

Felsham Parish Council

Minutes of the MEETING of FELSHAM PARISH COUNCIL held on 13th February 2024 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr Simon Garrod (Chairman), Cllr Ken Sparkes, Cllr Paul Kearney, Cllr Jason Stringer

In attendance: SCC Cllr Penny Otton; MSDC Cllr Nicky Willshere;
Clerk & RFO Miss Isabelle Reece

Apologies: Cllr Mark Tavenor

2023/117 Welcome & to receive apologies for absence – Cllr Garrod welcomed everyone to the meeting

2023/118 Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation – Cllr Sparkes for the Felsham Charity

2023/119 Minutes of previous Parish Council Meeting – The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 9th January were considered, **APPROVED**, and signed by Cllr Garrod as a true record

2023/120 To receive reports from SCC & MSDC Cllrs

a. SCC Cllr Penny Otton – Cllr Otton's report, previously circulated, was noted and is available on this website. Cllr Otton had written to Jo Churchill MP regarding the deplorable state of the County's roads; she had arranged a meeting with Suffolk Highways and Drinkstone Parish Council to look at outstanding traffic issues in the Division; and is keen to arrange reimbursement from National Highways for recent extensive works.

b. MSDC Cllr Nicky Willshere – Cllr Willshere's report, previously circulated, was noted and is available on this website. Cllr Willshere was due to attend the Planning Meeting on 14th February, when the Six Bells Application is to be decided; as well as a Public Meeting at Great Finborough for villages impacted by the recent flooding.

2023/121 Public Forum

There were no members of the public in attendance

2023/122 Clerk's report

The Clerk had nothing specific to report not covered elsewhere on the Agenda

2023/123 Finance & Governance

a. To receive a financial update – the Clerk had circulated a Financial Reports for February; Cllr Sparkes verified & signed the Bank Reconciliations

b. The following orders requested for payment were **APPROVED**– Clerk's Salary (January) £217.00; Ms Gilbrook – Reimbursement for defibrillator accessories £119.52

c. Personnel – Potential Co-option candidate – the potential candidate was in attendance to observe

d. To consider 2nd Draft of the Budget 2024-25 – This was **APPROVED** & signed by the Chairman & is available on this website

e. To set the Precept for 2024-25 – The Council **AGREED** to set the Precept at £7,000.00

f. To consider any other Finance & Governance matters – there were no further urgent Finance & Governance Matters

2023/124 Planning

a. To consider any Planning Applications since the issue of this Agenda - None

b. That Application DC/23/05045 Land behind Six Bells, Felsham was before MSDC Planning Committee the following day 14th February was noted & Cllr Garrod would make every effort to attend the Meeting; **No decisions/notices had been received since issue of this Agenda**

c. To consider Brettenham Neighbourhood Development Plan Pre-Submission Consultation – **NO COMMENTS** were made; **the Joint Local Validation List Consultation – NO COMMENTS**; There were no further Planning matters

2023/125 Village Maintenance

a. To receive a report from the Tree Officer – no report available

b. To consider matters reported & updates – nothing reported

2023/126 Conservation Area

a. To receive a report from the Conservation Office – Cllr Kearney expressed concern at the considerable amounts of water flowing through the Village this winter: local ponds, infill and the deterioration of pipe work all being contribution factors. The questions were: where exactly are all the drainage pipes? Is there a plan? What can the PC do about the drainage? **ACTION** – Clerk to contact SCC to enquire about Drainage Plan

b. To consider any matters reported – nothing further reported

2023/127 Highways & Footpaths

a. To receive a report from the Footpath Officer – footpaths all remain very wet or waterlogged; a new kissing gate at Meadow Close – it was **AGREED** to earmark £1000.00 of reserves for the Project; Footpath No 3 – Cllr Garrod had examined and rodded the blocked drainage pipe beneath Footpath 3 alongside Lower Green & has undertaken to dig down and replace the pipe and clear further build-up when his schedule allows.

b. To consider any matters reported – Nothing further reported

c. To discuss possible plan for a Solar Lighting project – No update available **OUTSTANDING ACTION** – Clerk yet to circulate National Landscape Lighting Design Guide

d. Community Speed Watch update – Cllr Springer reported no further response to calls for volunteers; contact had been established with Gedding Parish Meeting

2023/128 Correspondence – Correspondence from a parishioner regarding Six Bells Planning Application was noted and to be acknowledged

2023/129 Local Housing Needs update – no further update. The previously agreed public Meeting will take place in the spring. **ACTION** – Chairman of the Village Hall Committee also to be contacted

2023/130 Village Sign – the Clerk provided Cllrs Sparkes and Kearney with all earlier documentation and correspondence **ACTION** – Cllrs Sparkes & Kearney to obtain new Quotes

2023/131 Matters to be brought to the attention of the council/future agenda items – **ACTION** Councillor Vacancy to be re-advertised

2023/132 To confirm date of the next Meeting – Tuesday 12th March 2024

The Meeting was closed by Cllr Garrod at 20.27hrs

Signed _____ **Chairman** **Dated** _____