

# Felsham Parish Council

## Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022 held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Simon Garrod (Chair), Cllr Simpson, Cllr Tavernor, Cllr Sparkes  
Mark Bloomfield (Clerk & RFO) County & District Cllr Penny Otton  
4 members of the public were present.

2021/0145 **Welcome and to receive apologies** – Cllr Garrod welcomed all to the meeting and received apologies from Cllr Nunn & Cllr Kearney.

2021/0146 **Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation** – No interests were declared & there were no requests for dispensation.

2021/0147 **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting** – The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council on 18<sup>th</sup> January 22 were considered and approved. Cllr Tavernor proposed, Cllr Sparkes seconded, all in favour (resolution passed). The minutes were signed by Cllr Garrod as a true record.

2021/0148 **County & District Councillor Otton** – Cllr Otton gave her report to the Parish Council Meeting – which form part of these minutes.

2021/0149 **Public Participation** –  
No members of the public were present.

2021/0150 **Clerks Report** –

& 2021/0151

- The Clerk had received further quotations that ranged from £160 + VAT to £800 + VAT – he explained that he would continue to explore the options & will liaise with SALC as to what they would recommend – The outgoing clerk will pass on this project to his successor
- A member of the public in attendance is looking to apply for the vacant councillor role. A candidate has contacted us with an application and will be contacted regarding setting up an interview. The Clerk has been in contact with a agency regarding 'locum' clerks – 3 applicants for a temporary position have been received.
- Complaint – Update – both investigatory meetings have taken place. The investigatory committee is still to formulate conclusions. It is planned that a proposition will be brought forward to the March Parish Council meeting for discussion & consideration by the investigatory committee.

2021/0152 **Planning:**

- i. Two late applications have been received – applications for works to trees. Applications DC/22/00726 – Tree felling & works – St Peter's Church & DC/22/00826 – Tree works – Penfold, Upper Green. NO OBJECTIONS to either application – proposed by Cllr Simpson, seconded by Cllr Tavernor, all in-favour. RESOLUTION PASSED.
- ii. To note any decisions made by MSDC – The application DC/21/06560 – Wingfields, Rattlesden Road was approved.

Note: Still no formal appeal has been lodged in reference to the land to the Rear of the Six Bells PH.

2021/0153 **Finance:**

- a. RFO's truncated Report – February 22 was approved - Proposed by Cllr Garrod, seconded by Cllr Sparkes – all in favour – RESOLUTION PASSED  
Note: There are outstanding payments to be made when bank mandates have been completed. An HMRC payment of £255.60, Top Garden Services of £96.00 and a reimbursement of £72.00 for Hayley Gilbrook (re: defibrillator). Cllr Simpson will liaise

with Hayley Gilbrook to understand the annual budget requirements for the defibrillator.

- b. January Payments Approval – the payments highlighted above were approved– proposed by Cllr Garrod, seconded by Cllr Sparkes – all in favour – RESOLUTION PASSED
- c. Note: Approval Receipt for the Precept for FY22/23 has been received.
- d. Change in correspondence details for Bank Accounts – Cllr Garrod has completed mandate change forms and will soon be able to make direct payments.

2021/0154

**Village Maintenance:**

- a. Report from Tree Officer – nothing to report.
- b. Matters reported – Cllr Tavernor has met with Tom from Top Garden Services regarding a quotation for the grass cutting of the playing field. We are still awaiting the final quotation.

2021/0155

**Conservation Area:**

- a. Report from Conservation Officer – nothing to report.
- b. Matters reported – no other matters reported.

2021/0156

**Footpaths:**

- a. Report from Footpath Officer – nothing to report.
- b. Matters reported – no additional matters were reported.

2021/0157

**Correspondence –**

Clerk to send letter to landowners in reference to the disputed land-ownership on which the dog waste bin at the end of footpath #6 is located by email.

2021/0158

**Housing Needs Survey** – A walkround by councillors has now taken place and potential development areas have been tentatively identified for future development. Cllr Tavernor will distribute the notes made to all councillors.

2021/0159

**Village Sign – Update** – at Cllr Otten’s urging, the initial quotation for the village sign will be sent to her in order for her to use the local funding she has at her disposal. Clerk to send the quotation for £2920 as soon as possible.

2021/0160

**The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee** – Cllr Simpson updated that planned date of the Street Party had been moved to the Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 22 – Big Lunch Day.

2021/0161

**Other Matters brought to the attention of the council** – An application for the permanent position of Clerk/RFO has been received today (15<sup>th</sup> March 22) – it has been agreed to arrange an interview with the applicant on zoom. Cllrs Garrod, Simpson & Tavernor to attend along with the Clerk.

An applicant for the vacant councillor position has also been received, however, too late to be placed on the agenda. Co-option for a new councillor will be on the agenda for March’s Parish Council meeting.

The meeting was closed by the Cllr Garrod at 8.07pm

Item 2021/0164 – Minutes of Parish Council Meeting, 15<sup>th</sup> February 21 Approved

Signed:

(Chair) Cllr Simon Garrod

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022



## Parish Report – January 2022

**Councillor: Penny Otton**

**Divisions: Thedwastre south**

**County Council Details**

**Mobile:0754523847**

**Email:penny.otton@suffolk.gov.uk**

### **COVID-19**

Latest SCC information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Latest Government advice is available here: [www.gov.uk/coronavirushave](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirushave)

Vaccination Appointments can be booked here: [www.sneevaccine.org.uk](http://www.sneevaccine.org.uk)

### **Budget Scrutiny Meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> January**

The Scrutiny Committee met on 11<sup>th</sup> January to discuss the Conservative's budget proposals for this year. Our Group believes the budget did not raise the Social Care Precept tax to the necessary amount. Suffolk GLI believes this needs to be raised to a 3% increase, to aid in Suffolk's social care crisis. This recommendation was rejected by the Conservatives.

Furthermore, the council failed to deliver on providing a Carbon Budget to work alongside the core budget. The Carbon Budget is aimed to help us understand the level of emissions the Council are responsible for and helps to achieve the Council's ambition of being carbon-neutral by 2030

### **Cabinet Meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> February**

The Cabinet will meet to discuss the core budget, and vote on whether to pass the budget through to Full Council to be finalised on 17<sup>th</sup> February. The proposal is for a rise in SCC council tax of 1.99% plus!% for social care. Again, I am not convinced that 1% will be enough to help with crisis in the care service.

Cabinet documents can be found here:

[https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(01-02-2022\),%20The%20Cabinet](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(01-02-2022),%20The%20Cabinet)

### **Transport East**

Suffolk County Council's regional transport body, Transport East, has drafted its new strategy for the future. It explains the investment and priorities Transport East aims to provide, to develop a leading transportation network. Suffolk GLI submitted their comments to Transport East, in the hope they reconsider their strategy. Visit the Suffolk GLI website for our response.

For more information, visit: <https://www.transporeast.org.uk/>

**ROAD WORKS ON A14;** Highways England are planning various works between junctions 43 to 52. Parish councils will be informed. Starting 14<sup>th</sup> February,

including survey of the concrete section 44 to 49 starting in March. Official diversions will be from 8pm to 6am. Although unlikely but we must make sure HGVs are not cutting through villages to avoid the diversions.

### **Suffolk Libraries Day 2022**

Suffolk Libraries is running an online book festival in March, as part of Suffolk Libraries Day 2022.

Suffolk Libraries Day is a celebration of the county's library service and the organisation's main fundraising event. Libraries will also be confirming special events nearer the time.

For more information, visit: <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/whats-on/festival/suffolk-libraries-day-book-festival>

STOWMARKET REFUSE CENTRE; this will be closed for 2 weeks from 28<sup>th</sup> February.

QUEENS JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS; Suffolk County council will not charge for road closures on the Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. But applications for a road closure need to be in by 27<sup>th</sup> March

### **MID SUFFOLK**

COUNCIL TAX; the proposal for Mid Suffolk is to not have a rise this year. The council has enough in reserves to do this.

HELP TO MAKE HOMES MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT; those on low incomes can get help to improve their homes and make more efficient. This is being done with West Suffolk council.

FURTHER OMICRON GRANTS FOR HOSPITALITY AND LEISURE; new one-off grants available by 18<sup>th</sup> February.

VILLAGE SIGN; if I don,t use all my MSDC locality fund it will not be rolled over to next year so am suggesting putting in a bid asap

### **Follow us on:**

**Twitter** - Suffolk Green, Lib Dem & Independent Group (@SuffolkGLI) / Twitter

**Website** - Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council ([suffolkgli.wordpress.com](http://suffolkgli.wordpress.com))