

# Felsham Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th November 2019 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr David Williams (chair) Cllr Ken Sparkes Cllr David Simpson  
Cllr Hayley Nunn Cllr Paul Kearney  
Paula Gladwell (Clerk & RFO) County & District Cllr Penny Otton  
0 member of the public

- 2019/2665 **Apologies for Absence** - Cllr Simon Garrod, Cllr Mark Tavernor  
2019/2666 **Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation** – Cllr Nunn declared a non pecuniary interest as a resident consultee for Item 8b (Min no. 2019/2673)
- 2019/2667 **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting** – It was proposed by Cllr Simpson that the minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting were approved with all in favour. The Parish Council Meeting minutes of 15th October 2019 were signed as a true record.
- 2019/2668 **County & District Councillor Otton** – Cllr Otton gave her report, which had been circulated, and is attached to these minutes.
- 2019/2669 **Public Participation** – No questions
- 2019/2670 **Clerks Report** - Royal Mail have confirmed that both post boxes will be replaced. The positioning of the shop one has been queried as no permission has been sought regarding a new site. It was suggested that Village Hall Committee be asked to confirm a placement adjacent to the notice board.  
It was confirmed that new posts would be provided for the Roadside Nature Reserve on Cockfield Road. SCC Natural Environment Team have acknowledged that maintenance of the RNR's has, in places, not been acceptable and they are now working hard to rectify this.
- 2019/2671 **Representative to Gliding Club meetings** - Cllr Kearney agreed to attend the Liaison meetings as a representative of the Parish Council in place of Cllr Garrod.
- 2019/2672 **Planning** – It was Resolved to send the following comments to MSDC for application DC/19/05056 Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - T1 (Lime) - Pollard to growth points at 8m, T2 (Lime) - Pollard to growth points at 8m and T3 (Yew) - Reduce lateral spread of the crown by 2.5m - The Old Rectory, Church Road - *"Felsham Parish Council have NO OBJECTION to this application based on the information available"*
- 2019/2673 DC/19/04828 Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 0049/90 for the variation of Condition 1 ii (previously varied under Condition 3iib of 3373/13 for information) to allow an increase in aerotow launch operations from 10.00hrs to 18.00hrs 5 days a week from 01May to 30 Sept. Rattlesden Gliding Club, High Town Green, Rattlesden. *"Felsham Parish Council have NO OBJECTION to this application based on the information available"*
- 2019/2674 The following MSDC decisions were noted. DC/19/04500 Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - T1 (Sycamore) - Reduce crown canopy by 2m and proportional lateral reduction of approximately 1m. Lower Green Barn, Lower Green - DOES NOT WISH TO OBJECT
- 2019/2675 **Finance** – The Finance Report for November 2019 was approved.  
2019/2676 The following payments were approved. Prop by Cllr Nunn, with all in favour. Clerks Salary for November.
- 2019/2677 CAS Website £60.00  
2019/2678 CPRE Membership £36.00  
2019/2679 The first draft of the budget for 2020 - 2021 was considered with some amendments suggested. Further consideration will take place at the next meeting.
- 2019/2680 **Correspondence** – Following an offer by a resident to plant a tree on Lower Green discussion took place regarding the planting of a Field Maple at the north corner as recommended by the Tree Warden, Cllr Tavernor. It was agreed that Cllr Tavernor would liaise with the resident and agree sourcing and planting.

- 2019/2681 There were no comments to further tabled correspondence.
- 2019/2682 **Village Maintenance** – Tree Officer Report – No report received.
- 2019/2683 There were no further maintenance matters reported.
- 2019/2684 **Conservation Area** – Conservation Officer Report – Nothing new to report.
- 2019/2685 It was noted that the landlord has support from pub owner now regarding concerns about the deterioration of the outside fabric of the listed building and no letter from the Parish Council is needed at this time.
- 2019/2686 It was agreed that clarification of the rules and enforcement for the Conservation Area was needed before completion of the Conservation Leaflet. Cllr Simpson will contact Planning Office.
- 2019/2687 There were no further Conservation matters reported.
- 2019/2688 **Footpaths** – Footpath Officer Report – Cllr Nunn confirmed that all cross field paths had been remarked following cultivation and there were no new issues to report.
- 2019/2689 Footpath Review Working Group - The following responses to our queries were noted.  
*ROW officer, Charlotte Ditchburn clarified:*  
*No 13 - not cut - contractors have been unable to cut this as the headland has been ploughed, apologies for the fact that the contractors have not reported this to her but have just left the path uncut. The reinstatement of the headland will be assessed with the landowner to open up the right of way and she will subsequently ensure the path is cut in future.*
- 2019/2690 It was agreed that the issues with Footpath 13 would be pursued as there is no obstruction on this path and to blame "ploughing" as reason for not cutting in April/May cannot be correct. The clerk will seek assurance that this path will be on the cutting schedule next season.
- No 14 - Overgrown on actual path - Charlotte is awaiting land registry confirmation of ownership on this one, if its Highways they will be unlikely to clear it and will agree that walkers can use the road. It is confirmed that the path does go along the fence line all the way to Cockfield Road.*
- No 10 and No 1 - Through the churchyard - As suspected there are two paths and a map has been supplied, both paths end at the wall and historically would have joined at the church gate or people would have climbed over the wall. Charlotte confirmed that ROW could and would under public pressure request a legal order to cut through the wall but this is unlikely to be needed if the church continue to allow walkers to use the gate. The map clearly shows that there is no "across the back of the church" public right of way though.*
- No 8 - path through copse - Charlotte has confirmed that the issue with this one has nothing to do with the landowners and is solely a problem caused by ROW. The definitive "statement" shows the path as walked where as the Definitive "Map" shows the path running within the trees. This path is now awaiting a Legal Order to clarify the discrepancy caused by ROW as currently there is no legal way to say where the path actually goes. ROW have removed the signs so to be clear neither landowner has done this. ROW are happy that the path continues to be walked on Felsham Hall side and the landowner has confirmed that they will continue to maintain it. The legal order is unlikely to be progressed in the near future as it will have to be funded by SCC ROW and this will not happen as it's not a priority for them if there is a walkable path. The signage will not be reinstated until a legal order has gone through. Nothing is likely to be resolved in the near future. The public should be advised to continue to walk path as before which on the ground is clearly defined.*
- 2019/2691 There were no further Footpath matters reported.
- 2019/2692 **Report from Local Housing Survey Working Group**- It was noted that a meeting of the Working Group is set for 14th January with a report on progress to follow.
- 2019/2693 **Parish Plan Working Group** - It was agreed that no Working Group be set up at this time and that a Public Meeting be fixed for Jan/Feb in order to establish a Steering Group

to take forward the overdue Review of the Parish Plan. Public Meeting arrangements will be considered at the next meeting.

2019/2694 **Village Sign** - It was agreed that alternative designs and quotes be sought for consideration at the January meeting.

2019/2695 **Matters to be brought to the attention of council** - It was confirmed that the street lights are on SCC part night lighting programme which means that sensors detect when it is dark enough for lighting to be required and switch on the lights. This is earlier in winter months than in the summer. The lights are switched off from 11.30pm to 6am. They will then come back on after 6am if the sensors detect its dark enough for lighting to be required.

There were no other matters.

2019/2696 **Motion to exclude temporarily the Public and Press** - It was resolved to exclude the Public and Press pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed concerning staff salaries and personal information.

2019/2697 Following review of the clerks contract it was Resolved to increase the home working allowance. Proposed Cllr Williams, sec Cllr Simpson with all in favour.

Next meeting of the Parish Council - Tuesday 17th December 2019 7.30pm