

## **FELSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – 2017**

Good evening and welcome from your Parish Councillors.

Your councillors are:-

Simon Garrod

Hayley Nunn

David Simpson

Ken Sparkes

Mark Tavernor

David Williams

Harry Wragge

#### **PARISH CLERK – PAULA GLADWELL**

I would like to thank Paula for all the work she has done for the Council, it's very much appreciated by all of the Council.

Welcome to Penny Otton our local councillor and thank you for all the hard work you do on behalf of Felsham and congratulations on your re-election.

Andrew Conquest has done the Internal Audit, again, thank you Andrew for this.

#### **THE PARISH PRECEPT**

One of our biggest responsibilities is to set the precept for the coming financial year. Our precept is therefore the amount we, Felsham Parish Council, ask Mid Suffolk District Council to collect each year for us to meet our spending needs. Typically our spending includes insurance, street lighting, grass cutting and maintenance, and donations to support village organisations and others who benefit our community e.g. the Citizens Advice Bureau. In addition, although all Parish Councillors are unpaid the Parish Clerk does receive remuneration and this cost is also covered by the precept. The precept for the year 2016/17 has been set at £6162 a rise of £399 from last year this equates to an increase of £1.11 on a band D property.

Although the precept is our principal source of income, the Parish Council can apply for other funding such as grants and funding awards to support local projects, but we do not receive funds directly from central government, and thanks to Penny for the moneys we have received from her locality budget. We also received funds from the Felsham Charity, which are used to offset part of the cost of grass cutting and allow us to provide extra help to village groups when necessary.

There is also a huge amount of work done in the village by volunteers that saves the village large amounts of money so thanks to them also.

## **PLANNING**

- 1 Permission has now been granted for extended hours at the Gliding Club and *the* Gliding Club Liaison Committee still meets regularly.
- 2 We continue to have issues with the Planning Department at Mid Suffolk with them not being fully aware that the conservation area in Felsham means there are different requirements when applying for planning.

## **WORK UNDERTAKEN BY THE PARISH COUNCIL THIS YEAR**

### **VAS – VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGNS**

We now have the signs up, which are being shared with Buxhall. They cost us £720.00.

### **STREET LIGHTING**

The outdated street lighting has been replaced. However the lights were not painted black as originally agreed and there were also problems with wiring and the location of the lights.

### **SPEED WATCH PROJECT**

This is still running, but we could still do with more volunteers.

### **WEBSITE**

Although the website is up and running, there have been a few problems due to the way it was initially set up. We now have access to funding which will hopefully allow us to improve the site.

### **DOG FOULING**

There have been many complaints about dog fouling, particularly on the footpath around the allotments, we have been working with the Police Community Support Officers to try and resolve this issue. We would like to encourage people to report this to the PCSO or the Parish Council.

### **FINALLY**

Your Parish Council is here for you; your councillors are here to represent your views and help resolve local issues that affect you. If you have anything you feel strongly about, please contact our Clerk, Paula Gladwell and she will bring it to the attention of the Council. Alternatively anyone can come to the Parish council meetings and air their views at the time set aside for public participation.

Simon Garrod

**16.05.17**

## Felsham and Gedding Playingfield Committee

Parish A.G/M 16/5/17 Village Hall

### Chairmans Report

Our main fund raising events, the Fun Day and the Bon Fire night, were very well attended and received excellent feedback, the committee are now well rehearsed in the organising and running of these two events and both events once again achieved a good profit.

A programme of activities were again offered to children locally during the summer holidays and four sessions ran successfully with a range of sporting and bush craft challenges being enjoyed by all that attended.

This year we were able to store all of our equipment in just one location, locally, an out building in the pub car park, it certainly helped in making the collection and packing away of our equipment much easier and this has really emphasised the need for a storage facility to be situated on the site of the playing field. The subcommittee have been sourcing possible designs and a supplier and they will shortly be in a position to submit drawings and apply for planning permission. I would like to thank Paula Gladwell for letting us store our equipment in her barn in the past.

Our frequent working parties have been well attended and the general upkeep of the car park, play areas and equipment has been maintained to a high standard during this year. We are hoping that in the very near future the main entrance to the car park will receive much needed repair work to the surface.

This year we resurrected the Quiz evening which was really well supported and a great time was had by all, sadly a team from Thorpe Morieux won the event.


All of the above mentioned events and activities are totally dependent upon the support, energy and input of the committee members supported by a loyal group of helpers. A huge vote of thanks to you all.

We are keen to take on new committee members during this year, particularly those who have young families and use the park facilities regularly.

Mr Adrian King

Chairperson

Felsham and Gedding Playingfield Committee



16/5/17

# **The Felsham Charity (No.208013)**

## **Annual report May 2017**

Charity has a very long history in Felsham and the origins of this charity can be traced back to the 15th century. Over the years there have been many wealthy benefactors who have provided for the less fortunate in the village and this is now probably one of the wealthiest of similar village charities in Suffolk. The Town and Poor's estate charity was formalised in 1914 and updated and renamed the Felsham Charity in 2009.

The Felsham Charity is exclusively for the benefit of the residents and the church of St Peter in the parish of Felsham and grants are available for the following.

- The funeral grant is currently £300 and is offered to the family of the deceased to help with funeral costs
- The education grant which is available on application is currently £150 and is made to help with the cost of books etc. whilst serving an apprenticeship or at college or university
- A fuel grant is offered annually to all residents over retirement age to help with energy costs
- Hardship grants are available on application for any purpose e.g. nursing costs or for specialist equipment
- Interest free loans may be offered on application

If you are or you know someone who is going through trying times, perhaps they have been made redundant or they are in poor health, the Felsham Charity may be able to help. Please don't be afraid to contact any of the Trustees, they are always discrete and will never disclose any personal information to anyone.

In addition to the help that is provided to individuals the charity contributes to village groups for the benefit of the whole community. In the past contributions have been made to the Parish Council for help with grass cutting in the centre of the village and on the playing field. Further donations have been made to help maintain the fabric of the church, to support the Village Friends group, to help fund the village hall improvements and to help fund the new play equipment on the playing field.

Harry Wragge is the trustee responsible for the allotments and some are still available so if anyone is interested please let Harry know. Allotment rents were last increased in October 2013 and may be increased again this year in order to eventually reach parity with rents charged in Bury and Stowmarket.

The finances of the charity are very ably controlled by Mr Michael Shallow and continue to be in very good shape with net assets as at the end of March rising to £551,701. The charity owns two residential properties in Stowmarket and freehold land in Felsham currently valued in total at £309,000. Other funds are invested in Standard Life which has increased in value to £229,582. In the past year net income available for distribution amounted to £15,721 and grants paid were £17,700.

There are eight trustees in all, three ex officio trustees appointed by the church and five nominated trustees appointed by the Parish Council. The ex officio trustees are the Rev. Sharon Potter, David Williams as church warden and Michael Shallow a PCC member.

The five nominated trustees are:

Mary Carter  
Brian Deards  
Brian Francis  
Patricia Wilson  
Harry Wragge

As some of you may know two years ago there was a vacancy for a nominated trustee, if you are interested in serving as a charity trustee when another vacancy arises please let Simon Garrod, PC chairman know as he will keep a list of candidates.

Finally, please don't be reluctant to contact any of the Trustees we are a friendly bunch and always willing to help. We may be amongst the older members of our community but between us we have a wealth of life experience, very broad shoulders and are very good listeners.

**David Williams**  
**Chairman of the Trustees**  
**5th May 2017**