

Felsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 30th November 2021 held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

- Present: Cllr Simon Garrod (Chair), Cllr Hayley Nunn, Cllr Simpson, Cllr Paul Kearney, Cllr Tavernor, Cllr Sparkes
Mark Bloomfield (Clerk & RFO) County & District Cllr Penny Otton
1 member of the public was present (left during item 2021/0102)
- 2021/0092 **Welcome and to receive apologies** – Cllr Garrod welcomed all to the meeting.
- 2021/0093 **Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation** – No interests were declared.
- 2021/0094 **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting** – The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council on 30th November 2021 were considered and approved. Cllr Sparkes proposed, Cllr Nunn seconded, all in favour (resolution passed). The minutes were signed by Cllr Garrod as a true record.
- 2021/0095 **County & District Councillor Otton** – Cllr Otton gave her report to the Parish Council Meeting – Cllr Otton reviewed the MSDC's Planning Committee Meeting that considered the planning application relating to the land to the rear of the Six Bells, Church Road, explaining that the committee voted in favour of refusal. Cllr Otton also updated that Suffolk had put its 'enhanced Covid Plan' in place including additional measures for schools. Cllr Otton also updated the latest advice from DEFRA regarding the ongoing Avian Flu situation.
- 2021/0096 **Public Participation** –
A member of the public expressed her disappointment that there was no clear communication of the change of date for the Parish Council Meeting either on the Parish Council website or the village noticeboard. The member of the public also raised a concern that the latest set of draft minutes were not available on line until shortly before the meeting. The member of the public explained that she was in attendance primarily to listen to the ongoing discussions regarding the location of the dog waste bin at the end of footpath #6 (item 2021/0102).

In light of the member of the public's interest in agenda item 2021/0102, it was agreed to move this item up the agenda

- 2021/0102 **Footpaths:**
- a. Report from Footpath Officer – Cllr Nunn reported that the hazard (shrubby & a small tree had meant that walkers needed to duck down to pass by along the start of the footpath off of Gedding Hill) had yet to be resolved. Cllr Tavernor explained that he now had the materials required to repair the footpath sign & post at Felsham Hall
 - b. Matters reported – The Clerk updated that the bramble bushes on the Left Hand Side of the entrance to Meadow Close that needed to be trimmed back as walkers are having to walk on the verge or in the road to avoid the hazard has been reported to SCC Highways, but any work has yet to be carried out.

Dog waste bin at end of Footpath # 6 – A map had been supplied by a member of the family who's land footpath #6 runs adjacent to showing that the land on which the dog waste bin is located was not land that was understood to be in their ownership, in contradiction to the original complainant. Along with the email from David Fawcett from SCC explaining the line along which the footpath runs, discussions took place and it was agreed that there was no requirement for the parish council to move the dog waste bin at this stage.

At this point, the member of the public expressed her view that the map did not represent the actual situation and referred back to a map she had supplied the council at a previous meeting. She explained that the council should not dismiss the map supplied by her & SCC because of lack of 'scale' as the map that the council was considering on this occasion also had no accurate scaling.

Cllr Garrod asked the member of the public to refrain from interrupting the meeting pointing out that she had the opportunity to speak during the 'Public Forum'.

The member of the public continued to complain. Other councillors joined the discussions. Cllr Nunn complained to the member of the public that she believed her behaviour in recent times to be harassment and stalking and repeatedly asked the member of the public to stop harassing her.

Cllr Garrod asked repeatedly for the member of the public to stop interrupting the meeting until he then asked the member of the public to leave the meeting.

The member of the public left the meeting at 7.44pm, and returned briefly to insist that it be minuted that she had been asked to leave the meeting.

2021/0097 **Clerks Report –**

- The Clerk supplied all councillors with the communication & map in reference to the dog waste bin at the end of footpath #6 during item 2021/0102.
- The Clerk reported that there had been no enquiries regarding the Councillor position & the position of Clerk & RFO. The Clerk suggested that he should contact other local clerks to gauge possible interest

2021/0098 **Planning:**

- i. 1. DC/21/06252 – Brindlewood, Dakings Lane, Felsham – NO COMMENT proposed by Cllr Garrod, seconded by Cllr Tavernor, all in favour – RESOLUTION PASSED
2. No other applications had been received.
- ii. To note any decisions made by MSDC – Update on application DC/21/02924 – land to rear of Six Bells, Church Road - update contained within Cllr Otten's report 2021/0095. It was also noted that the appeal raised on the initial application had been dismissed.

2021/0099 **Finance:**

- a. RFO's Report – November 21 was approved – proposed by Cllr Garrod, seconded by Cllr Sparkes – all in favour – RESOLUTION PASSED
- b. October Payments Approval – the following payments were approved Clerk Salary, Top Garden Services - £192.00 – proposed by Cllr Garrod, seconded by Cllr Sparkes – all in favour – RESOLUTION PASSED
- c. Consideration & approval for quote & deposit required for the new village sign to be deferred until December's meeting.

The Clerk/RFO reminded the council that the budget for FY22/23 would have to be considered in December & January and finalised at January's meeting. The Clerk was asked to draw up a draft budget on the basis of the budgets from the last few years for presentation in December.

2021/0100 **Village Maintenance:**

- a. Report from Tree Officer – Cllr Tavernor explained that the trees in the Church yard are being reviewed and will update when further information is available.
- b. Matters reported – no matters to report

2021/0101 **Conservation Area:**

- a. Report from Conservation Officer – damage to the car park wall of the Six Bells – the Clerk has reported to Admiral Taverns previously. The Clerk was asked to contact the Heritage team at MSDC/SCC regarding this issue.

b. Matters reported – no other matters reported

2021/0103

Correspondence –

In response to an email received by the Clerk regarding fly tipping in the allotments – the Clerk has been asked to respond to the member of public that has reported this that she should contact Brian Francis for guidance.

2021/0104

Housing Needs Survey – The Clerk is to respond to Sunila Osbourne suggesting that it is possible that land adjacent to #1, Bury Road may be suitable for development which had been identified by MSDC in the past.

2021/0105

Village Sign – Update – A quotation has been received for £2920 and was considered. The council agreed to investigate costs for a suitable base/plinth for the sign before agreeing the quotations. It is likely that planning permission will be required for such a base/plinth – the council to investigate.

2021/0106

Parking Provision Strategy & Provision of Electrical Charging Points – no update

2021/0107

Investigations into Public Works Loan Programme & potential grant Funding for the extension to the Village hall for the community shop – no update

2021/0108

The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee – no update

2021/0109

Other Matters brought to the attention of the council – The ‘Felsham’ sign on the sharp bend on Cockfield Road had been damaged and needs to be repaired. The Clerk to report to SCC Highways.

The Speed Indicator Device also requires installation – on Cockfield Road

2021/0110

To exclude the press & public (in line with the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act, 1960) – that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 2021/0111 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business – proposed by Cllr Garrod, seconded by Cllr Simpson – all in favour – RESOLUTION PASSED

2021/0111

Security of elected representatives – matters of security were discussed including: parish council email addresses, contact information, security of councillors & officers personal data. The Clerk was asked to obtain quotations for parish council email addresses.

The meeting was closed by the Cllr Garrod at 9.17pm

Item 2021/0114 – Minutes of Parish Council Meeting, 30th November 21 Approved

Signed:

(Chair) Cllr Simon Garrod

Date: 21st December 2021

