

Felsham Parish Council

Minutes of the MEETING of FELSHAM PARISH COUNCIL held on 11th June 2024 in the Village Hall

Present:	Cllr Simon Garrod (Chairman), Cllr Ken Sparkes; Cllr Paul Kearney; Cllr Mark Tavernor (from 20.00hrs); Cllr Jason Stringer; Cllr Beverley Williams
In attendance:	Mr Alan Welsh from Gedding Parish; SCC Cllr Penny Otton; Clerk & RFO Miss Isabelle Reece
Apologies:	MSDC Cllr Nicky Willshire

2024/017 Chairman's Welcome & to receive apologies for absence – Cllr Garrod welcomed everyone to the meeting and received apologies from Cllr Willshire

2024/018 Declarations of interest & requests for dispensation – Cllr Sparkes for the Felsham Charity

2024/019 Minutes of the Previous Parish Council – the Minutes of the meeting of 14th May 2024 were considered, **APPROVED**, and signed by Cllr Garrod as a true record

2024/020 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 her Motion of 23rd May regarding Central Funding of Local Government; Dementia Strategy; new Fire Service equipment; National Highways imminent removal of temporary speed limits; the Nature Survey. Cllr Otton asked that the Parish Council review the possible options regarding parking problems at the Orchard previously received from her colleague as well as the Case Number of the railings at the bottom of Gedding Hill **ACTION** – Clerk to investigate two latter matters

b. MSDC Cllr Nicky Willshire

Cllr Willshire's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and is available on this website – The Six Bells Decision was discussed, as well as the damaged Listed wall (see item 2024/026 below)

2024/021 Public Forum – Mr Alan Welsh addressed the Council, describing the speeding issues experienced by his village; receiving advice from SCC Cllr Otton; discussions ensued on speeding problems & potential solutions and possible options for future co-operation with Gedding, particularly with reference to loan of VAS equipment.

2024/022 To receive Clerk's Report – the Clerk passed the Annual Return Files to Cllr Garrod for submission to the Internal Auditor; and had submitted the Renewals of Assets of Community Value, for which she had received acknowledgment in that day's post

2024/023 Finance & Governance

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

b. Payments totalling £569.40 were APPROVED – Clerk's Salary (May) £252.60; TGS Grass Cutting £316.80

c. Proposed by Cllr Garrod & seconded by Cllr Sparkes – Ms Joan Arnold was **AGREED** Nominee to Felsham Charity Board of Trustees

d. Other Governance matters – All Officer & Representative Appointments made Provisionally at the May Annual Meeting were **RATIFIED**

2024/024 Planning

a. Application DC/24/02254 6 Church Road, Felsham, IP30 0PN Tree Works – **NO COMMENTS**; No Planning Applications had been received since the issue of the Agenda

b. Decision DC/24/02114 17 meadow close Felsham IP30 0QS Tree works – **NOTED** ; no notices had been received since issue of the agenda

c. To consider JLP Consultation – the Clerk advised councillors to look again in preparation for the next Meeting

d. There were no other Planning Matters

2024/025 Village Maintenance – Trees & Greens

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

b. To consider matters reported & updates – Cllrs reported the Greens as resembling cut hayfields owing to the recent persistent rain **ACTION** – Cllr Tavernor to provide modified cutting spec requests for Clerk to transmit to contractor; the Clerk reminded Council that the experimental modified mowing regime would be reviewed at the end of the cutting season; and stressed that parishioners needed to express their views on the Green cutting in writing to the Council

c. Village Sign Update – no update available: progress on this project is becoming a matter of urgency

2024/026 Conservation Area

a. To receive a report from the Conservation Office – Cllr Kearney noted damage to banks from heavy plant with works in progress: it was considered certain that the landowner concerned would ensure reinstatement; Six Bells – work had commenced on the Listed pub wall **ACTION** – Cllr Kearney to keep under review

b. To consider any matters reported

2024/027 Highways & Footpaths

a. To receive a report from the Footpath Officer – many of the less well-trodden paths were very long; it was noted with great appreciation that several local landowners had been diligent in cutting the paths on their land.

b. To consider any matters reported – a large dead ash tree on Footpath 8 was reported **ACTION** – Cllr Kearney to pursue

c. Flooding & drainage – it was noted with great appreciation that a parishioner had addressed many of the problems with drains and ditches, especially around the entrance to Lower Green

d. Solar Lighting project – it was decided that all residents along the proposed route should be consulted on their views before any further action **ACTION** – Cllr Sparkes

e. Community Speed Watch – update as per item 2024/021; also much facebook discussion reported **ACTION** – Cllr Stringer to contact facebook contributors for contact details to issue invitation to a Parish Council Meeting

f. Kissing Gate Project – no update available

2024/028 Correspondence – The Clerk had received an invoice from BMSDC for the Playing Field Inspection in error, including a different customer number **ACTION** – Cllr Tavernor to pass to the Playing Field Committee; Councillors **AGREED** to nominate one of the Village Organizations for the Suffolk Community Awards

2024/029 Local Housing Needs – arrangements for the Extraordinary Meeting had become complicated by vacillating availability of the Housing Enablement Officers **ACTION** – Clerk to attempt to confirm arrangements

2024/030 Matters to be brought to the attention of the council/future agenda items – Cllr Williams reported parish disappointment in lack of D-Day Anniversary commemoration & that more substantial and permanent beacon had been requested

2024/031 To confirm date of the next Meeting – 9th July 2024

The Meeting was closed by Cllr Garrod at 20.47hrs

Signed _____ Chairman Dated _____