

# Felsham Parish Council

## **Draft Minutes of the MEETING of FELSHAM PARISH COUNCIL** **held on 19th July 2022 in the Village Hall**

Present: Cllr Simon Garrod (Chair), Cllr Paul Kearney, Cllr David Simpson  
In attendance: 1 Member of the Public (Mr Jell),  
Isabelle Reece (Clerk & RFO)  
Apologies: Cllr Ken Sparkes, Cllr Mark Tavenor, SCC & MSDC Cllr Penny Otton,

**2022/037 Welcome & To receive apologies** – Cllr Garrod welcomed everyone to the meeting and received apologies from Cllr Ken Sparkes, Cllr Mark Tavenor & SCC & MSDC Cllr Penny Otton

**2022/038 Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation** – No interests were declared & there were no requests for dispensation.

**2022/039 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting** – The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council on 21st June 2022 were considered, approved & signed as a true record

**2022/040 County & District Cllr Penny Otton** – Cllr Otton's report to the Parish Council had been received & was noted – and forms part of these minutes.

**2022/041 Public Forum** – No members of the public made representation

**2022/042 Clerk's report**

The Council had fulfilled all its statutory obligations regarding the Annual Governance & Accountability Return; the Internal Auditor's Report will be published as soon as it is received from the Internal Auditor; the Clerk now has access to the online banking accounts; the website is now almost completely up-to-date, including a notice for the new Council Vacancy; a VAT Claim will be submitted as soon as possible; HMRC access yet to be completed; complete financial statement not available until files back from Internal Auditor

### **Financial Statement:**

Treasurer's Account balance per bank statement date:19th July 2022	£9000.02
Business Savings Account balance per bank statement date:19th July2022	£12,180.54
<b>Balance</b>	<b>£21,180.56</b>
Unpaid orders requested for approval:	
Clerk's salary -	(£850.40)
Grass cutting – Top Garden Services	(£384.00)
Unpresented receipts	£
<b>Net Balance (assuming approval of orders requested)</b>	<b>£19950.16</b>

**2022/043 Finance**

- a. **To approve orders requested for payment**  
£850.40 for Clerk's salary to date – approved  
£384.00 for grass cutting (Top Garden Services) – approved
- b. **Council Bank Account Mandates** – in progress
- c. **Formal Co-option of Mr Paul Jell** – Proposed by Cllr Garrod, seconded by Cllr Kearney: Mr Paul Jell was duly co-opted onto the Council and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office
- d. **Formal Nomination of Mr Andrew Conquest as Council's appointment as Trustee to the Felsham Charity** – Proposed by Cllr Garrod, seconded by Cllr Kearney: Mr Andrew Conquest was nominated as Felsham Parish Council's Appointment as Trustee to the Felsham Charity
- e. **To elect a Vice-Chairman** – Proposed by Cllr Kearney & seconded by Cllr Garrod: Cllr Tavenor was elected as Vice-Chairman of the Council

- 2022/044 To consider initiating a project for Suffolk County Council's £150,000 Match Funder scheme for community action on the climate emergency** – it was considered that the Village Hall Project could be eligible for the scheme: Cllr Simpson will contact Mr Conquest
- 2022/045 Planning**
- i. **To consider any applications received** – no Applications had been received
  - ii. **To note any decisions made by MSDC** – none had been received
  - iii. **Any other Planning Matters** – the holes in the Listed wall adjoining the Six Bells are increasing in size
- 2022/046 Village Maintenance:**
- a. Report from Tree Officer – nothing to report
  - b. To consider any matters reported – nothing reported
- 2022/047 Conservation Area:**
- a. Report from Conservation Officer – nothing to report.
  - b. Nothing reported
- 2022/048 Footpaths:**
- a. Report from Footpath Officer – nothing to report
  - b. Matters reported – It had been reported that there was considerable overgrowth on Footpaths 2, 4 and 6: Cllr Kearney would contact one of the landowners and a work party would be organized to tackle some of the vegetation; the Clerk will contact Cllr Otton regarding SCC funding for vegetation clearance at Meadow Close
- 2022/049 Correspondence** – The Clerk will publish certain correspondence on website and to investigate sharing relevant information with other village organizations
- 2022/050 Local Housing Needs Survey** – still nothing had been heard from the CAS contact Sunila Osborn; Cllrs Simpson, Sparkes & Nunn (the original Working Group) to liaise and pursue progress
- 2022/051 Village Sign Update** – nothing to report
- 2022/052 Matters to be brought to the attention of the council**  
Cllr kearney gave apologies for the September Meeting and undertook to supply Council with a Footpath Report before the meeting
- 2022/053 To confirm date of next Meeting – Tuesday 20th September 7.30pm**

The meeting was closed by Cllr Garrod at 20.15hrs

## Councillor Penny Otton's Report

For information on local support during the Cost-of-Living Crisis, visit:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/suffolk-advice-and-support-service/>

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

For information on supporting Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk, email: [refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk)

### Suffolk GLI to declare a Cost-of-Living Emergency

Full Council is on the 7<sup>th</sup> July. Our Group submitted a motion calling for SCC to declare a Cost-of-Living Emergency, and for the Council to redirect funds and efforts towards targeting those most vulnerable. . Our Group calls on this government for further support to those falling below the poverty line.

In addition, we are calling on the government to make it easier and cheaper to insulate homes. Our motion asks to waive VAT on energy-saving materials, such as insulation, and adequately fund a retrofitting programme so communities can save money on their bills during winter where energy price caps are due to rise even further. Despite being told of the unprecedented numbers asking for help and advice, this was voted down.

### **Cabinet Meeting: SEND Capital Programme**

Cabinet met on 20<sup>th</sup> June to vote on funding the next phase of SCC's programme to build more capacity for children with SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS. The cabinet agreed a package of £15.9m, as part of a £45m programme. Currently, there is a high demand for SEND services, with requests for placement going up by 32% since 2020. The funding Cabinet have agreed will create three new specialist units across Suffolk. I am pleased about this, but it will take time.

The council has been found guilty again and fined for not providing such a place for a child.

### **Petition for in-house Suffolk Highways maintenance contract: Still need signatures!**

Our Group's petition continues, demanding that SCC produces an in-house bid for the new Suffolk Highways contract. The contract, which will have been held by Kier for 10 years, is up for renewal next year. We need 3,675 signatures to bring this to debate at the Council. Please sign here (ensure you make your name public, or it won't count!): [https://www.petitions.net/for\\_suffolk\\_county\\_council\\_to\\_develop\\_an\\_in-house\\_bid\\_for\\_suffolk\\_highways\\_maintenance](https://www.petitions.net/for_suffolk_county_council_to_develop_an_in-house_bid_for_suffolk_highways_maintenance)

**£150,000 FUND FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE EMERGENCY;** I have sent all my clerks the info on this **HIGHWAYS INVESTMENT FUND;** also this asking for you to send in requests for areas where footpaths need cutting back. This is on top of the usual verge cutting schedule.

## **MID SUFFOLK**

**FUTURE CHANGES TO RUBBISH COLLECTION;** the government has insisted that all councils have a food waste collection service, so officers are now looking into how and when this will be introduced. Possibly with a small "caddy" for food waste.

**MORE TREES AND PLANTS;** again these are on offer from mid Suffolk.

**ENERGY REBATES;** I have forwarded to all clerks info on latest which now may be available to more people.

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