

Felsham Parish Council

Minutes of the MEETING of FELSHAM PARISH COUNCIL held on 9th April 2024 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr Simon Garrod (Chairman), Cllr Jason Stringer, Cllr Mark Tavernor, Cllr Beverley Williams (Co-opted at Item 2023/156d)

In attendance: MSDC Cllr Nicky Willshire (from 19.45hrs); Clerk & RFO Miss Isabelle Reece

Apologies: SCC Cllr Penny Otton; Cllr Ken Sparkes; Cllr Paul Kearney

2023/150 Welcome & to receive apologies for absence – Cllr Garrod welcomed everyone to the meeting and received apologies from SCC Cllr Otton, Cllr Ken Sparkes & Cllr Paul Kearney

2023/151 Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation – None

2023/152 Minutes of previous Parish Council Meeting – The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 12th March were considered, **APPROVED**, and signed by Cllr Garrod as a true record

2023/153 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.

b. MSDC Cllr Nicky Willshire – Cllr Willshire's report, previously circulated, was noted and is available on this website. Later in the Meeting Cllr Willshire highlighted the Election for Police & Crime Commissioner

2023/154 Public Forum – no representation made to the Council

2023/155 Clerk's report – the Clerk had begun work on resubmission of the Assets of community Value, having found documentation prepared by the former Working Group; Invitations had been sent out for the Annual Parish Meeting, except for the F & G Village News. Cllr Tavernor confirmed that Mrs Wilson had not yet stood down from her post

2023/156 Finance & Governance

a. To receive a financial update – the Clerk had circulated a Financial Report for April; Cllr Tavernor verified & signed the Bank Reconciliation. The Clerk clarified that it was a reflection of the current financial situation and that she was in the process of preparing the Annual Accounts for 2023-24 ready for the May Meeting.

b. The following orders requested for payment were **APPROVED**– Clerk's Salary (March) £217.00; SCC St Lighting £233.48. Cllr Tavernor raised queries over lights, both location and duration of lighting. **ACTION** – The subject would be a Future Agenda Item

c. To Appoint Internal Auditor for 2023-24 – Confirmation had been received from Mr Andrew Conquest that he would act as Internal Auditor again this year.

d. Co-option of New Parish Councillor – Proposed by Cllr Garrod & seconded by Cllr Tavernor, Beverley Williams was unanimously co-opted as a Member of the Councillor

e. To consider any other Finance & Governance matters – there were no further urgent Finance & Governance Matters

2023/157 Planning

a. To consider Planning Application - DC/24/01080: Application for Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/23/02347 The Cottage, Upper Green, Felsham IP30 0PL: it was concluded that councillors had been mistaken in the need for an extension for comments on this application; **no Planning Applications had been received since issue of the Agenda**

b. Notice DC/24/01079 Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/23/02346 - The Cottage, Upper Green, Felsham, IP30 0PL: was **NOTED**; No notices had been received since issue of the Agenda

c. Any other Planning matters – The MSDC Planning Committee Meeting where DC/23/05045 Land behind Six Bells was discussed and associated correspondence from a parishioner was **NOTED**. **ACTION** – Clerk to acknowledge latter

2023/158 Village Maintenance– Trees & Greens

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

b. To consider matters reported & updates – Clerk had sent the 2024 Cutting Regime to the contractor

c. Village Sign Update – no update available

2023/159 Conservation Area

a. To receive a report from the Conservation Office – no report available

b. To consider any matters reported – nothing further reported

2023/160 Highways & Footpaths

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

b. To consider any matters reported – Cllr Stringer NOTED a new bridge on Footpath 5 at The Rookery; the Clerk reported an enquiry from a new parishioner for a Footpath Map & requested information as to the availability in the Village of hard copies: councillors reported that they were historically available both at the Village Hall and possibly at the Community Stores. **ACTION** – Clerk & Cllr Tavernor to investigate & check storage container for hard copies and memory stick files for pdf

c. Flooding & drainage The Clerk had received a reply from SCC redirecting her to different department; had subsequently contacted that department, but had yet to receive a reply. Councillors reported that some of the ponds in the village seemed to be undergoing maintenance. MSDC Cllr Willshire reported that across there had recently been considerable co-ordination and co-operation between the County Council and local landowners to remedy some of the flooding and drainage problems. **ACTION** – Clerk to ask Cllr Kearney to identify exact locations of drainage problems in Felsham and to SCC Cllr Otton's assistance to be sought.

d. Solar Lighting project – no update available.

e. Community Speed Watch and Speed signs– Clerk had yet to re-establish contact with Gedding PC

f. Kissing Gate Project – no Project Outline yet in place

2023/161 Correspondence – no further action necessary: following a discussion, with information on recent briefings from MSDC Cllr Willshire, it was deemed inappropriate to submit a Parish Council view on the Suffolk Devolution plan

2023/162 Local Housing Needs – ACTION Clerk to identify possible dates of Extraordinary Meeting; co-ordinate with Village Hall, Community Housing Enabling Officers & councillors; provide Notice for F & G Village News

2023/163 Matters to be brought to the attention of the council/future agenda items – Reinstatement of Greens; Street Lighting; the Clerk needed to forward PCC Election Notice to Cllr Garrod for Parish Notice Board; Cllr Tavernor raised the question of new funding for EV Charging Points **ACTION** – Cllr Tavernor to refer to Playing Field Committee

2023/164 To confirm date of the next Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 14th May: The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council, preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting, which was scheduled for 19.00hrs

The Meeting was closed by Cllr Garrod at 20.20hrs

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