

Felsham Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th January 2022 held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Simon Garrod (Chair), Cllr Simpson, Cllr Paul Kearney, Cllr Tavernor, Cllr Sparkes
Mark Bloomfield (Clerk & RFO) County & District Cllr Penny Otton
No members of the public were present.

- 2021/0129 **Welcome and to receive apologies** – Cllr Garrod welcomed all to the meeting and received apologies from Cllr Nunn.
- 2021/0130 **Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation** – No interests were declared & there were no requests for dispensation.
- 2021/0131 **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting** – The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council on 21st December 2021 were considered and approved. Cllr Kearney proposed, Cllr Simpson seconded, all in favour (resolution passed). The minutes were signed by Cllr Garrod as a true record.
- 2021/0132 **County & District Councillor Otton** – Cllr Otton gave her report to the Parish Council Meeting – which form part of these minutes.
- 2021/0133 **Public Participation** –
No members of the public were present.
- 2021/0134 **Clerks Report** –
- 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 Clerk reported that there had been no enquiries regarding the Councillor position & the position of Clerk & RFO. The Clerk has been in contact with a agency regarding 'locum' clerks – details to follow shortly.
 - Complaint – Update – the investigatory meeting with the complainant has taken place & a further investigatory meeting has been scheduled. It is planned that a proposition will be brought forward to the February Parish Council meeting for discussion & consideration by the investigatory committee.
- 2021/0135 **Planning:**
- i. No applications have been received
 - ii. To note any decisions made by MSDC – No decisions had been forwarded in the previous 3 weeks.
- Cllr Simpson raised a query that he had seen on the MSDC Planning Portal that an Appeal may be lodged regarding the application to build 2 dwellings on the land to the rear of the Six Bells PH in Church Road, Felsham. Up until now, the Parish Council has not been requested to comment so it is unclear whether the appeal has been formally lodged.
- 2021/0136 **Finance:**
- a. RFO's Report – January 22 was approved with the additional payment of £412.50 to be made to Mark Tavernor for equipment use in cutting the grass on the playing field – it was agreed that this would be logged against the Accounts line 'Grass cutting – Playing Field' and that this would result in an overspend in this financial year. Proposed by Cllr Garrod, seconded by Cllr Sparkes – all in favour – RESOLUTION PASSED

- b. January Payments Approval – the following payments were approved Clerk Salary, & Clerk’s final Salary (inc. holiday pay), £412.50 for Playing field Grass cutting – proposed by Cllr Garrod, seconded by Cllr Sparkes – all in favour – RESOLUTION PASSED
- c. Draft budget FY22/23 – The draft budget was approved for FY22/23 – as detailed in the RFO Monthly Report below:

	21/22 Budget	22/23 Budget
Clerks Salary	3212.00	3640.00
HMRC		
Admin	200.00	240.00
Grass cutting - Playing Field	298.00	800.00
Grass cutting - village	1344.00	1450.00
Charity Donations - S137	150.00	150.00
SALC Subscriptions	268.00	280.00
CPRE Subscriptions	36.00	36.00
Insurance	300.00	305.00
Village News	25.00	25.00
Training	100.00	100.00
SALC Internal Audit	0.00	0.00
BDO Stoy Auditors		
Village Hall	120.00	120.00
VAS/Speed watch Maintenance	100.00	150.00
New VAS	333.00	0.00
MSDC Election Costs		0.00
Village Sign	1100.00	400.00
Litter/Dog Bin Emptying	298.00	307.00
ICO Registration	40.00	40.00
Tree work		
Street Lights		
Street Lighting/energy	125.00	125.00
Website	50.00	50.00
Grit Bin		
CAB	50.00	75.00
Maintenance	300.00	300.00
Zoom	144.00	0.00
Welcome Pack		
Dog Bin		
Defibrillator	100.00	100.00
TOTALS	8693.00	8693.00

The budget has been set with an overall 0% increase in £, precept resulting, as a result of tax base changes within the parish, in a 2.3% decrease in precept request.

- d. Change in correspondence details for Bank Accounts – it was agreed that Cllr Garrod will request a new online banking card & will change the correspondence address to his home

address in the short term until a new permanent Clerk & RFO can be recruited. Proposed by Cllr Simpson, seconded by Cllr Tavernor – all in favour – RESOLUTION PASSED.

- 2021/0137 **Village Maintenance:**
a. Report from Tree Officer – nothing to report.
b. Matters reported – no matters to report
- 2021/0138 **Conservation Area:**
a. Report from Conservation Officer – nothing to report.
b. Matters reported – no other matters reported.
- 2021/0139 **Footpaths:**
a. Report from Footpath Officer – Cllr Nunn updated by email that the fallen tree across the footpath on Gambier’s land has been cleared away & is now all clear.
b. Matters reported – no additional matters were reported.
- 2021/0140 **Correspondence –**
No new correspondence had been received.
- 2021/0141 **Housing Needs Survey** – Cllr Simpson will update MSDC on the current situation at No.1, Bury Road – the property is believed to be empty.
- 2021/0142 **Village Sign – Update** – no update
- 2021/0143 **The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee** – Cllr Simpson updated that at the Village Hall Management Committee meeting a committee has been set up to arrange for a street party on the Friday 3rd June. Cllr Otten noted that fees for road closures are being waived for the jubilee celebrations. The Clerk was asked to investigate if there are any grants available to help fund the celebrations.
- 2021/0144 **Other Matters brought to the attention of the council** – The village walk-round has been re-scheduled for 10am on Saturday 5th February 22 – all meeting at the village hall car park.

Cllr Tavernor wanted to ensure that the agreement by the parish council to communicate with the relevant landowners, in relation to the location of the dog waste bin at the end of footpath #6, was minuted – all communication would be sent to all partners of the business and will be sent by email to remove any issue with postal services.

Cllr Garrod expressed his thanks & best wishes for Mark Bloomfield (outgoing Clerk/RFO).

The meeting was closed by the Cllr Garrod at 8.27pm

Item 2021/0147 – Minutes of Parish Council Meeting, 18th January 21 Approved

Signed:

(Chair) Cllr Simon Garrod

Date: 15th February 2022



Parish Report – January 2022

Councillor: Penny Otton

Divisions: Thedwastre south

County Council Details

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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/coronavirus

Vaccination Appointments can be booked here: www.sneevaccine.org.uk

Cabinet Meeting

The Cabinet met on the 7th December and voted unanimously to approve additional investment in highway drainage and footway infrastructure. £10m has been approved to replace broken pipes, as well as new installations, and £10m has been approved to increase the maintenance of selected footways. The Cabinet also voted to approve Suffolk County Council's new Housing Joint Venture. The Council wish to enter a contractual agreement with a private developer, aiming to deliver up to 3,000 new homes across Suffolk.

Scrutiny Meeting on SEND Report

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee met to discuss the damning SEND report, which outlined the various failings of the local service in dealing with children with special needs and disabilities. A new report from the SEND services was presented, which included the progress of improving the service. This included extended training, newly appointed managerial posts, and new accountability structures to help deal with the issues outlined in the previous report. Our Group brought up issues of a lack of representation in their ideas, and asked for a wider pool of representatives.

Significant Investment in Firefighting Equipment

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has recently added to its lifesaving kit – cementing the service's commitment to protecting its staff and Suffolk residents. A significant investment has enabled improved digital radios, smoke hoods and smoke curtains to be provided to every crew in the county.

This equipment can be used in a range of incidents, with it already proving invaluable in Lowestoft, when two occupants were rescued after a kitchen fire. Although crews are ready to attend emergencies with this new kit, it's important that every home has its own lifesaving equipment – smoke alarms, which should be fitted and tested regularly.

For more information, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/show/significant-investment-in-firefighting-equipment-secures-safer-future-for-suffolk>
Free Bus and Taxi Services for All Travelling for a Vaccination

Stuart Keeble, the Director of Public Health at Suffolk County Council, expanded the 'Vaxi Taxi' service to all members of the public. The original campaign was for those who were strictly eligible, but the Council has opened up the offer to anyone who needs it, in order to get to their appointment for a first, second or booster vaccination.

For a list of the taxi companies who have signed up to the scheme, please visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/GetVaccinated - or for further information, go to <https://sneevaccine.org.uk/> 'Support Social Care' Campaign

A new campaign was released in December aimed to help the public understand more about the Social Care sector in Suffolk. The campaign wants to celebrate the care professionals, and asks the public for a little patience and flexibility whilst the Council navigates through another tough winter.

Every day, Suffolk receives 551 calls from people on adult social care, and on Christmas there will be around 1,200 care home staff working to ensure Residential and Nursing Homes have a good Christmas. You can support for Social Care on social media by using the hashtag #SupportSocialCare, or by offering to collect a neighbour-in-need's prescription, or simply paying them a visit.

MID SUFFOLK;

Hopefully the bin collections will get back on track in the next weeks. Any problems let me know.

JOINT LOCAL PLAN; I sent the letter regarding the new work that will now have to take place, including reviewing sites and in particular for gypsy and traveller sites,

Midsuffolk/Babergh have been chosen by the government to be part of a pilot scheme to simplify neighbourhood plans.

MEETINGS; full council where the council tax is agreed must be in person, but other meetings are to be in some form of hi-bred/on-line, including planning meetings whilst there remains COVID restrictions.