

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 27th November 2023** the Village Hall. The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

Present:

Parish Councillors: Councillors Terry Jackson, Lesley Young, Graham Bootle, Andy Walker, John Tero, Simon Bromley & Roger Elkins.

West Sussex County Councillor: Councillor Roger Elkins

Arun District Councillors: Councillor Roger Elkins

Residents: There were three resident in attendance

In the absence of the Chair & Vice Chair, the first item of business is to elect a Chair for this meeting.

01-11-2023 Elect a Chair

Councillor John Tero was elected as the Chair for this meeting and welcomed all present to the meeting and commenced the formal proceedings.

02-11-2023 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Ruth Arnold & Clare Royal and District Councillor Mark Turner. The apologies were accepted.

03-11-2023 Declarations of interest

Councillor Lesley Young declared an interest in agenda item 8, Ferring Village Hall..

04-11-2023 Public Questions

A resident enquired with regards to the proposed dropped kerb adjustment near the Henty Public House.

Councillor Roger Elkins will seek an update, however he advised that this area had been highlighted and if it meets the required criteria, the works will be included in next years budget,

05-11-2023 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 16th October 2023

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 16th October were approved by Council. The minutes were signed by the Chairman presiding as a correct record.

06-11-2023 Actions update from the last meeting

There was nothing to mention.

07-11-2023 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.

- a. **Environment Liaison Committee** - Councillor John Tero, no meeting held
The scheduled tree works at Warren Pond have been completed with a few minor extras scheduled for early Spring 2024.
- b. **Planning & Licensing** – Councillor Ruth Arnold, meeting held 13th & 27th November

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In the absence of Councillor Ruth Arnold, Councillor John Tero advised that the Planning & Licensing Committee had met earlier this evening and reviewed the current applications with just one objection and following further information being received, the Committee agreed to withdraw their objection for application FG/133/23/S73...

Council noted that Councillors Roger Elkins & Ruth Arnold attended the Informal Hearing Appeal 17th October - Land at Lansdowne Nursery, The Barn, Littlehampton Road, Ferring - FG/124/22/PL Demolition Of Existing Buildings And Erection Of 70 No. Dwellings With Associated Works (Site Relocation To Clapham). This Application Affects A Public Right Of Way, Is A Departure From The Development Plan And Is In Cil Zone 3 (Cil Liable) As New Dwellings. Location: Lansdown Nursery.

It was noted that the appeal was dismissed and that the Inspectorates report detailed the key points of the impact of such a development in this location. It was also noted that the representatives from the National Trust and the ADC Planning Officer provided good detailed reports in support of the reason to dismiss the appeal.

- c. **Neighbourhood Development Plan Committee** – no meeting held
There was nothing to mention.
- d. **Roads, Community & Sports Committee** - Councillor Clare Royal, no meeting held
There was nothing to mention.
- e. **Finance & General Purposes Committee** (including the authorisation of orders of payments and recommendations from the Committee). Councillor Lesley Young meeting held 13th November.
 - a. **Accounts and Finance** - Income and Expenditure September 2023 -
Approved
 - b. **Parish Office Burst Water Pipe** - Councillor Terry Jackson advised that he and the Clerk have met with two companies who specialise in water damage. One company will not quote, the other one has provided a quotation and a test certificate that confirms that there is asbestos within the kitchen area at a minimum.
It agreed that the Clerk will contact the Insurance Company and explain the situation and ask for their advice and advise Councillors accordingly.
Councillors will then arrange a working group meeting to discuss and Council to agree the best way forward.
 - c. **FPC Financial Regulations (amendment to 4.1 only)** - Council approved the revised Financial Regulations - committee dispensations.
 - d. **Country Centre Invitation** – Council agreed that the visit will be moved to a date in the new year.
 - e. **Grant Request** – Pillbox Project Group Interpretation Board at £1080 was approved.

The above was **RESOLVED** by Full Council

08-11-2023 Council noted payments made under dispensation for expenditure for Committee minuted instruction.

There are no payments under dispensation.

09-11-2023 Ferring Village Hall – Parish Council liaison (*Councillor Ruth Arnold*)

Council noted the hirers social evening 14th December 2023. If any Councillor wishes to attend, they must advise the Clerk by COB 1st December.

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10-11-2023 Public Consultation: Worthing Conservation Area Reviews (19th October – 30th November 2023) – Council noted the consultation with no further comment.

11-11-2023 Public Consultation: Draft Revised Joint Adur & Worthing Statement of Community Involvement. (25th October – 6th December 2023) – Council noted the consultation with no further comment.

12-11-2023 Reports from District and County Councillors

In the absence of Arun District Councillor Mark Turner, Councillor John Tero advised the following:

- Council has been wrestling with a number of issues particularly budgetary matters. It is of course absolutely right that District Council scrutinises all its activities regularly to ensure value for money and this applies to its investments and non statutory activities. Councillor Elkins and I have been active across a number of Council Committee to ensure this.
- We have been advocating for a proper plan to improve the car park by the Blue Bird Cafe and the Rife. Complicated land ownership for the space is an issue but we are pressing for a plan that resolves the drainage issues, which often block access to the public conveniences, and secures this as a usable and well maintained public free parking space.
- The recent heavy rains caused floods across the District and a Arun District Forum is being established to examine the issues faced and identify solutions. We are keen to hear of any residential, public or commercial flooding issues that resulted so that these can be included in the survey. We hope that the Parish will be able to add its voice to the Forum.
- Finally we are delighted that the Landsdowne Nursery Planning Appeal was dismissed by the Planning Inspector and thank the Parish Council and all residents who contributed.

Arun District Councillor Roger Elkins advised the following:

- In relation to the mentioned plan to improve the Blue bird Café car park, this will be an item on the ADC Environment Committee Meeting with the hope to agree a proposal to carry out some investigation works.
- ADC has resolved to set up a Flood Protection Group which will look at prevention projects into the future. The plan is to have the forum chaired by an Independent Chair, and with attendees including ADC, Environment Agency, Southern Water, WSCC and ADC Councillors whose wards have been affected by flooding. Issues which have arisen over the last few weeks and will need addressing amongst others should include:
 - Ditch maintenance (WSCC & riparian owners)
 - Rife maintenance (EA)
 - Drain maintenance and clearance (WSCC & Southern Water)
 - Pumping station capacity & technology (Southern Water)
 - Leaf clearance (ADC & WSCC)
 - Stabalisation of shingle bunds (EA)
 - Funding for beach maintenance (EA)
 - Grant aid
 - Matched funding

WSCC County Councillor Roger Elkins advised the following:

- The Scrutiny Committee is considering the 2024 – 2025 budget.
- There is a public consultation running through to early January for people to make their comments regarding the budget.

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- There is a 53-million-pound increase in revenue, 31 million for children services, 12 million for adult social care and 5 million for highways.
- There is funding for additional 5G connections for commercial uses within the county.
- Reduced bus fares for 16 – 20 year olds have been introduced.
- WSCC & ADC are promoting Safeguarding including the risk to children and vulnerable adults.

13-11-2023 Urgent matters arising, since the preparation of this Agenda & Items to be referred to next agenda.

Councillor Lesley Young noted the excellent job that the SGN Contractors were doing and enquired if there was any further information regarding the road closure at Sea Lane. The Clerk will contact SGN for information.

Councillor Roger Elkins referred to the recent meeting that he and Clerk attended with WSCC and Ferring CE Primary School. An update will be provided at the Roads, Community & Sports Committee Meeting next week.

Council noted.

14-11-2023 Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 giving the Power to exclude Public and Press from the meeting –

15-11-2023 2023-24 National Salary Award - Council noted that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has agreed the new pay scales for 2023 -24 to be implemented from 1 April 2023. The new pay scales will be backdated from 1st April 2023.

The next meeting date is 29th January 2024

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm

Mrs Nadine Phibbs,
Clerk to Ferring Parish Council

Minutes approved

Chairman **Date**