

Felsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th April 2019 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr Simon Garrod (chair) Cllr David Williams Cllr David Simpson
Cllr Ken Sparkes
Mrs. Paula Gladwell (Clerk) County & District Cllr Penny Otton
1 members of the public

- 2018/2485 **Apologies for Absence** - Cllr Hayley Nunn, Cllr Mark Tavernor
- 2018/2486 **Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation** – None
- 2018/2487 **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting** – It was proposed by Cllr Garrod that the minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting were approved with all in favour. The Parish Council Meeting minutes of 26th March 2019 were signed as a true record.
- 2018/2488 **County & District Councillor Otton** – Cllr Otton gave her report, which had been circulated, and is attached to these minutes.
- 2018/2489 **Public Participation** – A resident made accusations that Felsham Charity Trustee nominations were made in house and that historically trusteeship was a closed shop. This was strongly refuted, the nominations to fill the two vacancies for trustees will only be made once publicity of the vacancies has been circulated in Village News in line with the decisions made at last month's meeting.
A resident complained that the Parish Council had not advertised the upcoming elections. It was explained that these elections are under the control of the District Monitoring Officers who advertise them on their website with public notices placed on our notice board at the request of the District Council. The residents criticism of Parish Council actions and complaint that people are unaware of the elections was strongly refuted. It was further explained that all residents eligible to vote have received a polling card which clearly shows that District and Parish Council elections are to take place, the notice board shows clearly the procedures involved in nomination and election. The Parish Council will advertise as usual to fill any vacancies after the election by their cooption procedure.
- 2018/2490 **Clerks Report** - The cessation of the subsidised bus service to Woolpit Health Centre was brought to Councils attention. It was confirmed that Perry's Private Hire no longer operated the service due to a lack of demand and an upcoming retirement. Mr Perry confirmed that he has been through the proper procedures with SCC and the Health Centre to close the service. Woolpit Health Centre have confirmed that they have no plans to replace the service and that any funding saved will be directed elsewhere in the future.
Council agreed that information on who in the village might have used the service should be sought to ensure that alternative help can be offered to those who may struggle now to travel to the Health Centre.
It was confirmed that paperwork for the install of the recent new footpath post has now been sent to SCC.
The pothole at Upper Green will be reported as will the missing Post Box at Dakings Lane. It was noted that the files had been submitted to Andrew Conquest for Internal Audit and the Certificate of Exemption was signed and will be submitted to PKF Littlejohn.
- 2018/2491 **Planning** – It was Resolved to submit the following comments to MSDC for application No. DC/19/01595 Reroofing, removal of chimney, rear dormer window, front porch and insertion of 5no. rooflights, 11 no. windows and rear bifold doors - Moat Farm, Dakings Lane - *"Felsham Parish Council have NO OBJECTION to this application based on the information available"*.
- 2018/2492 There were no MSDC decisions to note.
- 2018/2493 **Finance** – The Finance Report for April 2019 was approved.
- 2018/2494 The following payments were approved. Prop by Cllr Williams, sec Cllr Garrod with all in favour. Clerks Salary for March

- 2018/2495 HMRC Q4 payment
- 2018/2496 Salc subscriptions £250.84
- 2018/2497 SCC Street Lights maint £111.92
- 2018/2498 It was Resolved to award under S137 donations of £25 each to; Headway, EACH, SARS, Age Concern and East Anglian Air Ambulance. Proposed Cllr Garrod, seconded Cllr Williams with all in favour.
- 2018/2499 It was resolved to award £75 to Mid Suffolk CAB Proposed Cllr Williams, sec Cllr Simpson with all in favour. It was noted that £50 would come from budget with £25 from reserves.
- 2018/2500 It was Resolved to donate £25 to Village News, proposed Cllr Garrod, seconded Cllr Williams with all in favour.
- 2018/2501 **Nomination of Trustees to Felsham Charity** - It was noted that the deadline for Village News content was missed following last month's meeting. Nominations were deferred until publication of the vacancies can be done.
- 2018/2502 **Hastoe Housing, Housing Needs Survey** - It was agreed to take up Hastoe Housing's offer to carry out a Housing Needs Survey to establish whether a further Affordable Housing Exception Scheme project should be considered.
- 2018/2503 **Correspondence** – There were no comments to any tabled correspondence.
- 2018/2504 **Village Maintenance** – Tree Officer Report –No report.
- 2018/2505 There were no further maintenance matters reported.
- 2018/2506 **Conservation Area** – Conservation Officer Report – Planning Enforcement have confirmed that the current planning permission for Maple Cottage supersedes any enforcement action to remove the blue colour and the three year commencement condition applies.
- 2018/2507 There were no further Conservation matters reported.
- 2018/2508 **Footpaths** – Footpath Officer Report – Cllr Nunn's report confirmed that the cross field paths on FP2 were clearly marked. Work parties to cut back side growth brambles on some paths would be scheduled as soon as possible.
- 2018/2509 There were no further Footpath matters reported.
- 2018/2510 **Matters to be brought to the attention of council** – A request to reinstate the Community Speedwatch sessions was supported. Cllr Simpson will check the working condition of the Speed gun and contact volunteers for availability.

Next meeting of the Parish Council - Tuesday 21st May and will follow the Annual Parish Meeting.