

Felsham Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th April 2022 **held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Simon Garrod (Chair), Cllr Simpson, Cllr Tavernor,
Cllr Sparkes, Cllr Kearney, Cllr Nunn

In attendance: County & District Cllr Penny Otton, Isabelle Reece (Clerk & RFO)

- 2021/0180 **Welcome and to receive apologies** – Cllr Garrod welcomed all to the meeting. There were no apologies.
- 2021/0181 **Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation** – No interests were declared & there were no requests for dispensation.
- 2021/0182 **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting** – The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council on 15th March 2022 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.
- 2021/0183 **County & District Councillor Otton** – Cllr Otton's report to the Parish Council had been received & was noted – and forms part of these minutes. Cllr Otton highlighted the necessity to remain vigilant following the recent outbreak of avian influenza at Rattlesden; the County Council's failure to secure funding from central government for the Bus Back Better scheme; and that, contrary to information circulating, the rent increase for tenants of council housing would not come into effect until May.
- 2021/0184 **Public Participation** – There was none.
- 2021/0185 **Clerk's Report** – The clerk's contract needs to be formalized: this will take place at the next meeting; and as yet has no access to bank or HMRC accounts. Some updating of the website and contact details with other organizations has been done, but there is still more work to do.
- 2021/0186 **Co-option of new councillor** – Since the candidate agreed for co-option is unavailable at present, formal co-option will take place at a later meeting.
- 2021/0187 **Resident Complaint** – The Clerk had written to the complainant, informing her of the Investigative Committee's report; the Council's decision minuted at the March meeting; and details of the procedure for taking the complaint to the Monitoring Officer. The complainant had replied, asking if this was the Council's 'Full and final response to the complainant'. The Chairman confirmed that this was indeed the case. The Monitoring Officer had sent an email about the delay in addressing the complaint several weeks previously, before the new clerk had access to the parish email account: the clerk has since reported back to the Monitoring Officer.
- 2021/0188 **Planning:**
i DC/22/089 – Rattlesden Gliding Club High Tower Green, Rattlesden: the revised wording on the Rattlesden Gliding Club planning application following the planning liaison meeting on 21st March was noted
- 2021/0189 **Finance:**
a) To approve the Finance Report for March 2022 – The report was approved
b) Payments for approval – SALC Subscriptions £266.14; Village Hall Hire £100 - the payments highlighted above were approved. Note: the following payments outstanding at the last meeting had been paid: Onesuffolk £60.00 (re: website), Top Garden Services £96.00 and a cheque for re-imbursement of £72.00 to Hayley Gilbrook (re: defibrillator) was issued. An outstanding HMRC payment of £255.60 would be completed the following day after verifying references required.
c) Council bank account mandates – Cllr Garrod reported that he is able to access the online banking with his card; the clerk is to be added as to the mandate for online banking.
d) To Consider Amendment to Standing Orders to Include Provision for a for a Second Public Forum – the Council deemed that the Chairman has sufficient discretionary provision under existing Standing Orders so as to render such a motion unnecessary.
- 2021/0190 **Village Maintenance:**

- a. Report from Tree Officer – the 3 trees in the churchyard will be dealt with after the nesting period for birds.
- b. Matters reported – grit bins need weeding and road signs need the algae removed: several councillors volunteered to carry out these tasks

2021/0191 **Conservation Area:**

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

2021/0192 **Footpaths:**

- a. Report from Footpath Officer – nothing to report.
- b. Matters reported – there are stability issues with a bridge

2021/0193 **Correspondence –**

- a) Clerk asked for clarification as to which correspondence pertaining to G D Horrex & Sons it is legally permissible to share with the correspondent Mrs H Horrex: according to data protection laws only any correspondence from the Council intended for G D Horrex & Sons can be shared.
- b) The Council's Insurance Brokers had written to inform them that its underwriters were revising all premiums, rather untowardly including those for three-year agreements. The clerk will check the renewal date for Council to investigate other more favourable and secure renewal options

2021/0194 **Housing Needs Survey** – No update was available: Cllr Simpson will follow up with Sunila Osborne, the contact at Community Action Suffolk..

2021/0195 **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee** – So far organized are: a BBQ at the Six Bells; a history exhibition at the Village Hall and a Beacon

2021/0196 **Other Matters brought to the attention of the council** – A new quote for mowing the playing field was still needed; one of the councillors had been informed by a local landowner that a new permissive footpath is being considered.

The meeting was closed by the Cllr Garrod at 9.10pm

Approved_____ (Chairman)

Date_____ (Minute 2022/006)

Cllr Penny Otton: Parish Report

Divisions: Thedwastre south

County Council Details

Mobile:07545423847

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

FESTIVAL OF SUFFOLK TORCH RELAY; this will be going around the whole of Suffolk starting on 13TH May and in many villages residents will be invited to take part and to cheer on all who pass through their village. This will end on 1st June at the Suffolk Show Ground where the big Platinum Jubilee Pageant will take place

Cabinet 1st March

The Cabinet met to vote on the disapproval of the current plans by Sunnica to build the country's largest solar farm in Suffolk and East Cambridgeshire. Suffolk County Council have asked the Government to reject the plans in its current form, arguing the application fails to properly mitigate the impacts of such a large project. In addition, the Cabinet voted on approving the National Grid's project to scale up its energy infrastructure from Bramford to Twinstead, as part of the Government's Net-Zero plan to increase low-carbon energy in the UK.

Full Council 24th March

Full Council presented a rare opportunity of solidarity between Councillors, as our Group and the Conservatives shared a single motion in support of Ukraine. Our Group recommended a motion condemning the

actions of the Russian government, as well as commitment to supporting and welcoming refugees as they become a part of our Suffolk communities. The Conservatives supported our idea and together we showed how politics can be put aside through difficult times.

UKRAINE REFUGEES; I have sent all available details of what needs and can be done to help those offering a home to the refugees. There are still many issues till to sort out including school places and home inspections, plus visas.

Cabinet 29th March

The Cabinet met to vote on a plan to establish 'Freeport East'. This is part of a national strategy to create freeports across the country, in an attempt to generate economic activity through tax incentives. Felixstowe Port, Harwich Port, and Stowmarket's 'Gateway 14' Business Park are set to become part of Freeport East. Our Group is severely concerned with this project, as foreign direct investment is being prioritised over local businesses, many of which will now not be able to compete with the foreign businesses receiving tax relief. The Cabinet also voted on the Enhanced Partnership between SCC and bus operators, in line with the new Bus Back Better strategy, aimed at improving services across Suffolk. The improvement plan was voted for in October 2021,. Our Group have concerns on the Government's promise of funding, as no funding has yet been confirmed by the Department for Transport.

AVAIAN FLU; I have circulated the details of the recent outbreak in Buxhall near Stowmarket and the area for exclusion.

NETWORK RAIL/ THURSTON CROSSING. We are still waiting after many months for a proposal from Network Rail

International Women's Month, and Day 2022 – #BreaktheBias

In March, we celebrated International Women's Month 2022. This is a time to acknowledge and celebrate the amazing achievements of women and push further for equality around the world.

Our group was immensely supportive of this celebration. Suffolk GLI's Spokesperson for Women, Cllr Caroline Page, called for the flag for Women's History Month to be flown high next year at Endeavour House. Suffolk County Council agreed this was an important step forward.

BUS BACK BRITAIN Suffolk county council was unsuccessful in Its bid to government for money to provide more bus routes which is very disappointing as so many of our buses have had to be withdrawn

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Instagram (New!) - https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli_group/

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

MIDSUFFOLK.

[I have sent the revised wording for the gliding club and await their new application.](#)

[GOVERNMENT ENERGY GRANTS; the £150 pound will be given to all who pay council tax by direct debit, the council must contact those who do not to tell them how to apply. I have also asked how they will help those who pay their Ctax direct to their landlord. Will the landlord then pass back to the tenants???](#)

[COUNCIL HOUSE RENTS; following a problem with mail company NOT delivering the information about the rent rises this will be resent and any rise will now start from 2nd May.](#)

[LEISURE CENTRE; new disable facilities for the Stowmarket leisure centre.](#)