

Felsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th June 2020 held remotely via Zoom platform

Present: Cllr Simon Garrod (chair) Cllr David Williams Cllr David Simpson
Cllr Hayley Nunn Cllr Paul Kearney Cllr Ken Sparkes

Paula Gladwell (Clerk & RFO) County & District Cllr Penny Otton
6 members of the public

Cllr Nunn took the chair

2020/2813 **Apologies for Absence** - Cllr Mark Tavernor

2020/2814 **Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation** – None

2020/2815 **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting** – It was proposed by Cllr Nunn that the minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting were approved with all in favour. The Parish Council Meeting minutes of 19th May 2020 were signed as a true record.

2020/2816 **County & District Councillor Otton** – Cllr Otton's gave her report, which had been circulated, and is attached to these minutes. Cllr Otton confirmed that bonfires are not banned during lockdown. Cllr Nunn expressed the concerns of some parents of year 10 pupils at Thurston CC. Cllr Otton will feed this back to the head. It was noted that comments from Rattlesden Primary School parents were all very positive. Cllr Otton was asked when trailers would be allowed at the Recycling site. *(it has been confirmed post meeting that no dates have been agreed and that work is ongoing towards reopening the facility fully)*

Cllr Garrod entered the meeting and took the chair.

2020/2817 **Public Participation** – Councillors were asked if the Parish Council were intending to lead a community bid for the pub. It was confirmed that the Council would initiate a public meeting and were likely to be fully supportive of any community bid. Extensive discussed took place regarding the opportunities that maybe available including incorporating the shop and PO and various other commercial options for the premises. It was confirmed that the premises lease on the shop and PO had only 18 months left and that there have been discussions regarding a possible move to the village hall but this project would be a long way off.

The process involved in the Community Right to Bid and the Community Asset procedures were confirmed.

Suggestions from the public included approaching the Plunket Foundation who helped with the shop and also "The Pub is the Hub".

It appears that the lease for the pub is still advertised on Hawthorns website and it is thought that the reason Hawthorn had notified MSDC of a sale was due to an expression of interest in purchasing the building.

Various Community Pub projects in the area were suggested as examples of what might be achieved including The Punch Bowl at Battisford and The Duke at Somersham.

It was confirmed that no official planning application had been lodged with MSDC for building on the meadow to the rear of the pub.

2020/2818 **Clerks Report** - Nothing to report.

2020/2819 **Asset of Community Value** - It was confirmed that the six week moratorium had been triggered following the notification that The Six Bells PH was for sale. This now gives the community until 23rd July to submit an Expression of Interest to bid for the property. If an EoFI is submitted by an eligible community interest group this will trigger a six month moratorium whereby the property cannot be sold whilst the community group put together a bid.

It was Resolved to reconvene the Community Asset Working Group with a view to information gathering and public consultation to establish whether there is community interest in submission of an Expression of Interest within the moratorium period. Cllrs Simpson, Williams and Kearney, together with Andrew Conquest, Mark Crawford and

Helen Wilden will make up the initial members of the group. A virtual meeting will be set for next week and Terms of Reference will be circulated.

- 2020/2820 **Planning** – It was Resolved to submit the following comments to MSDC for application no. DC/20/02097 Erection of a single storey side extension (west) single storey side/rear extension (east) Erection of porch extension and a garage (following demolition of existing garage - Appletrees, Bradfield St George Road - "*Felsham Parish Council have NO OBJECTION to this application based on the information available*")
- 2020/2821 There were no MSDC decisions to note.
- 2020/2822 Cllr Otton confirmed that no yellow notices were currently being displayed and a limited number of neighbouring properties were being issued with letters therefore it was more important to be watchful for any new applications being listed. Only applications of 11 dwellings and over will be dealt with at committee therefore any application for the pub meadow would be officer delegated for decision unless Cllr Otton had reason to call it in. It was noted that both previous applications for this site had been refused at MSDC with both appeals to the secretary of state failing. It would appear from information received by neighbouring residents that nothing much had changed in this potential application therefore the impact on the conservation area and listed building would be the same.
- 2020/2823 **Finance** – The Finance report for June 2020 was approved.
- 2020/2824 The following payments were approved. Prop by Cllr Garrod, with all in favour. Clerks Salary for May 2020.
- 2020/2825 Headway £25.00
- 2020/2826 CAB £75.00
- 2020/2827 EACH £25.00
- 2020/2828 Age UK £25.00
- 2020/2829 Printer £69.00
- 2020/2830 EAAA £25.00
- 2020/2831 CAS Insurance £285.60
- 2020/2832 The completion of the Internal Audit by Andrew Conquest was noted. The Internal Audit report had no recommendations.
- 2020/2833 **Village Maintenance** – Tree Officer Report – No report
- 2020/2834 There were no further Village Maintenance matters reported
- 2020/2835 **Conservation Area** – Conservation Officer Report – Cllr Simpson had nothing new to report.
- 2020/2836 There were no further Conservation matters reported.
- 2020/2837 **Footpaths** – Footpath Officer Report – Cllr Nunn confirmed that FP13 had been cut and all was looking good. The clerk will chase up a response from MSDC regarding the graffiti on the dog bin at the road end of FP 6.
- 2020/2838 There were no further Footpath matters reported.
- 2020/2839 **Correspondence** – In response to a letter from the Village News Committee it was suggested that they be asked if additional funding was needed and whether electronic copies were offered in order to cut printing costs.
- 2020/2840 It was noted that a letter had been received from HM Lord-Lieutenant for Suffolk with copies of the Queens address for parish files.
- 2020/2841 There were no comments to further tabled correspondence.
- 2020/2842 **Local Housing Needs Survey Working Group Report** - It was noted that the deadlines for the questionnaire had passed and reprinting would be required. CAS would be asked if this was covered by their insurance and if not what costs this might entail. It was agreed that CAS be asked to reschedule for as soon as possible.
- 2020/2843 **Village Sign** - Deferred
- 2020/2844 **Matters to be brought to the attention of council** - The 30mph post and bus stop sign had not yet been replaced this would be chased up however it was noted that SCC Highways were only carrying out emergency work at this time.
Concerns were expressed regarding the condition of the road in Cockfield Road cul de sac, Cllr Nunn will get photos for reporting.

Next meeting of the Parish Council - Tuesday 21st July 2020 7.30pm