FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Full Council Meeting
Wednesday 16 April 2025
Minutes

Minutes of the **Meeting of Fernhurst Parish Council** held at the Hub on **Wednesday 16 April 2025** at 7.00pm

Councillors Present: Mr P Bellet, Mrs H Bicknell (Chair), Mr J Buchanan, Mr C Honeyman Brown, Mr G Inns, Mr C Lloyd.

In Attendance: Mr Andrew Minor, and Mrs E Ford (Clerk).

049/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received from Mr B Black, Mrs S Heath-Clough and Mrs M Jenkins.

050/25 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: None

051/25 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS
Mr Andrew Minor introduced himself and had attended the meeting in support for his request to be the Fernhurst Town Crier.

052/25 PREVIOUS MINUTES
The minutes of the meeting on **19 March 2025** were presented for approval.

Resolved: To approve the minutes of the meeting on 19 March 2025.

053/25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
The Fernhurst Annual Parish Meeting had gone well. Mr Lloyd would co-ordinate the Council Parishes in Bloom project. **Action: Clerk** to forward information to Mr Lloyd. The Council had received an offer of a donation towards the cost of the Parish Christmas tree. **Action: Clerk** to forward information to Mr Buchanan, check tree would be secure and start licence application with Chichester District Council. It was reported that the church expected to have a new vicar by the end of June.

054/25 COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTARY – No report to meeting

055/25 DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMENTARY
No report to meeting but Cllr Burkhart had provided a report to the Fernhurst Annual Parish Meeting.

056/25 TO CONSIDER CHANGE OF CONTRACTOR FOR PLAYGROUND REPAIRS
The contractor who had been instructed to carry out repairs to the playground had since gone into administration. A replacement quote from a former employee of this company had been received. The second contractor, Playsafe Playgrounds Ltd, from the original bidding process had confirmed that its quote was still valid. The quotes were discussed.

Resolved: To appoint Playsafe Playgrounds Ltd to carry out the work as quoted for a total of £3,748 exc VAT.

057/25 TO CONSIDER COUNCIL AUTHORISATION OF THE APPLICATION FOR A FERNHURST TOWN CRIER

Andrew Minor, a Parish resident had requested the Parish Council to authorise his application to the Ancient and Honourable Guild of Town Criers as the Fernhurst Town Crier. This was discussed and it was confirmed that it would involve no cost to the Parish Council.

Resolved: to authorise Andrew Minor to apply to be the Fernhurst Town Crier for the next two years.

Action: Mrs Bicknell to provide Mr Minor with the timetable for the upcoming Revels event.

058/25 TO CONSIDER LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR DIGITAL SWITCHOVER

Arrangements for the Parish were still unclear and were expected to vary for different landline phone service suppliers. Options were raised including setting up a new Parish Emergency Plan, providing an emergency power supply/power bank at the Village Hall in the event of an extended power cut and sourcing information on call services which did not require internet connection. **Action: Mr Buchanan** to research what other areas were providing, helpful suggestions and contact numbers in the event of problems. The Parish Council would provide information on the switchover in a future parish magazine article.

059/25 MONTHLY EXECUTIVE REPORTS/COMMITTEE MATTERS

A) **Finance and Administration**;

- Bank Reconciliations approval.

Resolved: to approve the March 2025 bank reconciliation

- To approve the April payment schedule

Resolved: to approve the April 2025 payment schedule

The 2024/25 annual accounts would be circulated to all Councillors and it was requested that all Councillors reviewed them and all attended the upcoming meeting of the Finance Committee on 30th April.

B) **Planning Committee**

The last Planning Committee meeting had taken place earlier that evening.

C) **Property, Highways and Environment Committee**

Mr Bellet, as Vice Chair of the Committee, deputised for Mrs Jenkins who was not at the meeting**.** Mr Bellet had met with the Clerk and the Village Ranger the previous week to review ongoing workload. As he was new in role he would also accompany the Village Ranger on a tour of the Parish in the next few weeks. **Action: Clerk** to ask Village Ranger to fill any grit bins with the remaining bags of salt.

060/25 TO RESOLVE THAT THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING

To enable employment issues to be conducted confidentially it was requested that the meeting be closed to the press and public.

Resolved: In accordance with the provisions of Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 that the press and pubic be excluded from the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

The Clerk left the meeting

061/25 TO CONSIDER CONFIRMATION OF CLERK IN ROLE

The item was discussed.

Resolved: To confirm that following the six month probation period the Clerk was confirmed in role.

Date of next meeting – 21 May 2025

The meeting ended at about 8.30pm

Chairman Signed: ……..

Date: