

**Minutes of the ordinary Firsdown Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday  
7<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7.15pm in Winterslow Village Hall**

**Present**

Cllr Simon Brown (Chairman)  
Cllr Paul Kennedy  
Cllr Rich Rogers  
Cllr Nigel Walsh

**In attendance:** Catherine Purves (Clerk)

**Also present**

Three members of the public, Wiltshire Councillor Rich Rogers.

**Public Session**

*Byway Open to All Traffic* – a resident advised members that English Heritage had visited the parish some years ago to investigate the possibility that the BOAT was based on a Roman road. It was concluded there was no evidence to support this possibility, and so it is inaccurate to refer to the B.O.A.T as the Roman Road officially.

*“Taking back” the Right of Way from Wiltshire Council* – a resident advised this had been thoroughly investigated in the past, and was not possible. It had been tried elsewhere in the County, and had failed, following long, difficult and expensive legal proceedings.

*Picnic tables on the B.O.A.T.* - a resident commented that no other parish in the county has this arrangement, and so Wiltshire Council will require a formal application, which will be given to its lawyers to determine, as there is no precedent. It was understood that the National Trust placed their picnic tables adjacent to their cafes, in close proximity to other facilities.

*Traffic on the B.O.A.T.* – a resident noted that there seemed to be fewer 4 x 4 vehicles and motor cycles using the B.O.A.T., but an increasing number of cyclists were, as a result of the heavily publicised and promoted King Alfred’s Way and Cathedrals Cycle Route challenge in the cycling world.

*Wiltshire Council Rich Rogers gave his report:*

**Wiltshire Local Plan Review Update**

**Summary**

- Initial consultation of the draft local plan has received considerable response from Wiltshire residents and groups.
- The intention is that only the minimum number of houses required will be developed.
- Consideration towards building a new 1,200 settlement to south west of Amesbury (land North of London Road and land east of A345), with land at High Post being identified for additional employment development.
- Booking system at Household Recycle Centres (HRCs) to end on the 19 July 2021 in line with national lockdown relaxation. I have discussed with the officers at WC the idea of installing webcams at the HRCs so residents can monitor queues and waiting times.
- The proposed Primetower development in Winterslow has been turned down by Wiltshire Council.
- Issues raised with replacement street lighting on Firs Close, Atkins have already implemented remedial action.

- I have arranged for the WC Unimog 'weed puller' to be deployed to Winterslow on specific request from the PC. Could also be used in Firsdown at the same time if it was felt there was a requirement.
- Parliamentary constituency boundaries are undergoing review. Significant change proposed to the Salisbury constituency with Amesbury moving to Devizes. You can comment on the proposals at: [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk).

## **COUNCIL BUSINESS**

### **41.21 To receive apologies for absence**

Resolved: to note apologies from Cllr Jeremy Beaven and Cllr Ginette Stewart.

### **42.21 To receive any Declarations of Interest from Members**

a. To receive any **Declarations of Interest** in respect of matters contained in this agenda.

None received.

b. To consider any **Dispensation Requests** received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered.

None requested

### **43.21 Minutes**

**a. Resolved:** To approve and sign as a correct record without amendment the minutes of the Annual Firsdown Parish Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

**b. Resolved:** to approve and sign as a correct record without amendment the minutes of the extra ordinary meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

**44.21 To consider any items raised in the public session (Note no decision can be made)** The comments were noted with thanks, the issues raised were discussed elsewhere on the agenda.

### **45.21 To receive reports from:**

*a. The Chairman* – Cllr Brown emphasised that the official method of communicating with the Parish Council is by email, letter or phone call to the Parish Clerk, whose contact details are on the website and the three noticeboards, or alternatively residents could contact a Parish Councillor. The Parish Council will not respond to issues raised via Facebook or any other social media, nor will it enter into any dialogue with residents via social media. An audit trail is required, and social media posts and texts can be deleted.

*b. The Parish Clerk*

- The Clerk will attend the Wiltshire branch meeting of the Society of Local Council Clerks later in July, where hybrid meetings and/or streaming meetings to social media are to be discussed. She will report to the next meeting. Action: The Clerk
- Noisy geese – complaints have been received about noisy geese in the parish. The residents were advised to contact WC Rich Rogers and also WC's Public Health Protection department for advice and guidance.
- Co-option – Wiltshire Council Elections Department has confirmed there has been no request for an election, and so the FPC can now co-opt to replace Helen Edgeley. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.
- Traffic Surveys (rubber strips across the road) will recommence after July 19<sup>th</sup>, all being well, in term time only.

*c. The Council's representative to the Southern Area Board* – the Clerk advised the next meeting is scheduled for 7.00pm on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September, venue to be confirmed.

**Resolved:** to note these reports.

#### 46.21 Finance

- a. **Resolved:** to note the bank balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021 stood at £22,039.03
- b. **Resolved:** To confirm and authorise a schedule of accounts in the sum of £1390.22  
**Resolved:** to confirm and authorise the payment of cheque no 346 for £79.99 to Mrs AC Purves for the reimbursement of the cost of the McAfee laptop security software for 2021/2022
- c. **Resolved:** to note the updated 2021/2022 Budget Monitoring form. No issues were raised.

#### 47.21 Governance

a. *Adoption of policies* – Complaints, Co-Option (policy, person specification & application form), Disciplinary, Equal Opportunities, Grant Awarding (policy & application form), Grievance, Health & Safety, Training Statement of Intent, Scheme of Delegation.

**Resolved:** to adopt these policies without amendment

It was also thought advisable to have a formal policy in place to deal with planning applications between meetings. This will be an item for the next meeting. **Action:** The Clerk

b. *To consider Winterbourne Parish's request under a Parish Community Governance Review* for the transfer of two business premises located along the eastern boundary of Winterbourne CP, where the parish boundary bisects the premises.

**Resolved:** to re-confirm agreement to this request, and advise Wiltshire Council accordingly.

**Action:** The Clerk

#### 35.21 Highway/Parish Steward/Footpath matters.

a. *To note any Highways issues* –

- some of the potholes near the A30 end of Firs Road have been filled, and the large pothole near Great Croft has been reported
- The edges of Firs Road are deteriorating, and the Parish Council will press for the road to be top dressed as soon as possible.
- Street lights – following the Wiltshire Council project to change all street light bulbs to LED ones, the amount of light emitted is half that of the previous light bulbs, but they appear much brighter due to the much smaller lit area of the LED luminaries. The light is now better directed onto the road surface. The LED lights save 67% of the energy compared to the old ones, are dimmed by 25% between 8.00pm and 11.00pm, and, by a further 50% between 11.00pm and midnight. They are switched off completely at midnight, apart from those at road junctions. Additional guards have been installed to the lights causing concern to residents in Firs Close.

b. *To note any tasks for the Parish Steward* – none noted. Cllr Brown is the new Parish Steward contact, and WC Highways to be advised. The next visits are on July 15<sup>th</sup> and August 12<sup>th</sup>. **Action:** The Clerk

c. *To note any footpath matters:*

i. Proposed rewording and reinstatement of the 3 x BOAT signs – nothing further to report at present.

ii. Frequency of grass cutting of the BOAT – after a long discussion, it was

**Resolved:** to cut the path through the Firs Road side of the BOAT, leaving the field side uncut for the time being. The whole width of the BOAT will be cut at the end of the summer to encourage the setting of seed and the growth of wild flowers. The Parish Council will, via the community website, seek the parish's views on how best to manage the BOAT for 2022, with the aim of increasing the diversity of flora and fauna, whilst at the same time ensuring access for all users. **Action:** The Clerk

iii. New information board showing Firsdawn Parish Rights of Way – following a short discussion, it was

**Resolved:** to obtain quotes for two A1 size lecterns in wood or recycled plastic, and the provision of the necessary artwork required. **Action:** The Clerk

#### **49.21 – To consider new issues and decide on appropriate action, if any**

*a. Provision of picnic tables near the play area* – after a short discussion, during which concerns were raised about potential littering problems and use by visiting cyclists and walkers, it was noted that some residents are supportive, whilst others are not. It was thought wise to undertake a formal consultation via the Parish Council website so that all points of view can be considered, and in the meantime, Wiltshire Council's permission, as the landowner, will be sought.

**Resolved:** to contact Wiltshire Council and carry out a parish-wide survey. **Action:** The Clerk and Cllr Rogers

*b. Methods of improving communications with residents* – following a short discussion, it was **Resolved:** to establish a working group comprising of Cllr Walsh, Cllr Rogers and the Clerk to look at appropriate and possible methods including electronic newsletters, hybrid meetings and streaming meetings. **Action:** The Clerk, Cllr Walsh and Cllr Rogers

#### *c. Bus services*

*i. To submit ideas for enhancement of bus services to Wiltshire Council* – following a short discussion, it was noted that the grant funding of £617k given to Wiltshire Council for use across the county would not go very far. Members were aware that residents were happy with the existing level of service, but would not wish for it to deteriorate any further, although they would like to see the service to Winchester re-instated.

**Resolved:** to write to Stagecoach with the request to consider re-routing the service to Winchester via Firsdown. **Action:** The Clerk and Cllr Brown.

*ii. To review the situation concerning the charity bus service operating through Winterslow and Firsdown* – members were reminded that at the March 2020 meeting, they were considering giving a donation to the charitable Community Transport South Wiltshire service, subject to details about the number of Firsdown residents using the service. The COVID lockdowns had intervened, but the Parish Council was keen to revisit this. After a short discussion, it was

**Resolved:** to invite representatives to give a short presentation to the next meeting in September. **Action:** The Clerk

#### **50.21 To review other ongoing matters**

##### *a. Play Area*

*i. To note update re the play area report actions* – the Clerk reported these are now in hand.

*ii. Repair of fence* – Cllr Brown reported that 22 posts and 4 top rails needed replacing. Following a short discussion, it was

**Resolved:** to seek quotes to replace only the defective posts with recycled plastic ones, and the rails with wood, with a view to replacing the wooden fence long term with a more maintenance free option, and to replace the gate post into the junior section with a treated oak post. **Action:** The Clerk

It was noted that the wire mesh on the fence behind the bus shelter which had come adrift had now been made safe and secure, and that Cllr Walsh and his footpath volunteers will continue to cut the play area as before, including the slide mound.

*b Purchase of second Speed Indicator Device* – ordered and delivered, awaiting installation which should be by the end of July.

**Resolved:** to retain the sharing arrangement of the existing SID with Winterslow, and a separate management contract will be put in place with the SID Manager for the wholly owned Firsdown SID. **Action:** The Clerk and Cllr Brown

*c Purchase of second noticeboard* – ordered and delivered.

*d. Updating of bank mandate* – in progress.

#### **51.21 Planning**

*a. To consider a response to the following planning applications received from Wiltshire*

*Council:*

**Resolved:** to note none received

*b. To consider a response to applications notified between the publication date of the agenda and the date of the meeting, if necessary.*

Members had been notified of the following:

*PL/2021/05855* – proposed rear orangery (existing conservatory to be removed) at 71 Firs Road, Firsdown

**Resolved:** No objection. **Action:** The Clerk

*c. To note planning decisions made by Wiltshire Council since the last meeting:*

**Resolved:** to note none received

**52.21 To note the dates of the next ordinary meetings of the Council**

a. Wednesday September 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 at 7.15pm in Winterslow Village Hall

b. Wednesday November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021 at 7.15pm in Winterslow Village Hall

**53.21 To close the meeting**

**The meeting closed at 8.45pm**

Councillors considered the following when discharging their duties:

Equal Opportunities (Race, Gender, Sexual Orientation, Marital Status and any Disability),  
Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety, Human Rights