was **RESOLVED** by Full Council

- d. **Roads, Community & Sports Committee** - Councillor Clare Royal, Meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> July  
Council noted:
  - a. **Car Park at Glebelands** - The Committee agreed that a Task Group is formed to discuss the feasibility of the project. The Task Group will consist of Councillors Terry Jackson, Graham Bootle, Andy Walker and John Tero.  
Councillor Terry Jackson advised Council that he will be stepping down from the task group due to personal reasons.
  - b. **Dogs matters** - The Committee agreed that the Parish Council will approach ADC to request that a further Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) Consultation is undertaken and the possibility of signage at specific locations.

Council noted that comments that were made under minute item 03-09-2023 in relation to the interpretation of the Roads, Community & Sports Committee Meeting minutes and confirmed that no decisions have been taken at this time.

- e. **Finance & General Purposes Committee** (including the authorisation of orders of payments and recommendations from the Committee). meeting held 21<sup>st</sup> August.  
Councillor Lesley Young advised:
  - a. **Accounts and Finance** - Income and Expenditure June & July 2023- Approved

The above was **RESOLVED** by Full Council

**10-09-2023 Council noted payments made under dispensation for expenditure for Committee minuted instruction.**

**Finance & General Purposes Committee** (meeting 21<sup>st</sup> August)

- a. 4 yard skip at £228.00
- b. Reset six paving slabs at the war memorial at £145.00.

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**11-09-2023 Ferring Village Hall Open Day Expo** – Council wishes to accept the invitation to attend the event on Saturday 28th October.

- a. Council to agree the format and information to be available at the event.  
It was noted that the parish council has accepted the invitation to have a stall at the open day. The Clerk will prepare the format and information that will be available at the event.

**12-09-2023 Reports from District and County Councillors**

**Arun District Councillor Roger Elkins advised the following:**

- In relation to the Notification of an appeal APP/C3810/W/23/3323939 - FG/124/22/PL, the appeal date is confirmed for 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

**Arun District Councillor Mark Turner advised the following:**

- The Armed Forces Act 2021 came into force in November 2022. The Act reinforces the Armed Forces Covenant and builds on the Armed Forces Act 2006 with a requirement for Due Regard which is a reinforcement of the Covenant but with some differences. The Act 2021 will mean that Public Bodies have a statutory duty for veterans. Further details are available at <https://www.armedforcesnetwork.org/the-covenant/the-armed-forces-act-2021/>
- Good to see the work for the new play area has commenced.
- The work on the Pill Box continues with the History Group holding a public briefing late September.

**WSCC County Councillor Roger Elkins advised the following:**

- During the travellers' season, the Police have used their powers to move travellers from inappropriate sites.
- WSCC has produced West Sussex Open Digital – Digital Infrastructure Strategy (2023-2030) to support connectivity between people, places, and things as a feature of our everyday lives. Their ambition is to ensure that we have the digital infrastructure needed to support our economy to thrive, to improve our quality of life and to protect our natural environment. This includes fibre and mobile connectivity for reliability, speed, and resilience in order to grow and full fibre and 5G
- There are Government grants available for community groups to install defibrillators.
- Applications are now open for secondary schools for 2024 term.
- In relation to the publicised matter of RAAC concrete in school buildings, it was advised that at this time, WSCC has identified just one school in Horsham that may be affected.

**13-09-2023 Urgent matters arising, since the preparation of this Agenda & Items to be referred to next agenda.**

There was nothing to mention.

**The next meeting date is 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm

Mrs Nadine Phibbs,  
Clerk to Ferring Parish Council

**Minutes approved**

**Chairman .....**      **Date .....**