

Felsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th November 2015 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr Simon Garrod (chair) Cllr David Simpson
Cllr Hayley Nunn Cllr Mark Tavernor
Cllr David Williams Cllr Harry Wragge
Mrs. Paula Gladwell (Clerk) County Cllr Penny Otton
0 member of the public

2015/1409 **Apologies for Absence** — Cllr Ken Sparkes

2015/1410 **Declarations of Interest** – None

2015/1411 **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 20th October 2015 were signed as a true record.

2015/1412 **Adjournment for:**

Cllr Otton's Report – Cllr Otton gave her report. There is to be a review of rural transport as the contract with Suffolk Links finishes in April 2016. Providers will "bid" for the contract as a new "model" for rural transport is needed to address the 50% cut in funding; this gives concerns that there will be a drastic reduction in rural bus services. There has been unanimous agreement to object to the proposal to close the magistrates courts at Bury and Lowestoft. The call on landowners to put forward suitable site for Gypsy and Traveller transit sites has a deadline of 16th November 2015. Cllr Otton has asked SCC if they would be willing to indemnify local communities in the same way that they do for snow clearing, to take on cutting and clearing of footpaths, a response is still waited. Last week cabinet were considering a proposal for establishing a commercial company for the purpose of deriving profit through developing houses. The company would be jointly owned by SCC, Forest Heath DC and St Edmundsbury BC and will provide a revenue income through dividend payments to all councils. It is unclear why MSDC and Babergh DC are not included.

There is to be a consultation on the proposed cuts to the Fire Service from 16th Nov – 22nd February 2016.

Cabinet will be looking at Highway Infrastructure Asset management Policy which concentrates on "empowering local communities" this will encourage parish councils and volunteers to contribute to highway maintenance through new initiatives to train and empower local groups to improve their environment and local amenities, we wait to see if this will make a difference!

It was noted that some Apache helicopter training exercises will be carried out at Rattlesden Airfield during December.

Public Participation – No questions

Meeting resumed:

2015/1413 **Clerks report** – the replacement chevron sign at corner on Cockfield Road is scheduled for replacement next week.

2015/1414 The planning application for the Village Hall heat pumps has been amended to include the screening which will hopefully now result in permission being granted.

2015/1415 Confirmation is still awaited from SCC Highways that the work order for the VAS has been approved, the machine will not be ordered until we are confident the work order is authorised.

2015/1416 Speedwatch sessions have commenced with the first hour recording 7 offenders exceeding the limit.

2015/1417 It was agreed that contact be made with Hawthorne Leisure to record an expression of interest in the land adjacent to the Six Bells. It was noted that UKPN

would be cutting down the remaining trees on the road side boundary of the site in the next few weeks.

- 2015/1418 **Planning** – It was resolved to send the following response to MSDC; Application 3861/15 Retention of front boundary fence and gates, Castle farm House, Brettenham Road. - "*Felsham Parish Council have NO OBJECTION to this application based on the information available*"
- 2015/1419 There were no MSDC decisions to note.
- 2015/1420 **Finance** – The clerks Financial Report for November 2015 was approved.
- 2015/1421 The following payments were approved. Prop by Cllr Garrod with all in favour.
Clerks Salary for Oct 2015
- 2015/1422 Felsham Garage Grass cutting £300.00
- 2015/1423 The draft budget for 2016/2017 was considered, it was noted that the tax base had yet to be received from MSDC and review of the budget was possible up until the precept request deadline in January 2016. It was agreed that further consideration of the budget could take place at the next meeting.
- 2015/1424 **Correspondence** – Quotes had still to be confirmed for printing of the Welcome Pack sleeves. The design for the front was finalised and Cllr Williams will chase the quote.
- 2015/1425 There were no comments to further tabled correspondence.
- 2015/1426 **Report from Street Lighting Working Group** – Deferred.
- 2015/1427 **Village Maintenance** – Tree Officer Report – Nothing to report.
- 2015/1428 Other matters – It was suggested that we try to obtain copies of any maps held by SCC showing gulleys, drains, culverts etc to be kept on our files in case of devolution of services in future.
Potholes in Dakings Lane and Brettenham Road will be reported once photographs are obtained.
- 2015/1429 **Conservation Area** – Conservation Officer Report – Nothing to report
- 2015/1430 Other matters - Consideration of the Conservation Leaflet was deferred.
- 2015/1431 **Footpaths** – Footpath Officers Report – No issues reported.
- 2015/1432 Other matters - None.
- 2015/1433 **Matters to be brought to the attention of council** – Nominations for the Community Achievement awards were discussed and it was agreed to put forward the girls for their litter picking project.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 15th December 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall