

Felsham Parish Council

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

Present: Cllr Simon Garrod (Chairman), Cllr Ken Sparkes; Cllr Paul Kearney; Cllr Jason Stringer; Cllr Beverley Williams

In attendance: MSDC Cllr Nicky Willshire; Clerk & RFO Miss Isabelle Reece

Apologies: SCC Cllr Penny Otton; Cllr Mark Tavernor

2024/032 Chairman's Welcome & to receive apologies for absence – Cllr Garrod welcomed everyone to the meeting and received apologies from Cllr Tavernor. Cllr Garrod had expressed concern as to whether he was fulfilling the responsibilities of Chairman and indicated his intention to stand down. After a brief discussion and reassurances of confidence from fellow Councillors and the Clerk, Cllr Garrod agreed to continue in the role.

2024/033 Declarations of interest & requests for dispensation – Cllr Sparkes for the Felsham Charity

2024/034 Minutes of the Previous Parish Council – with the correction to a parishioner's name, the Minutes of the meeting of 11th June 2024 were considered, **APPROVED**, and signed by Cllr Garrod as a true record

2024/035 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. Planned discussion on Parking issues at the Orchards were postponed to a later Meeting.

b. MSDC Cllr Nicky Willshire

Cllr Willshire had sent her report prior to the meeting and is available on this website. Cllr Willshire also made reference to Mid Suffolk's financial situation; the 'Virtual Consultation & Hospitalisation' initiative and the new (Mental Health) Talking Therapies Service; to grant funding possibilities; and to discussions she had had elsewhere about village parking issues for residents and their visitors.

2024/036 Public Forum – There were no members of the public in attendance

2024/037 To receive Clerk's Report – All agreed Cllr Williams' draft submissions for the Suffolk Community Awards & the Clerk would complete and submit the nomination.

2024/038 Finance & Governance

a. To receive a financial update (RFO's Report) – the Clerk had circulated a Financial Report for July; Cllr Sparkes verified & signed the Bank Reconciliation

b. Payments totalling £463.80 were APPROVED – Clerk's Salary (June) £252.60; TGS Grass Cutting £211.20. The Clerk had also received an invoice, unusually in the post rather than via email, for dog and litter bin emptying: this would have to be considered for approval at the next Meeting.

c. To consider any other Finance & Governance matters – there were no other Finance & Governance matters

2024/039 Planning

a. Application DC/24/02911 Hill Farm, Rattlesden Road, Felsham, IP30 0PX Listed Building Consent. Timber frame window repair – **NO COMMENTS**; No Planning Applications had been received since the issue of the Agenda

b. Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/24/01073 - Lower Green Cottage, Lower Green, Felsham IP30 0PPDC/24/02454 Condition 3 (Door) – **NOTED ; Decision DC/24/02254** Tree Works 6 Church Road, Felsham IP30 0PN – **NOTED ; Discharge of Conditions Application DC/23/04095** Monks Park Cottage, Cockfield Road Felsham IP30 0QP – **NOTED**; no notices had been received since issue of the agenda

c. Any other Planning Matters – The Clerk alluded to the New National Government's intention to completely overhaul the National Planning Policy Framework, which will affect Planning everywhere, not necessarily in ways that will be met with enthusiasm; she also mentioned the new Planning Enforcement Criteria for Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils

2024/040 Village Maintenance – Trees & Greens

a. To receive a report from the Tree Officer – no report was available

b. To consider matters reported & updates – Cllr Kearney's report that the owners of The Rectory had replaced the damaged salt box located near their property was **NOTED** with appreciation.

c. Village Sign Update – Cllr Sparkes had made contact with the fabricator previously engaged by the Council. Currently on holiday in Spain, upon his return, he would provide a new quote as per the original specification. Planning Permission could be submitted once all details were finalised. **ACTIONS** – Cllr Sparkes to liaise further with fabricator; Clerk to verify if former councillor Simpson was still available to prepare the Planning Permission

2024/041 Conservation Area

a. To receive a report from the Conservation Office – Cllr Kearney had sent an update on the restored Listed wall at the Six Bells Public House. The Council supports the restoration work thus far, thought there remains a little concern as to Planning Status **ACTION** – Cllr Kearney to keep under review; Admiral Inns to be contacted

b. Nothing further had been reported

2024/042 Highways & Footpaths

The subject of parking congestion at The Orchard was alluded to; the Clerk reminded Council of the options SCC Cllr Otton had asked them to consider; and with the Chairman & Cllr Kearney, underlined the necessity of reporting of parking/traffic incidents officially, either via SCC Reporting Tool or with the Suffolk Constabulary, to gain material evidence that would justify future measures. The Clerk's suggestion for a systematic consultation & canvassing of the Orchard's residents was agreed. **ACTION** – Clerk to produce draft Flyer for agreement in September

a. To receive a report from the Footpath Officer – Cllr Kearney reported considerable vegetation growth on and surrounding all the local footpaths; Cllr Williams asked about Footpath 8. Cllr Kearney confirmed that provided there were no physical obstruction to the footpath, landowners are not obliged to adhere to further specifications, including grass height; he also reported that the relevant landowners were aware of and intended to deal with the large dead ash tree on Footpath 8. Naturally the Risk remains with the landowner. **ACTION** – Cllr Kearney to keep under review

b. To consider any matters reported – Cllr Sparkes reported a severely overgrown hedge at a house owned by Mid Suffolk District Council. **ACTION** – Cllr Sparkes to share exact location address with Clerk & Cllr Willshire.

c. Flooding & drainage – It was considered that the communication concerning the OneHouse Sluice was of little if any relevance to the Council. Nothing had been received from SCC: the Clerk yet to pursue. It was noted with great appreciation that further clearance work of drains and ditches had been completed by parishioners, especially near The Rectory and on the Bury Road, which would have a positive cumulative effect on the surrounding areas.

d. Solar Lighting project – Cllr Sparkes had approached several of the residents along the proposed route to garner an initial general response and would complete his enquiries in the coming weeks. Cllr Williams' suggestion for a flyer for this project was **AGREED**. **ACTION** – Clerk to produce flyer.

e. Community Speed Watch – No update available

f. Kissing Gate Project – Cllr Kearney reported that he had been working on some possible designs for the replacement and that the next step was to survey the area, before the next Meeting, to identify which of the design solutions might be suitable.

2024/043 Correspondence – No correspondence had been received from parishioners; no further action regarding correspondence from organizations was considered necessary.

2024/044 Local Housing Needs – arrangements for the Extraordinary Meeting remain unconfirmed because the Housing Enablement Officers' availability was uncertain. It was **AGREED** to defer the Extraordinary Meeting until September **ACTION** – Clerk to contact everyone concerned with dates for September not August

2024/045 Matters to be brought to the attention of the council/future agenda items – 1. Suggestions Box, 2. Future APM Format, 3. PC Information Notice Board for Village Fair on 1st September 4. Traffic Management **ACTION** (3) – Cllr Kearney & Clerk, plus photos of all councillors to Clerk

2024/046 To confirm date of the next Meeting – Tuesday 10th September 2024

The Meeting was closed by Cllr Garrod at 20.49hrs

Signed _____ Chairman Dated _____