

Felsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th January 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

- 2020/2980 **Apologies for Absence** – It was noted that Cllr David Williams had tendered his resignation to the chairman. Thanks were extended to David for his long standing service and dedication to the Parish Council in his capacity as a Councillor and for his Chairmanship in the past. David’s contribution to parish politics and his commitment to our community is second to none and he will be sorely missed at the debating table.
- 2020/2981 **Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation** – None
- 2020/2982 **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 15th December 2020 will be signed as a true record.
- 2020/2983 **County & District Councillor Otton** – Cllr Otton gave her report, which had been circulated, and is attached to these minutes. Cllr Otton confirmed that she may be in a position to help with funding for the village sign but applications must be in by the end of February. Cllr Tavernor highlighted the Biodiversity strategy adopted by Suffolk County Council and suggested that the Parish Council also adopt biodiverse land management practices in line with the SCC strategy.
- 2020/2984 **Public Participation** – It was noted that a resident petition had been lodged with Mid Suffolk DC relating to the planning application at the rear of Six Bells.
- 2020/2985 **Clerks Report** – It was agreed that community support during the current Covid lockdown was sufficient, prescriptions were still being collected by the clerk if needed and the shop were continuing their delivery service. It was suggested that the emergency contact numbers be included in Village News again.
- 2020/2986 **Planning** – There were no MSDC applications to consider.
- 2020/2987 The following MSDC decisions were noted; DC/20/05517 Notification for works to trees in a Conservation Area – 1no. Sycamore – sectional dismantle leaving stump cut close to ground level. 1no. Ash tree – Remove two lowest lateral branches on the southern aspect – Lower Green farm, Lower Green – NO WISH TO OBJECT
- 2020/2988 **Finance** – The Finance report for January 2021 was approved.
- 2020/2989 The following payments were approved. Prop by Cllr Garrod, with all in favour. Clerks Salary for Dec 2020.
- 2020/2990 HMRC Q3 payment
- 2020/2991 Further consideration was given to the budget for 2021 – 2022 with amendments made to reflect the MSDC grant. It was resolved to approve the budget for 2021/2022, Proposed by Cllr Simpson, seconded Cllr Sparkes with all in favour.
- 2020/2992 It was noted that the precept requirement raised by the budget process of £6946 would result in no change to the Band D household Parish Council part of the Council Tax for the year. It was resolved to set the precept for 2021/2022 at £6946 and the request forms will be completed and signed. Proposed Cllr Garrod, sec Cllr Sparkes with all in favour.
- 2020/2993 **Village Maintenance** – Tree Officer Report – Cllr Tavernor had nothing new to report
- 2020/2994 It was noted that the salt grit bin levels needed to be monitored over the winter and weeds should be removed.
- 2020/2995 Cllr Tavernor suggested that Council look at ways to maintain some parish owned land in a more sustainable way in line with the recent Biodiversity strategy adopted by Suffolk County Council. The Churchyard and Lower Green were suggested sites to look at. It was

agreed that further discussion around a more biodiverse management scheme for Parish Council owned grassed areas be added to the next agenda.

2020/2996 There were no further Village Maintenance matters reported

2020/2997 **Conservation Area** – Conservation Officer Report – Cllr Simpson had nothing new to report.

2020/2998 There were no further Conservation matters reported.

2020/2999 **Footpaths** – Footpath Officer Report – Cllr Nunn reported concerns that there are some large conservation projects going on within the village that are being abused/damaged by some people straying off the public paths and allowing dogs to run through conservation areas ruining the biodiverse habitats being created. The landowner would be asked if there is anything the Parish Council can do to help deter this behaviour.

2020/3000 There were no further Footpath matters reported.

2020/3001 **Correspondence** –The request for a take away food van in the village hall car park was passed to the Village Hall management committee.

2020/3002 There were no comments to further tabled correspondence.

2020/3003 **Local Housing Needs Survey** – Due to Covid absence at Community Action Suffolk no report has yet been received therefore further consideration was deferred.

2020/3004 **Village Sign** – As the planned site visit could not be held due to Covid restrictions further consideration was deferred. It was noted that without firm quotes any application to Cllr Otton's locality budget could not be completed.

2020/3005 **Matters to be brought to the attention of council** – It was noted that the village shop property is again up for sale and that the lease for the shop has another year or so to run.

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