

Felsham Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th June 2021 held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

- Present: Cllr Hayley Nunn (Vice-chair), Cllr David Simpson, Cllr Ken Sparkes, Cllr Paul Kearney
Mark Bloomfield (Clerk & RFO) County & District Cllr Penny Otton (part)
3 members of the public
- 2021/0023 **Welcome and to receive apologies** – Cllr Nunn (acting as Chair in the absence of Cllr Garrod), welcomed all to the meeting & accepted apologies from Cllr Garrod & Cllr Tavernor
- 2021/0024 **Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation** – Cllr Kearney declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 2021/0030 i.a. due to his involvement with the Playing Field.
- 2021/0025 **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting** – The minutes from the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 18th May 2021 were considered and approved. Cllr Kearney proposed, Cllr Sparkes seconded, all in favour (resolution passed). The minutes were signed by Cllr Nunn as a true record.
- 2021/0026 **Co-option of Councillor** – The clerk explained the process for co-option in the event that there was more than one candidate for the role of councillor. After that explanation, one of the members of the public withdrew her intention to stand for co-option. It left only one possible candidate – Joan Llewellyn who confirmed that she would stand for co-option and explained that she had recently retired and was looking to further her interest in the community. Cllr Nunn proposed that Joan Llewellyn be co-opted as a Parish Councillor, Cllr Simpson seconded, all were in favour (resolution passed). Joan Llewellyn duly signed the Declaration of Office as Parish Councillor and joined the rest of the meeting as such. The clerk issued Cllr Llewellyn with a 'Register of Interest' form for completion within 28 days.
- 2021/0027 **County & District Councillor Otton** – Cllr Otton gave her report to the Parish Council Meeting, and forms part of these minutes. Cllr Otton also raised her concerns over parking in 'The Orchard' part of the village and suggested that emergency service vehicles may not be able to access this part of the village appropriately. Cllr Otton also offered her support to residents that are raising concerns over the proposed development of the land behind the Six Bells public house and would be in communication with them further.
- 2021/0028 **Public Participation** – The one remaining member of public present voiced his renewed concerns and protests against the planning application DC/21/02924 – Land to the rear of the Six Bells public house. He informed the council of his latest communications with both Mid-Suffolk District Council & Suffolk Highways and also explained that he had cause to make complaints. He explained that Suffolk Highways had made a 'eleventh hour' change in their response to the application regarding the entrance/exit and site lines for the access to the proposed development. Cllr Nunn responded by empathising with his and others' concerns and urged all those with opinions to register them on the MSDC planning portal. The same resident also raised concerns about the upkeep of the public footpaths in the village which have become very overgrown. Cllr Nunn responded by explaining that the first of 2 annual cuts took place in early May and by chance the weather has been wet, warm & sunny since creating ideal growing conditions. The 2nd cut will take place in due course and will hopefully alleviate the problem. Note: the remaining member of the public left after this item.
- 2021/0010 **Clerks Report** –
The clerk has distributed a 'really useful guide' in support of older residents who may have been victims of scammers and advice for all on how to avoid scams. The clerk explained that the minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting of 18th May 21 were available on the website and that only the 1st page of the minutes was posted on the village

noticeboard. The clerk also explained that he was slowly updating parts of the website and is in communication with One Suffolk regarding tutorials and software upgrades.

2021/0030

Planning:

- i.
- a. DC/21/03155 – Felsham & Gedding Playing Field – Temporary storage facility/container – With a view to it being located in a Conservation area, the Parish Council requests that the container is painted a neutral colour (e.g. green) and is made as aesthetically pleasing as possible. The Parish Council also seeks clarification of the 'temporary' nature of the application (proposed by Cllr Nunn, seconded by Cllr Simmpson, all in favour – resolution passed).
- b. DC/21/02924 – Land to rear of Six Bells, 2no dwellings, associated parking & landscaping – The Parish council wishes to OBJECT pointing out that this application would represent a loss in valuable public amenity land (where significant village events are held, photographs attached, and with more events planned including a Village Family Fun Day on 26th June 21. The access/exit to the proposed development remains a concern with lack of appropriate sight lines & an access that is too narrow to be easily accessible. The proposal would also create a further reduction in available car parking within the village. The proposal would put at risk the 'heritage' nature of that part of the village with the Church, pub & surrounding cottages all creating an historic view – a new development would not enhance this. The Parish Council also raises concerns over the height of the proposed dwellings which will be visible throughout much of the Conservation area (proposed by Cllr Nunn, seconded by Cllr Simpson, all in favour – resolution passed)
- c. DC/19/03207 – Discharge of conditions – 2, Lower Cottages, Lower Green – no comment (proposed by Cllr Nunn, seconded by Cllr Sparkes, all in favour – resolution passed)
- d. Other applications – none
- ii. To note any decisions made by MSDC – none to report

2021/0031

Finance:

- a. Approval of Annual Governance Statement for 2020/2021 & Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (proposed by Cllr Simpson, seconded by Cllr Nunn, all in favour – resolution passed) signed by clerk/RFO & Cllr Nunn
- b. Approval of Accounting Statements for year ending 31st March 2021 and section 2 of the AGAR – (proposed by Cllr Simpson, seconded by Cllr Nunn, all in favour – resolution passed) signed by clerk/RFO & Cllr Nunn
- c. Approval of RFO's Financial Report for June 21 – Note: RFO's report for June did not include a bank reconciliation due to lack of access to internet banking. The RFO explained that the card reader needed to be replaced in order to access account information (proposed by Cllr Sparkes, seconded by Cllr Kearney, all in favour – resolution passed).
- d. Authorisation of payments: Top Garden Services (May 21) - £192.00, Top Garden Services (June 21) - £192.00, Felsham & Gedding Village News - £25.00, Clerk salary – (proposed by Cllr Sparkes, seconded by Cllr Kearney, all in favour – resolution passed). Note: without internet banking available – all payments to be made by cheque – cheques signed by 2 signatories.

2021/0032

Village Maintenance:

- a. Report from Tree Officer – no report
- b. Matters reported - none

2021/0033

Conservation Area:

- a. Report from Conservation Officer – no report

- b. Matters reported – Cllr Kearney reported a 'hole in the wall' at the Six Bells. Cllr Kearney also raised concerns regarding the ivy climbing on the stable roof at the Six Bells and the potential damage it could cause. Clerk to contact Hawthorne Leisure regarding these issues.

2021/0034

Footpaths:

- a. Report from Footpath Officer – Cllr Nunn reiterated her comments regarding length of grass as explained during Item 2021/0028 in response to a member of the public's comments. Also, Cllr Nunn was investigating the need for repair/replacement footpath sign at Felsham Hall and will report back to council in July.
- b. Matters reported – as detailed above

2021/0035

Correspondence –

The Clerk updated the Parish Council on further communications with a resident regarding the location of a dog bin. The Clerk explained that he had still had no response from MSDC.

2021/0036

Housing Needs Survey – deferred until July 21. Arrangements for a 'Walk 'Round' of councillors in conjunction with a representative from the planning team at MSDC need to be made next month.

2021/0037

Village Sign – Update – no update – deferred until July 21.

2021/0038

Other Matters brought to the attention of the council – Cllr Kearney requested that discussions took place at the next meeting regarding the overall long-term strategy for parking provision within the village & the potential need for electric charging points. Cllr Kearney pointed out that some properties were unable to have their own charging points as cables would have to run across roads or footpaths to their vehicles. He also explained that there may be an opportunity to involve the Village Shop committee in these discussions with a mind to the new development for the village shop. It was agreed that the Clerk would invite Andrew Conquest & Ria Crosbie to July's meeting to discuss further.

Next meeting of the Parish Council – Tuesday 20th July 2021 in the Village Hall

The meeting was closed by the Cllr Nunn at 9.12pm

Item 2021/0041 – Minutes of Parish Council Meeting, 15th June 21 Approved

Signed:

(Chair) Cllr Simon Garrod

Date: 20th July 2021.



JUNE 2021

SCC election results

I am obviously very pleased to have been re-elected as your county councillor

Suffolk County Council's annual general meeting took place on May 27th. Where Cllr Matthew Hicks was elected council leader. He has made significant changes to cabinet members and responsibilities.

FINANCE AND ENVIRONMENT;	Cllr Richard Rout
ADULT CARE;	Cllr Hopfensperger
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE;	Cllr James Reeder
EDUCATION;	Cllr Rachel Hood
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORT, WASTE;	Cllr Richard Smith
IPSWICH, OPERATIONAL HIGHWAYS AND FLOODING;	Cllr Paul West
PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND COMMUNITIES;	Cllr Andrew Reid

GLI Group becomes official opposition

Following success at the recent election, I will again be part of a Green, Liberal Democrats and Independents Group. The Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent (GLI) Group has 15 councillors overall and will take on the role of official opposition at Suffolk County Council.

Boundary Commission Review: consultation reopens

An additional phase of public consultation has opened in the Boundary Commission's review of Suffolk County Council's electoral arrangements. The consultation focuses on new proposals for council division boundaries in the following (which are the nearest to Thedwastre south.)

- Abbeygate & Tollgate
- Barrow & Thingoe
- Blackbourn
- Eastgate & Moreton Hall
- Hardwick
- Haverhill East & Rural
- Minden & St Olaves

The consultation closes on June 21st and can be completed at the link below:

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/suffolk/suffolk-county-council>

Launch of The Queen's Green Canopy in Suffolk

The Queen's Green Canopy is a tree planting and preservation campaign commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Partners including Suffolk County Council are working together to preserve and enhance existing woodland while increasing both canopy cover and access to green space.

Tree Wardens will work with communities and parish councils to link up existing woodland with woodland walkways and hedgerows as part of the Queen's Green Canopy. This tree planting will create natural corridors for biodiversity and link up existing footpaths and bridleways.

Different organisations are invited to get involved. Find out more at www.suffolk-lieutenancy.org.uk/queens-green-canopy

Developers' Guide consultation open

Suffolk County Council has launched a consultation on an updated version of the Developers' Guide. The guide is a document to support all those involved in major planning applications in the county.

To make sure that new developments result in improvements to local communities, developers must make financial contributions to local authorities, known as Section 106 agreements, or through the Community Infrastructure Levy. The updated guide aims to support developers and make them aware of what they should consider with their plans. The consultation runs from 17 May to 28 June and can be filled out at the link below:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultations-petitions-and-elections/consultations/developers-guide-to-infrastructure-contributions-in-suffolk/>

MID SUFFOLK.

Annual meeting took place on 24th May where the leader and chairs of committees are voted on. Yet again despite there being 50;50 number of councillors with the 2 political groups, all chairs and vice chairs were again elected by the chairs casting vote. This appears to me to be against democracy.

REVIEW OF WASTE SERVICE; the government has launched a consultation on waste service, including the possibility of collecting food waste.

REGAL CINEMA: having been completely refurbished and extended this was formally open at the bank holiday week end.

LOCAL PLAN. The Midsuffolk local plan has been submitted to the secretary of state for examination

LOCALITY FUND; I have put in a form to pay for the planning application for the new shed at the playing field.