

Felsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th February 2021 held remotely via Zoom platform

Present: Cllr Simon Garrod (chair) Cllr Hayley Nunn Cllr David Simpson
Cllr Mark Tavernor Cllr Ken Sparkes Cllr Paul Kearney
Paula Gladwell (Clerk & RFO) County & District Cllr Penny Otton
1 member of the public

2020/3006 **Apologies for Absence** – None

2020/3007 **Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation** – Cllr Nunn declared a pecuniary interest in Item c (minute no.2020/3014)

2020/3008 **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 19th January 2021 will be signed as a true record.

2020/3009 **County & District Councillor Otton** – Cllr Otton gave her report, which had been circulated, and is attached to these minutes.

2020/3010 **Public Participation** – An update on the response to the resident petition was noted. It was confirmed that Jo Churchill MP had also contacted MSDC with her concerns regarding the access proposed for the development at the rear of Six Bells. It was noted that a MSDC Planning Committee date for a decision on this application had not yet been confirmed.

2020/3011 **Clerks Report** – It was noted that no requests for an election had been received and therefore MSDC had confirmed that the vacancy can be filled by co option. It was agreed that Cllr Simpson would attend the MSDC Planning Committee meeting to speak on behalf of the Parish Council for application DC/20/04572. It was noted that the Village Hall Committee had asked if the Parish Council could submit the planning application for the extension and refurbishment of the village hall. It was agreed that on this occasion it would be better for the Parish Council to retain their ability as a consultee as it was an extensive proposal and it would be good to have some method of scrutiny for residents. It was suggested that a donation could be made to help cover the planning fee, consideration of this will be added to the next agenda. Cllr Tavernor had provided three quotes for the purchase of a new VAS. It was agreed that an application to Cllr Otton's locality budget be submitted ahead of further consideration of a purchase.

2020/3012 **Planning** – It was RESOLVED to submit the following comments to applications; DC/21/00371 Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area – Fell 1no. Ash tree (T1) due to Ash die back disease. Remove large limb of Ash tree (T2) overhanging Bury Road also suffering from Ash die back disease. Scots Pine Ref 3 causing subsidence. It is very tall and leaning towards Bury Road which could cause serious damage if it fell. Spinney House, Bury Road *"Felsham Parish Council have NO OBJECTION to this application based on the information available"*

2020/3013 DC/21/00398 Application for works to a tree in a Conservation Area – Cut back branches of 1 no. Goat Willow tree close to property at risk of causing damage to neighbouring properties and to restore balance and growth – The White House, Church Road. *"Felsham Parish Council have NO OBJECTION to this application based on the information available"*

Cllr Nunn left the meeting

2020/3014 DC/21/00384 Application under S73 for variation or removal of conditions relating to DC/20/00922 approved 16.04.20 Condition 2 – To change the use of upper floor from storage to home office and erection external staircase. Maiden Hall, Cockfield Road. *"Felsham Parish Council have NO OBJECTION to this application based on the information available"*

Cllr Nunn returned to the meeting

- 2020/3015 DC/21/00779 Application for Works to Trees in a Conservation Area – Fell 1 no. Sycamore (T1) overgrown seedling that damages garden lawn and gives excessive shading. Reduce 1 no. Cherry (T2) 30% reduction to maintain size and integrity, work carried out every 3-4 years. Fell 1 no. Maple (T3) growing in the way of shed and gives excessive shading. 7 Church Road - *"Felsham Parish Council have NO OBJECTION to this application based on the information available"*
- 2020/3016 There were no MSDC decisions to note.
- 2020/3017 **Finance** – The Finance report for February 2021 was approved.
- 2020/3018 The following payments were approved. Prop by Cllr Garrod, with all in favour. Clerks Salary for Jan 2021.
- 2020/3019 **Village Maintenance** – Tree Officer Report – Cllr Tavernor had nothing new to report
- 2020/3020 Biodiverse Management Scheme for Greens – Lengthy discussion took place around the merits of changing the grass cutting regime on the village greens. It was agreed that Upper Green would not be a suitable site for this. It was generally agreed that maintaining public land in a more sustainable way should be pursued whenever possible however the Parish Council did not own any suitable sites. It was noted that a previous attempt to do this at Lower Green had proved very controversial. The Proposal by Cllr Tavernor to change the cutting regime on Lower Green to a more biodiverse method failed with 1 for and 5 against. It was suggested that other green areas in the village be looked at for a project including MSDC owned Middle Green, Lime Walk and The Orchard.
- 2020/3021 It was RESOLVED to contact MSDC to ask what their policy is for a more sustainable biodiverse management of their green space and whether any of these areas could be assessed for an amended cutting regime. Proposed Cllr Simpson with all in favour.
- 2020/3022 There were no further Village Maintenance matters reported
- 2020/3023 **Conservation Area** – Conservation Officer Report – Cllr Simpson had nothing new to report.
- 2020/3024 There were no further Conservation matters reported.
- 2020/3025 **Footpaths** – Footpath Officer Report – Cllr Nunn had nothing new to report.
- 2020/3026 It was noted that most footpaths were exceptionally muddy and it was suggested that only crushed concrete would improve this however this method could prove unpopular and probably not something MSDC Public Rights of Way would be willing to do even on the worst affected areas. It was agreed that this was a recurring problem at this time of year and the paths would soon improve with the season.
- 2020/3027 **Correspondence** –The request from a resident for help in highlighting the flooding on Cockfield Road was considered. It was agreed that Council could lend its weight to reporting it to Suffolk County Council Highways however in light of the extensive list of issues they currently had to deal with it was appreciated it was unlikely to be a priority for them.
- 2020/3028 The email from Suffolk County Council Highways in response to the resident petition in objection to the planning application at the Six Bells was noted.
- 2020/3029 There were no comments to further tabled correspondence.
- 2020/3030 **Local Housing Needs Survey** – Due to Covid absence at Community Action Suffolk no final report has yet been received therefore further consideration was deferred. It was noted that the Clerk will seek a meeting with CAS and MSDC housing enabler as soon as possible.
- 2020/3031 **Village Sign** – As the planned site visit could not be held due to Covid restrictions further consideration was deferred.
- 2020/3032 **Matters to be brought to the attention of council** – It was noted that neither post box had yet been replaced. The clerk will attempt to get an estimated installation date. The 30mph sign outside the shop had yet to be replaced this will also be chased up.

Next meeting of the Parish Council - Tuesday 16th March 2021 7.30pm