

# Felsham Parish Council

## **Minutes of the MEETING of FELSHAM PARISH COUNCIL** **held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 in the Village Hall**

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

**In attendance:** 1 Member of the Public; SCC Cllr Penny Otton; Clerk & RFO Miss Isabelle Reece

**Apologies:** MSDC Cllr Nicky Willshire; Cllr Paul Kearney

---

**2024/047 Chairman's Welcome; to receive apologies for absence; and feedback from The Felsham & Gedding Fair** – Cllr Garrod welcomed everyone to the meeting and received apologies from Cllr Willshire and Cllr Kearney. The Village Fair had been well-attended; the weather and atmosphere warm; and plenty of activities. Takings were slightly down on last year, with the expense of Portaloos® for the first time. A Christmas Fair will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**2024/048 Declarations of interest & requests for dispensation** – Cllr Sparkes: Felsham Charity

**2024/049 Minutes of the Previous Parish Council** – with the correction to a parishioner's name, the Minutes of the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> August were considered, **APPROVED**, and signed by Cllr Garrod as a true record

**2024/050 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 the Launch of the Solar Together scheme; that SCC Cabinet had discussed changes to Recycling; and that she was still awaiting an answer to her question on the future of Community Bottle Banks. Cllr Otton also referred to questions in the House of Commons on the future of the planned new West Suffolk Hospital in Bury St Edmunds. She also asked about a possible Planning Application or Enforcement issue in a neighbouring parish.

**b. MSDC Cllr Nicky Willshire**

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

**2024/051 Public Forum** – The Member of the Public in attendance addressed the Council to indicate her wish to apply for Co-option to the existing vacancy.

**2024/052 To receive Clerk's Report** – The Clerk had completed all the information sheets for the Village Fair, as well as the Orchard Parking flyer; the nomination of the Community Stores & Post Office for the Suffolk Community Awards had been submitted and was successful. The Awards ceremony is on 24<sup>th</sup> September: unfortunately, since it is during the daytime, none of the councillors will be able to attend. The Chairman noted that Mr Conquest had thanked the Parish Council for its nomination. The Clerk had attempted to arrange a Saturday morning extra meeting with Councillors and Housing Enablement Officers, to no avail. The Council decided that the matter should be revisited at a later date. The Clerk was finally able to get the information necessary to submit a VAT Refund Claim: the first one was for the year 2021-22, amounted to £949.06 (that year a VAS had been purchased) and had already been received from HMRC. Renewal of the Asset of Community Value for the Pub and the Community Stores had been confirmed.

**2024/053 Finance & Governance**

**a. To receive a financial update (RFO's Report)** the Clerk had circulated a Financial Report for September; Cllr Tavernor verified & signed the Bank Reconciliation. The Clerk had transferred £2,000 from the Current Account to the Savings Account in order to improve interest earnings & intends to do so again in the near future.

**b. Payments totalling £973.34 were APPROVED** – Clerk's Salary (July & August) £505.20 & MSDC Bin Emptying – £468.14

**c. To receive the Internal Auditor's Report** – The Internal Auditor had not yet sent the Report

**d. To consider any other Finance & Governance matters** - there were none

**2024/054 Planning**

**a. No Planning Applications had been received since the issue of the Agenda**

**b. Decision DC/24/03487** Brindlewood, Dakings Lane, Felsham, IP30 0QW Discharge of Conditions;

was noted; **no Notices had been received since issue of this agenda**

**c. To discuss and agree any Response to Jt Local Plan Part 2** – consensus was that it would not make any difference; that any response would carry little or no weight, therefore none would be submitted

**d. To discuss and agree any Response to NPPF Consultation** – it was deemed that the “guidance” received from SALC would not be a genuine local response; and that in this case too, any response would carry little or no weight and that none would be submitted

**e. Any other Planning Matters** – there were no other Planning matters

#### **2024/055 Village Maintenance – Trees & Greens**

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

**b. To consider matters reported & updates** – Cllr Tavernor reported that he had spread green hay on Lower Green 'to encourage wild flowers'. Opinions differ as to the aesthetic merits of the current cutting regime: they will be addressed at the Cutting Regime Review at the end of the growing season.

**c. Village Sign Update** – Cllr Sparkes reported that he had not yet received the new quote; Cllr Tavernor had found some of the earlier drawings and would pass them to Cllr Sparkes. The Clerk had contacted former Cllr Simpson about preparing the Planning Application necessary for the sign but had not yet received a reply. Alternatives were suggested if Mr Simpson is not available.

#### **2024/056 Conservation Area**

**a. To receive a report from the Conservation Office** – No report available

**b. To consider any matters reported** – The house known for a period of time as *The Cottage* has now reverted to its name *Live and Let Die*. It has undergone extensive renovations, including a new roof.

#### **2024/057 Highways & Footpaths**

**a. Parking at The Orchard** – Cllr Sparkes had posted the flyers to residents; some had been returned, and he will pursue the remaining residents' responses. The previously overgrown hedge on MSDC land had been trimmed by local residents, but a long-term solution is needed. Cllr Sparkes drew attention to the poor state of the pavements on the Orchard, with weeds and uneven surfaces. There was uncertainty as to which authority should be approached SCC Highways or MSDC. **ACTION** – Clerk to investigate

**b. To receive a report from the Footpath Officer** – no report available

**c. To consider any matters reported** – see item 057a above

**d. Flooding & drainage** – no update available

**e. Solar Lighting project** – flyer for project not yet available

**f. Community Speed Watch** – no update available. Cllr Williams asked if it would be possible to place the VAS on her road at some point. Councillors reported logistical difficulties at present owing to volunteer availability and equipment maintenance issues **ACTION** – Cllrs Stringer & Tavernor to investigate

**g. Kissing Gate Project** – no update available (Cllr Kearney unavoidably absent)

#### **2024/058 Local Housing Needs – update & to confirm date of Extraordinary Meeting**

See above, Item 052

#### **2024/059 Correspondence**

**a.** To consider introduction of a Parish Council Suggestions Box – Proposed by Cllr Williams & seconded by Cllr Garrod, it was agreed in principle, pending agreement from Community Store for location. **ACTION** – Cllr Williams to take idea to Community Stores

**b.** to note correspondence & consider action – the Clerk had received an email from another parish council requesting help on the Joint Local Plan: she had sent him any guidance already received and directed him to the District Councillor

#### **2024/060 Matters to be brought to the attention of the council/future agenda items**

Co-option of councillor; review of mowing regime; traffic management; format of APM, Clerk's Appraisal

#### **2024/061 To confirm date of the next Meeting** – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**The Meeting was closed by Cllr Garrod at 20.29hrs**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman Dated \_\_\_\_\_