

# Felsham Parish Council

## Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021 held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

- Present: Cllr Simon Garrod (Chair), Cllr David Simpson, Cllr Hayley Nunn, Cllr Paul Kearney, Cllr Tavernor  
Mark Bloomfield (Clerk & RFO) County & District Cllr Penny Otton  
No members of the public present
- 2021/0056 **Welcome and to receive apologies** – Cllr Garrod welcomed all to the meeting & accepted apologies from Cllr Sparkes
- 2021/0057 **Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation** – Cllr Kearney declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 2021/0062.ii.1 – the decision to Grant permission to locate a temporary storage facility on the Playing Field. Cllr Keraney also declared a pecuniary interest in a planning application, received late by members – DC/21/05127 (Item 2021/0062i.3)
- 2021/0058 **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting** – The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021 were considered and approved. Cllr Garrod proposed, Cllr Simmpson seconded, all in favour (resolution passed). The minutes were signed by Cllr Garrod as a true record.
- 2021/0059 **County & District Councillor Otton** – Cllr Otton gave her report to the Parish Council Meeting, and forms part of these minutes. Cllr Otton updated that she had attended the Planning Committee meeting with regard to the planning application DC/21/02924 – Land to the rear of the Six Bells Public House and that the Planning Committee had agreed to carry out a site visit with the date to be arranged. Cllr Otton explained her concerns over the time that it has taken to proceed with the consideration of this application by the Planning Committee.
- 2021/0060 **Public Participation** – no members of the public were present
- 2021/0061 **Clerks Report** –
- Update from SCC Highways/Footpaths/Rights of Way regarding the dog bin at the end of footpath #6 – The case has been passed to the Rights of Way team at SCC. It is understood that there is a backlog of case work in these unprecedented circumstances with staffing shortages due to illness and covid protocols further slowing the response times. Cllr Nunn explained that she had been updated by SCC to say that a discrepancy in the maps was being investigated.
  - With Joan Llewellyn withdrawing from her role, an advert will be posted on the noticeboard, the parish website & in the Village News.
  - The Clerk confirmed that he had no further information from Hawthorn Leisure with regard to the damage to the car park wall at The Six Bells. Cllr Simpson explained that Hawthorn Leisure had sold the pub to Admiral Taverns. The Clerk will make contact with Admiral Taverns to proceed with this issue.
  - The Clerk explained that it was with immense regret that he was to tender his resignation to the council due to ill health. The Clerk offered to do what he could to keep things going until a successor was found. The council agreed to accept the resignation. The Clerk will advertise the clerk vacancy on the noticeboard, parish website, the Village News & the SALC website.
- 2021/0062 **Planning:**
1. DC/21/04928 – 2. Red House Cottages. Lower Green, Felsham – it was noted that this location was within the Conservation Area. NO OBJECTION proposed by Cllr Simpson, seconded by Cllr Garrod, all in favour – RESOLUTION PASSED
  2. AP/21/00037 (Appeal) – Land to rear of Six Bells, Church Road, Felsham – It was proposed by Cllr Nunn that the statement made by her at the Planning

Committee meeting of MSDC regarding the application DC/21/02924 would be a suitable response to this appeal:-

### Felsham Parish Council

The proposed development is at the very core of the village centre and the Article 4(2) Conservation Area. This area of the village has designated heritage assets in the Six Bells, St Peters Church and the two neighbouring properties, as well as some non-designated assets, most of which would overlook the proposed development. The OS map of 1885 shows the space jointly bounded with the Six Bells and Three Ways house. Little has changed here since the publication of this map and many of the views remain the same and should be preserved. LP21 of the submitted New joint local plan is clear in demonstrating the important contribution heritage assets make, including those non-designated, to the character and appearance of an area. This historic triangle reinforces a sense of local identity and this application, with even taller buildings proposed, does nothing to negate our concerns. Your policy refers to 7000 listed buildings and 60 conservation areas and it's intention to preserve these is clear; Felsham should not be the exception.

LP19 refers to the importance of the relationship between landscape and the historic environment detailing that the character of the landscape is influenced by it's historic environment as well as traditional villages and that the landscape can be important to the setting of a historic asset. This is absolutely true of Felsham Six Bells and St Peters Church.

LP13 of your plan focuses on safeguarding the economy. The hospitality industry has more than ever needed outside space. The Six Bells has both historically and recently utilised the meadow for functions and this land is even more important than ever now. Removing this facility from the Six Bells by building will undoubtedly impose a negative affect on it's trade and ability to maximise it's potential. LP13 directly refers to protecting the operation of existing businesses and only approving where there is no amenity conflict arising from the development. In this case there is a direct conflict because of the loss of the Six Bells land, but also the sharing of construction access with trade access. Therefore, once again this application directly conflicts with your own planning policy.

Your plan talks of delivering appropriate housing, in this case we do not consider this housing appropriate.

**Conclusion:** Your joint local plan is there for a reason, to form the basis for considering applications. Your plan focuses on sustaining economic growth including sectors such as hospitality which now more than ever, need support. There is no ambiguity in your joint local plan, it's intentions are clear; to enhance and at the very least sustain economies, maintain or enhance the wellbeing of communities, whilst preserving the heritage and the environment. This application for the land at the Six Bells is in direct conflict with your very own plan and for this reason I implore you to stand by your own documentation and help Felsham enhance our precious historic assets, our rural economy and preserve the well-being of our beloved community.

Seconded by Cllr Garrod, all in favour – RESOLUTION PASSED

3. DC/21/05127 – 16, Meadow Close, Felsham. Note: Cllr Kearney left the room prior to discussions. NO OBJECTION – Proposed by Cllr Garrod, Seconded by Cllr Simpson, all in favour – RESOLUTION PASSED.

- ii. To note any decisions made by MSDC – Permission Granted by MSDC for DC/21/03155 – Temporary storage facility on Playing Field. No objection to tree works at Upper Green Cottage – DC/21/03460 & Approval of conditions at 2, Lower Green Cottage – DC/21/03126. It was also noted that Permission had been Granted for DC/21/02287 – Poplar Farm.
- iii. Update on application DC/21/02924 – update contained within Cllr Otten’s report 2021/0059 & discussions around Appeal AP/21/00037 – item 2021/0062i.2.

2021/0063

**Finance:**

- a. RFO’s Report – September 21 was approved – proposed by Cllr Garrod, seconded by Cllr Simpson – all in favour – RESOLUTION PASSED
- b. August Payments Approval/Noting – the following payments were approved/noted for August 21: Clerk Salary, Top Garden Services - £288.00 & HMRC payment for Q1 - £141.60 having been pre-authorized in July’s meeting – 2021/0046.c
- c. Payment authorisation for September – it was agreed that the Clerk’s salary would be paid – proposed by Cllr Garrod, seconded by Cllr Kearney, all in favour – RESOLUTION PASSED.

The Clerk/RFO reiterated the need for an account signatory to assist in raising a dispute over a direct debit that has appeared in the accounts since May 21. Cllr Garrod has been passed all the required details and will contact Lloyds Bank.

2021/0064

**Village Maintenance:**

- a. Report from Tree Officer – no report
- b. Matters reported – it was reported that the salt bins needed to be weeded & that road signs/footpath signs needed to be cleaned

2021/0065

**Conservation Area:**

- a. Report from Conservation Officer – nothing additional to report since the ‘hole in the wall’ at the Six Bells although there is additional damage to the wall
- b. Matters reported – Clerk to continue to attempt to make contact with the new land owners (Admiral Taverns) and also the Heritage Officer at MSDC considering the ‘wall’ is listed.

2021/0066

**Footpaths:**

- a. Report from Footpath Officer – Cllr Nunn raised a concern that the footpath sign/post is damaged at the old entrance to Felsham Hall.
- b. Matters reported – It was discussed that the grass cutting along many of the footpaths was inconsistent in quality & effect. The Clerk will contact MSDC to investigate this issue and whether a new contractor has been employed.

2021/0067

**Correspondence –**

No additional correspondence has been tabled

2021/0068

**Housing Needs Survey** – deferred until October 21. It has been arranged that a ‘Walk ‘Round’ of councillors will take place on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021 at 10am to investigate possible locations for potential future development. Note – Cllr Nunn may invite any interested members of the public to join in with the ‘Walk ‘Round’.

2021/0069

**Village Sign – Update** – no update – deferred until October 21. During the scheduled councillor ‘Walk Round’ on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 21, this will be discussed and a plan will be put together.

2021/0070

**Parking Provision Strategy & Provision of Electrical Charging Points** – To be further considered during Councillor ‘Walk ‘Round’ on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 21.

2021/0071 **Investigations into Public Works Loan Programme & potential grant Funding for the extension to the Village hall for the community shop** – The Clerk updated on research he has undertaken:

- A key factor in applying for such a loan would be the provision of a 'proveable' robust plan for repayment
- It was understood that as a 'last resort' the precept may have to support any repayments. It would have to be demonstrated that the parishioners have 'consented' to this possibility through 'enhanced and significant' engagement or consultation.

Further research will be undertaken.

2021/0072 **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee** – It was suggested that a Street Party be organised for the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022. Cllr Simpson would begin to gather interested parties to organise.

2021/0073 **Other Matters brought to the attention of the council** – It was noted that Cllr Simpson had the VAS in-hand.

Cllr Simpson relayed the sad news that John Shaw, previous parish councillor and Chairman of the Parish Council had passed away. On behalf of the council, Cllr Simpson would pass on condolences & a card from the Parish Council to the family.

Cllr Tavernor explained that he would like to investigate how best to support the grass cutting of the playing field in the future and report back to the council.

Next meeting of the Parish Council – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021 in the Village Hall

The meeting was closed by the Cllr Garrod at 9.16pm

Item 2021/0076 – Minutes of Parish Council Meeting, 21<sup>st</sup> September 21 Approved

Signed:

(Chair) Cllr Simon Garrod

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021.



## SEPTEMBER 2021 REPORT

**REFUGEES FROM AFGANISTAN;** all councils in Suffolk are working to provide housing, and at the moment there were just 4 families in need, but I'm sure that will increase. Many people are wishing to donate clothing etc, so it is wise to go onto; [Suffolk.gov.uk/howyoucanhelp](https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/howyoucanhelp) to find out the best place for them to be delivered and what is most wanted.

**NEW SOLAR PANEL SCHEME:** I have forwarded details of the new round of solar panels scheme to the clerks which could be publicised.

**FIRE AND RESCUE APPLICANCES;** 4 appliances have now been upgraded and fitted with solar panels.

### CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group on Council will be putting a motion forward to the next Council Meeting to require the Council to set specific benchmarks and targets each year up to 2030 to encourage the modal shift in behaviour and technology required as without this we believe that the targets set out, laudable though they are, are unlikely to be achieved in practice.

### **Review of SEND provision**

Suffolk County Council commissioned an independent review into Special Educational Needs and Disability provision which has now been completed.

The report, with any recommendations, is due to be published this month on Suffolk County Council's website, shared with those who contributed to it and also scrutinised, in public, by the council's Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee. We await it with interest.

### **Suffolk's expression of interest in discussions with Government on Devolution for Suffolk**

A 'levelling up' white paper is to be produced by Government and Robert Jenrick MP (Sec of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government) has invited Councils to express interest in involvement in this. The aim appears to be to allow local 'leaders groups' to have more power in local decision making including 'greater financial efficiency, administrative streamlining and/or more joined up services'. It is not necessary to be a unitary authority although Government want evidence of working together.

It is not clear yet what the benefits and draw backs or any details of these proposals are yet.

The 'Suffolk Leader's Group' (Leaders of County Council, District Councils, Ipswich Borough Council, and Police and Crime Commissioner) have written to the Government expressing interest in this proposal.

### MIDSUFFOLK;

Tour of the energy from waste site. I have sent details to the clerks, if anyone fancies a trip. It is interesting.

**ASDA CAR PARK;** as you will have noticed parking machines have been out of order a long time. This is due to problems with the electricity supply to the lighting columns, work is due to start on 30<sup>th</sup> August.

GATEWAY 14 SITE; this has now been given planning permission.

REVIEW OF PARKING IN THE DISTRICT; this is taking place to see what the problems are and how they can be resolved.

SIX BELLS SITE VISIT; at time of writing I STILL have had no date!!!!