

Felsham Parish Council

Minutes of the MEETING of FELSHAM PARISH COUNCIL **held on 11th March 2025 in the Village Hall**

Present: Cllr Simon Garrod (Chairman); Cllr Ken Sparkes; Cllr Mark Tavernor; Cllr Jason Stringer; Cllr Beverley Williams; Cllr Karen Hubbard;

In attendance: SCC Cllr Penny Otton; Clerk & RFO Miss Isabelle Reece

Apologies: MSDC Cllr Nicky Willshire;

2024/122 Chairman's Welcome; to receive apologies for absence - Chairman Cllr Garrod welcomed everyone to the meeting and received apologies from MSDC Cllr. Nicky Willshire

2024/123 Declarations of interest & requests for dispensation – Cllr Sparkes for the Felsham Charity

2024/124 Minutes of the Previous Parish Council – the Minutes of the meeting of 14th January were considered, **APPROVED**, and signed by Cllr Garrod as a true record

2024/125 To receive reports from SCC & MSDC Cllrs

a. SCC Cllr Penny Otton

Cllr Otton's report, previously circulated, was noted and is available on this website. Cllr Otton highlighted and expressed over the ongoing matter of Devolution and Local Government Reform and her disagreement of the Agenda item at Suffolk County Council's Meeting Thursday 13th March, the Administration's motion for a single county unitary authority for the whole of Suffolk. Cllr Otton also highlighted the recent controversy surrounding the *Suffolk Libraries* contract and expressed her consternation as to the future impact of the Administration's decision to return library services to County Council control.

b. MSDC Cllr Nicky Willshire

Cllr Willshire had sent her report prior to the meeting and is available on this website.

2024/126 Public Forum – There were no members of the public in attendance

2024/127 To receive Clerk's Report – There was nothing to report not covered elsewhere on the Agenda

2024/128 Finance & Governance

a. To receive a financial update (RFO's Report) – The Clerk had circulated a Financial Report; the bank reconciliation was signed by Cllr Sparkes

b. Payment orders totalling £3517 were APPROVED – Clerk's Salary (January & February) £505.20; Felsham & Gedding Village News: proposed by Cllr Garrod & seconded by Cllr Kearney & unanimously **RESOLVED** to donate £30.00; Ratification of Village Sign deposit payment £900.00; Beacon - £1495.00; Kissing Gate - £586.80

c. To Sign Final Budget – This was postponed until the next Meeting

d. To Sign Precept Form 2025-26 – This had already been signed by the The Chairman and the Clerk's countersignature was required

e. Any other Finance & Governance matters – There were no other Finance & Governance Matters

2024/129 Planning

a. To consider DC/25/00783 - Valley Farm Barn, Brettenham Road, Felsham, IP30 OPS Conversion Agricultural to Residential – **NO COMMENTS; No Planning Applications had been received since issue of the Agenda**

b. To note any Decisions & Notices received since issue of this agenda – a notice had been received that afternoon, but too late for inclusion in this meeting's business and would be acknowledged at the next meeting

c. There were no other Planning Matters

2024/130 Village Maintenance – Trees & Greens

a. To receive a report from the Tree Officer – Nothing to report

b. To consider matters reported & updates – Nothing reported

c. Mowing Regime – following a Tender process before Christmas, proposed by Cllr Tavernor & seconded by Cllr Garrod, a contract with Hartley's had been agreed with Hartley Garden Services after cancellation of the February Meeting; here **RATIFIED** by a unanimous vote. Cllr Tavernor circulated details of the contract.

d. Village Sign – the deposit payment was **RATIFIED**; work had started on fabrication of the sign; completion & delivery expected by May; Planning Application pending all necessary information

e. Permanent beacon project – payment had been authorized; the order would be confirmed; delivery expected within two – three weeks; work party to be convened for installation

Cllr Williams reported that the pump on Lower Green was in need of maintenance/renovation; having last been refurbished at the Millennium and since given a coat of paint by a generous anonymous benefactor, whose efforts were noted by Council and recorded with gratitude. She also reminded Council of the weeds in the grit boxes. Cllr Kearney informed the meeting of a parishioner who usually kept the grit boxes free of weeds **ACTION** – Cllr Kearney to contact parishioner in question

2024/131 Conservation Area

a. To receive a report from the Conservation Office – nothing to report

b. To consider any matters reported – Investigation into Retrospective Planning Permission for Listed wall still pending

2024/132 Highways & Footpaths

a. Parking at The Orchard – No update available, survey completion expected with warmer weather

b. To receive a report from the Footpath Officer – nothing to report except that because of the recent weather conditions, the state of all the paths was reasonable

c. To consider any matters reported – the Clerk had checked her files for suitable dog fouling prevention notices, both for paths and for news articles, but no longer had any and suggested further consideration and the purchase of suitable signs. **ACTION** – Cllrs Kearney and Tavernor to pursue

d. (Flooding & drainage) – no update available

e. (Solar Lighting project) – project in abeyance until capacity available

f. Community Road Safety – No update available **ACTION** Cllr Stringer to publicise on facebook and in the F & G Village News; VASs need to be moved **ACTION** – Cllr Kearney to contact relevant volunteers; idea is that Speedwatch & VAS activity be consolidated into one group

g. Kissing Gate Project – the invoice was signed for payment; the gate had been ordered and a working party for installation would be convened.

2024/133 Local Housing Needs – no update available. **ACTION** – Clerk to request meeting availability with Officers concerned

2024/134 Correspondence

a. Parish Council Suggestions Box QR Code – Cllr Kearney at point of producing Test Code

b. to note correspondence & consider action – no action necessary

2024/135 Matters to be brought to the attention of the council/future agenda items – dates of future Parish Council Meetings to be published in the Felsham & Gedding Village News

2024/136 To confirm date of the next Meeting – Tuesday 8th April 2025

The Meeting was closed by Cllr Garrod at 20.36hrs

Signed_____ **Chairman** **Dated**_____