

FAIRLIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: John Edmunds

**285 Elphinstone Road, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 2AX,
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Mr Tim Hickling
Head of Planning
Rother District Council
Town Hall
London Road
Bexhill on Sea
TN39 3JX

29th July 2015

Dear Mr Hickling

Neighbourhood Plan Notice – Fairlight Parish

Please accept this letter as an application to designate the area of Fairlight Parish within the Rother District Council's Planning Authority as a Neighbourhood Plan Area pursuant to the provisions of the Localism Act 2012 for the purposes of the application.

I enclose a copy of the map identifying the area of the parish.

The area is considered appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area because it is a properly constituted parish within the planning authority area of Rother District Council.

I confirm that Fairlight Parish Council is a relevant body for the purposes of 61G of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act, being a Parish Council. I enclose a copy of the minute of the meetings where this application was agreed and the plan approved.

Yours sincerely



J Edmunds
Clerk to Fairlight Parish Council

Enclosures: Map of Fairlight Parish

Extract of minutes of FPC meeting 28th October 2014 ref: 14146

Extract of minutes of FPC meeting 24th February 2015 ref: 15032

Extract of minutes of FPC meeting 24th March 2014 ref: 15049

highways obstructions such as overhanging branches can be removed under section 333 of the Highways Act (1980).

14144 Community Resilience

Cllr Mrs Annetts had represented the Parish Council at this meeting on 22nd October. Her notes from the meeting were distributed to Members prior to this meeting and made available to the public. They are attached as an appendix to these Minutes.

Cllr Annetts advised that she will call a meeting for the Emergency Committee in the near future to make sure things are in place to enable a swift response to any emergency. They will also look at ways of ensuring vulnerable people have contact numbers and other information such as the Red Cross Van.

14145 Highways

(a) Monthly Report

The Highways Report had been circulated by Cllr. Revd. Gibbs prior to the Meeting and made available to the Public at the Meeting. The Report is attached as an appendix to these Minutes. Cllr Revd Gibbs also highlighted some Highways work which is either now complete or underway.

Cllr Thatcher asked if the hole in the hedge on the Fairlight Road by Hysted was to be repaired. Cllr Revd Gibbs advised that the Enforcement Officer from Hastings Council was dealing with the issue.

(b) Proposed cuts to the 344 bus service

Cllr Mier updated Members, advising that Stagecoach would be running the service on a commercial basis and that the only expected change will be the loss of the Sunday Service.

The Vice – Chair enquired as to the cost of the Consultancy. County Cllr Maynard was unsure as to the amount but will enquire and report back. He also made the point that the aim was to ensure that the most amount of people had an opportunity to respond to the survey and that the period of the consultation was made 12 rather than the standard 6 weeks.

14146 Planning

(a) Planning reports

The Planning report and Planning Committee report for the last month had been circulated prior to the meeting and made available to the Public at the Meeting.

Cllr Leadbetter gave a brief précis of the report and also mentioned that the Planning Application for the development of the old Market Garden site had now been validated. Fairlight Parish Council will hold a public drop-in meeting in the Village Hall on the morning of the 15th November to explain the plans to parishioners. Resident's views will be noted prior to a full discussion by the Planning Committee at their meeting on 18th November. (The drop-in event on 15 November coincides with Heather Black's meeting about the Post Office so parishioners can visit both.)

The Report was noted and is attached as an appendix to these Minutes.

(b) Neighbourhood Planning

Cllr Leadbetter's report had been circulated prior to the Meeting and made available to the public at the Meeting. It is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

Councillors briefly discussed the report. Cllr Leadbetter reminded Members that the funding required could be about £15k of which £7k would have been Government funding under this year's arrangements. It is anticipated that similar grants will be available next year but if they did not become available then they should be mindful that this will need to be considered when agreeing the Precept.

Cllr Mier proposed the following which had been recommended by Cllr Leadbetter in his report :-

1. Fairlight Parish Council agrees that it wishes to develop a Neighbourhood Plan.
2. FPC authorises discussions with Action in Rural Sussex to establish the full cost of engaging them to act as consultant to the Council in developing a Neighbourhood Plan.
3. That the Parish Council notify Rother District council of its intention to develop a Neighbourhood Plan, but defer serving formal notice until we are in a position to proceed.
4. Any available government grants be applied for, although preliminary work on the Neighbourhood Plan should commence without waiting for grant arrangements for the next funding round to be established.

Cllr Leadbetter seconded the proposal.

All voted in favour and the proposal was so **Resolved**.

(c) Firehills Visitor Centre

An invitation to attend a consultation meeting at the Town Hall Hastings on 30th October has been received to discuss the proposal for a Visitor Centre on the Country Park.

Cllr Leadbetter is prepared to attend but wanted to know his remit.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Leadbetter, "that Fairlight Parish Council send a representative and who may address the meeting. That address will include no objection to the Visitor Centre being an Educational Centre but will object to their being a catering business onsite (except cans of drink and

Cllr Thatcher proposed that the sum of £250 be available again for 2015/16. Cllr Mendelson seconded the proposal.

All Cllrs voted in favour. **Resolved.**

Cllr Mier rejoined the Meeting at 7.45pm and re-took the Chair of the Meeting.

15047 Fairlight Community Post Office and Store

Cllr Mrs Annetts advised that a new Committee had been formed and they were back in operation. A fresh grant request had been made to Rother and other Grant funders.

More information will be supplied in due course.

Cllr Revd Gibbs mentioned that she had heard the Cove pub was up for sale and wondered if the committee had considered purchasing it and making use of its position and car park for its venture. Cllr Mrs Annetts advised that the committee had discussed it but felt the Cove was unsuitable.

The Chairman asked if contact details of the new Committee could be supplied to the PC which Cllr Mrs Annetts confirmed she would arrange.

15048 Highways

The Highways Report had been circulated by Cllr. Revd. Gibbs prior to the Meeting and made available to the Public at the Meeting. The Report is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

Cllr Revd Gibbs advised that in addition to the report, she had been advised that the promised drain clearance will be undertaken shortly.

15049 Planning

(a) Planning reports

The Planning report, Planning Committee report and Neighbourhood Planning update for the last month had been circulated prior to the meeting and made available to the Public at the Meeting.

Cllr Leadbetter had nothing to add to the Planning reports. There were no questions from Members.

The Report was noted and is attached as an appendix to these Minutes.

Cllr Leadbetter advised that the next step in the Neighbourhood Planning process is to serve Notice on Rother District Council that the Neighbourhood Plan is proceeding and that the geographic development area he believes to be the Parish Boundary. A map detailing the area is attached to the report as an Appendix. The Clerk has been in correspondence with Action in Rural Sussex (AiRS) and they will be formally appointed once the Contract has been received and checked.

Cllr Leadbetter then gave details about the Visitor Centre which had received Planning Approval from Hastings Council's Planning Committee despite the large number of objections, mainly from the nearby Fairlight Residents who had not been allowed to address the Committee as the Standing Orders allowed only Hastings residents to speak.

Allegedly, there had also been some comments made of which the residents and Cllrs who were present, did not approve. A request has been made by the Clerk for a copy of the DVD recording to be supplied but as yet this has not been supplied due to a problem with the machine used for copying/burning purposes. The approved plans allow for a larger than originally discussed building and the site chosen is close to residents residing in Lower Coastguard Lane and The Close.

The Chairman expressed a view that he was sorry that there now appeared to be some animosity between Hastings and Fairlight Councils as a result of this because at the start of the process, there had been good dialogue. He found it particularly sad that it had come to this and the two Council's should be co-operating and not at loggerheads. He suggested he might contact Hastings Councilors for a meeting to discuss, which Members felt was the correct action but also felt Hastings Council need to be persuaded that they should look at it again and consider how it affects the nearby residents. There is recourse to the Local Authority Ombudsman if necessary.

15050 Land Management:

(a) Land Management Report

Cllr King was absent due to illness and in his absence, Cllr Thatcher reported the following:-

(1) Geoff Smith has replaced the sunken supports for the log edging holding the bark on the Children's Playground in Wood Field.

(2) The replacement plants previously agreed are still to be planted. Cllr King is talking to Rotherview Nursery about the plants.

Cllr Mrs Annetts advised that in Cllr King's absence, she will be meeting with the Nursery on 26th March to discuss the planting further. Cllr Thatcher advised that when the horses escaped from the adjacent field to Wood Field quite a lot of mess was left behind and Mrs Val King had cleared this up which took a lot of time. Through the Chairman a vote of thanks was formally given to Mrs King.

Cllr Thatcher advised that the brambles which have been cleared from the part of Knowle Wood owned by the PC will need to be burnt. This may happen this weekend.

(b) Knowle Wood Land Survey/Valuation of Warren Estate

The Clerk reported that the Valuation had been undertaken on 23rd March but no information was yet available. Once it is to hand, it will be circulated to Members.

(c) Southern Water – Complaint update