

# Felsham Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st January 2020

### in the Village Hall

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

- 2019/2720 **Apologies for Absence** - Cllr David Williams
- 2019/2721 **Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation** – None
- 2019/2722 **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 17th December 2019 were signed as a true record.
- 2019/2723 **County & District Councillor Otton** – Cllr Otton gave her report, which had been circulated, and is attached to these minutes.
- 2019/2724 **Public Participation** – No questions
- Item 13 was brought forward.
- 2019/2725 **Village Sign** - It was suggested that local blacksmith Mac McCaughan, who created the Eastgate Sign, be asked to design and price a mount, name, scrolling and surround for the laser cut design. The quote for the laser cut was awaited. It was noted that the post and fixings may need to be sourced separately. Further consideration was deferred until all quotes are received.
- 2019/2726 **Clerks Report** - Cllr Nunn agreed to continue with the Community Champion role. Potholes, whereby a photo has been provided, have been reported. A Field Maple, approx 6ft tall, for Lower Green is to be provided by a resident and planted in February, Cllr Tavernor will oversee planting, siting and supports. It was noted that the post boxes had yet to be installed however it is understood that a representative from the Royal Mail had made enquiries at the shop regarding the position for the new box which is some progress at least.
- 2019/2727 **Planning** – It was Resolved to submit the following comments to MSDC for application no. DC/19/04774 Install single door to garage and clad front elevation following removal of existing doors, Maple Cottage, Upper Green - *"Felsham Parish Council have NO OBJECTION to this application based on the information available"*
- 2019/2728 There were no MSDC decisions to note.
- 2019/2729 **Finance** – The Finance Report for January 2020 was approved.
- 2019/2730 The following payments were approved. Prop by Cllr Garrod, with all in favour. Clerks Salary for January 2020.
- 2019/2731 HMRC Quarter 3 payment.
- 2019/2732 There were no further amendments proposed to the budget. It was resolved to approve the budget for 2020/2021, Proposed by Cllr Garrod, seconded Cllr Simpson with all in favour.
- 2019/2733 It was noted that the precept requirement raised by the budget process of £7133 showed a slight increase over the previous year resulting in an additional 42pence per Band D household for the year. It was resolved to set the precept for 2020/2021 at £7133 and the request forms were duly completed and signed. Proposed Cllr Garrod, sec Cllr Simpson with all in favour.
- 2019/2734 **Correspondence** –It was agreed that no donation be made to Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch at this time as there is no scheme currently running in the village.
- 2019/2735 There were no comments to further tabled correspondence.
- 2019/2736 **Village Maintenance** – Tree Officer Report – Nothing new to report.
- 2019/2737 It was resolved to renew the grass cutting contract with Top Garden Services. It was agreed that the quality of maintenance last year was very good and Tom should be complimented especially for the work to the churchyard.
- 2019/2738 **Conservation Area** – Conservation Officer Report – Concerns were expressed regarding the clearance of trees from land adjacent to Lower Green. It was noted that no planning

permission had been sought and that the contractor had been advised Conservation Area consent was required. MSDC planning have been informed.

2019/2739

There were no further Conservation matters reported.

2019/2740

**Footpaths** – Footpath Officer Report – Nothing new to report.

2019/2741

Discussion took place regarding the suggestion that volunteers be used to ensure that all footpaths be cut on a regular basis perhaps every 2 - 3 weeks throughout the growing season. It was agreed that paths would benefit from additional cuts but maybe not as often as this, however a scheme of this type would most likely involve at least 4 cuts per year dependant on weather. It was agreed that council could not commit public funds to the purchase of a mower based on the quotes provided together with the ongoing costs that this type of equipment would entail. It was agreed that all volunteer offers should be utilised as far as possible and councillors were grateful for the residents suggestions and offer of help. It was suggested that further discussion be had with a view to looking at different types of equipment such a heavy duty strimmer and whether this may be an option for volunteer help.

2019/2742

There were no further Footpath matters reported.

2019/2743

**Local Housing Needs Survey Working Group Report** - The minutes from the LNHS Working Group were noted. It was agreed that as CAS would not remove any questions the survey would have to stay as drafted. The timeline for distribution was agreed with delivery of questionnaires set for 27th April with a two week return deadline and advertising in March and April Village News issues. It was noted that no reply had been received from Hastoe Housing to date regarding confirmation of their offer to fund the survey.

2019/2744

**Matters to be brought to the attention of council** - It was noted that the 30mph and bus stop post had not been replaced as yet, the clerk will chase this up. Cllr Sparkes will confirm the contract with Felsham Garage to cut the playing field grass for next season.

Next meeting of the Parish Council - Tuesday 18th February 2020 7.30pm