

Felsham Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th March 2022 held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Simon Garrod (Chair), Cllr Simpson, Cllr Tavernor, Cllr Sparkes, Cllr Kearney
In attendance: County & District Cllr Penny Otton 2 members of the public; Isabelle Reece (Clerk & RFO)

- 2021/0162 **Welcome and to receive apologies** – Cllr Garrod welcomed all to the meeting and received apologies from Cllr Nunn.
- 2021/0163 **Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation** – No interests were declared & there were no requests for dispensation.
- 2021/0164 **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting** – The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council on 15th February 22 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.
- 2021/0165 **County & District Councillor Otton** – Cllr Otton’s report to the Parish Council had been received & was noted – and forms part of these minutes.
- 2021/0166 **Public Participation** – Principally addressing Cllr Otton, a member of the public reported that on occasions when refuse lorries without the regular crew visited Felsham, they failed to include Cockfield Road and, in spite of calls to MSDC, the bins were not emptied.
- 2021/0167 **Clerk’s Report** – The appointment of a new Clerk, Isabelle Reece, by Cllrs Garrod & Simpson was ratified.
- 2021/0168 **Co-option of new councillor** - It was agreed that an applicant should be co-opted; formal co-option process to take place at the next meeting.
- 2021/0169 **Resident Complaint** – Cllr Kearney outlined the Investigatory Committee’s findings: that the Cllr in question had not breached the Code of Conduct; that no apology was necessary, and no further action should be taken. It also recognized that in such situations any complaints of this nature might be averted altogether if members of the public were to be granted opportunity for further comment following debate by Council. Cllr Kearney proposed, Cllr Simpson seconded, all in favour (resolution to accept IC’s findings passed) **ACTIONS:** Clerk to write to the complainant, informing them of the decision; modifications to Standing Orders to be considered at the next Meeting.
- 2021/0170 **Planning:**
- i DC/22/089 – Continued & permanent use of land for Gliding Club purposes - Rattlesden Gliding Club, High Tower Green, Rattlesden – Cllr Otton clarified the situation and stage of the application: previous plans having been withdrawn, a further planning liaison meeting was scheduled for 21st March
 - ii. DC/22/01043 – Conversion of existing stable into one-storey dwelling – The Old Barn, Cockfield Road – NO OBJECTIONS to application – proposed by Cllr Simpson, seconded by Cllr Tavernor, all in-favour. **RESOLUTION PASSED.**
- 2021/0171 **Finance:**
- a) To approve the Finance Report for March 2022 – Report was not yet available
 - b) Payments for approval – OneSuffolk £60 (Website Hosting) SCC £156.33 (Street Lighting) the payments highlighted above were approved.
Note: there are still outstanding payments to be made when bank mandates have been completed. An HMRC payment of £255.60, Top Garden Services of £96.00 and a re-imburement of £72.00 for Hayley Gilbrook (re: defibrillator)
 - c) Council bank account mandates – Cllr Garrod reported that the bank had ‘no record of receipt’ of the completed mandate forms; councillors completed new forms for submission.
 - d) Receipt of £2920 funding for the Village Sign from Cllr Otton’s Locality Budget was noted
- 2021/0172 **Village Maintenance:**
- a. Report from Tree Officer – reported that he is liaising with the Church.

b. Matters reported – nothing to report

2021/0173

Conservation Area:

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

2021/0174

Footpaths:

- a. Report from Footpath Officer – nothing to report.
- b. Matters reported – many trees fell during recent storms, particularly near Toad Hall, to be investigated.

2021/0175

Correspondence – Clerk to write to complainant (see 2021/0169)

2021/0176

Housing Needs Survey – It was noted that much misinformation has been circulating since the completion of the HNS, particularly the entirely erroneous assertion that decisions had already been made on building. ACTION: Cllr Simpson to contact Sunita Osborne to re-establish momentum in the process.

2021/0177

Village Sign – Update. Receipt of funding from Cllr Otton noted earlier (2021/0171d); will be positioned behind bench on common land, upon a base plinth of brick and flint, which is considered in keeping with the context as required within the conservation area. Planning Permission will be required.

2021/0178

The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee – Four days of festive events are planned

2021/0179

Other Matters brought to the attention of the council – The Late Cllr Williams’ name needs to be removed from the Parish Website. New batteries and another bracket are needed for the Speed Devices. A proposal to move the recycling bins to the grounds of the Village Hall will be contained within a VH planning application. A quote for mowing the playing field is needed.

The meeting was closed by the Cllr Garrod at 9.51pm

Item 2021/0164 – Minutes of Parish Council Meeting, 15th March 22 Approved

Parish Report - April 2022 Councillor Penny Otton

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/coronavirushave

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 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.