

Felsham Parish Council

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

Present: Cllr Simon Garrod (Chairman), Cllr Ken Sparkes, Cllr Paul Kearney, Cllr Mark Tavenor, Cllr Jason Stringer

In attendance: Member of the Public; SCC Cllr Penny Otton; MSDC Cllr Nicky Willshire; Clerk & RFO Miss Isabelle Reece

Apologies: None

2023/101 Welcome & to receive apologies for absence – Cllr Garrod welcomed everyone to the meeting

2023/102 Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation – Cllr Sparkes for the Felsham Charity

2023/103 Minutes of previous Parish Council Meeting – There having been no December Meeting, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 14th November were considered, **APPROVED**, and signed by Cllr Garrod as a true record

2023/104 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 referred to the considerable traffic issues on the area, which would be likely to continue; some of which may well fall under the remit of the National Highways Authority. As to the parking problems in The Orchard: she undertook to arrange a site visit with Suffolk Highways and would also pursue the Gedding Hill Bridge repair; Cllr Otton is awaiting updates on Covid Recovery funds and the charging framework for Domestic DIY waste.

b. MSDC Cllr Nicky Willshire – Cllr Willshire's report, previously circulated, was noted and is available on this website. Cllr Willshire reported a phone conversation with the Planning Department concerning the Six Bells Application; that the Department's Report would be available later in the week; and that a provisional Call In had been lodged

2023/105 Public Forum

The parishioner in attendance made no representation to the Council

2023/106 Clerk's report

The Clerk had nothing specific to report not covered elsewhere on the Agenda

2023/107 Finance & Governance

a. To receive a financial update – the Clerk had circulated Financial Reports for December and January; Cllrs Sparkes & Tavenor respectively verified & signed the Bank Reconciliations

b. The following orders requested for payment were APPROVED– Clerk's Salary (December) £217.00; TGS Grass Cutting - £105.60

c. Personnel – To consider draft Clerk Appraisal Scheme – Proposed by Cllr Garrod, seconded by Cllr Tavenor, the Council voted unanimously & **RESOLVED** to Adopt the Clerk Appraisal Scheme; Potential Co-option candidate – the potential candidate was in attendance to observe

d. To consider Draft Budget – the Council was satisfied with the draft budget circulated by the Clerk: two of the figures await County & District Budgets before the Final Budget can be agreed

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

2023/108 Planning

a. To consider any Planning Applications since the issue of this Agenda – none had been received

b. The following decisions were noted: DC/23/02347 The Cottage, Upper Green, Felsham IP30 0PL – CONSENT; DC/23/05099 Monks Park Cottage, Cockfield Road, Felsham IP30 0QP - DISCHARGE of CONDITIONS; DC/23/05340 The Old Rectory, Church Road, Felsham IP30 0PW – DISCHARGE of CONDITIONS; DC/23/02347

The Cottage, Upper Green, Felsham IP30 0PL – LISTED BUILDING CONSENT; **no decisions had been received since the issue of this Agenda**

c. To consider any other Planning matters – there were no further Planning matters

2023/109 Village Maintenance

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

b. To consider matters reported & updates – Cllr Tavernor reported that during routine maintenance of the Playing Field the ditch along the car park had been cleared.

2023/110 Conservation Area

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

b. To consider any matters reported – nothing to report

2023/111 Highways & Footpaths

a. To receive a report from the Footpath Officer – footpaths are all very wet or waterlogged; No 7 – the kissing gate at Meadow Close is too small: **ACTION** since SCC is unlikely to fund a replacement this will be a Parish Council future Project; No 3 – the drainage pipe beneath Footpath 3 alongside Lower Green is blocked, causing localized flooding **ACTION** – Cllr Garrod to investigate and report to Suffolk Highways

b. To consider any matters reported – Nothing further reported

c. To discuss possible plan for a Solar Lighting project – No update available, but Cllr Springer shared information on product availability **ACTION** – Clerk to circulate National Landscape Lighting Design Guide

d. Community Speed Watch update – Cllr Springer reported no further response to calls for volunteers. It was suggested that a co-operative venture with Gedding might be possible: Gedding Parish Meeting had approached Felsham regarding VAS sharing

2023/112 Correspondence - Correspondence regarding the parking problems at The Orchard **ACTION** - to be officially acknowledged

2023/113 Local Housing Needs update – following Cllrs Garrod & Sparkes' meeting with the Housing Enabling Officer and a Call for Sites for Social Housing it is evident that further consultation with residents will be necessary to take the project further

2023/114 Village Sign update – no further update; Cllr Sparkes requested details of quotes for work from earlier in the Project **ACTION** – Clerk to investigate; and exact dimensions yet to be finalized

2023/115 Matters to be brought to the attention of the council/future agenda items – Public Meeting on Community Led Housing scheme; Traffic Speed reduction co-operation with Gedding; Kissing Gate Replacement

2023/116 To confirm date of the next Meeting – Tuesday 13th February 2024

The Meeting was closed by Cllr Garrod at 20.30hrs

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