

Felsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th June 2014 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr Simon Garrod Cllr David Simpson
Cllr David Williams Cllr Harry Wragge
Cllr Christopher Bornett
Cllr Penny Otton.
Mrs. Paula Gladwell (Clerk) 5 members of the public

- 2014/1031 **Apologies for Absence** — Cllr Hayley Nunn, Cllr Mick Zarych, PCSO Colette Denny
- 2014/1032 **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Simpson declared a pecuniary interest in item 8 as a member of the village news committee and advertiser (min no 2014/1045)
- 2014/1033 It was resolved to adopt the amended Suffolk Code of Conduct, prop Cllr Simpson sec Cllr Wragge with all in favour.
- 2014/1034 **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 May 2014 were signed as a true record.
- 2014/1035 **Adjournment for:**
Cllr Otton's Report – Cllr Otton gave her report, which will be circulated.
Police Report – PCSO Colette Denny's report was noted and will be circulated.
Public Participation – It was noted that the parish website had not been updated and current agendas were not available, it was confirmed that the agenda was posted on the notice board and copies were available from the clerk. Efforts would be made to ensure the website content was kept up to date.
The Tree Warden confirmed that the Oak tree for Upper Green had been damaged in the winds so would be given another year in the nursery before planting out. The offer to remove the stumps had not materialised therefore it was agreed that quotes be sought for their removal. The Tree Warden would source estimates for the work.
It was confirmed that the depositing of grass cuttings on the Lower Green verge would be addressed.
Thanks were extended to the council for their actions in helping to rectify problems in The Orchard with pavement repairs and sewage.
It was confirmed that the areas set aside for bulbs on Upper Green could now be cut as flowering had finished, offers of help to cut back the long grass were gratefully acknowledged.
Concerns were expressed regarding the planning application lodged by Rattlesden Gliding Club for extensions to the flying hours, days and number of aircraft at the airfield. It was brought to Councils attention that some members of the club had concerns that the light aircraft movements being extended to include non members may disrupt gliding. Concerns regarding the increase from 4 days a week to 7 together with light aircraft movement up from 8 to 30 were noted.
- 2014/1036 **Meeting resumed:**
Clerks Report – There were no actions to note.
- 2014/1037 **Planning** – It was resolved to send the following comments to MSDC; Application 3373/13 To consider any applications received, including 3373/13 Application to vary conditions 1 (ii) & 2 of planning permission 0049/90 for "Continued and permanent use of land for Gliding Club purposes (renewal of planning permission 977/87) in order to allow an increase in aerotow operations hours, currently from 10.00hrs to 16.00 hrs, to become from 10.00hrs to 18.00hrs 7 days a week and to

extend the number of light aircraft movements to 30 per month in connection with the Gliding Club activities but not restricted to Rattlesden Gliding Club members, at Rattlesden Gliding Club, High Town Green, Rattlesden (part in parishes of Felsham and Gedding) - *Felsham Parish Council OBJECTS to this proposal on the grounds that it will have a detrimental impact on residents of the parish especially those in close proximity to the airfield.*

The Gliding Club approached the parish council several months ago with a verbal pre application request for support for their application to increase the daily operation hours from 10.00 - 16.00 to 10.00 - 18.00 at this time council was in support of this small increase in gliding hours however at no point was it brought to our attention that an increase in operational days per week and light aircraft movements was also intended. Concern is expressed that the application description is ambiguous in that it does not describe adequately the high percentage increase that is requested in operational days which would be up from 4 to 7 and also the high increase in light aircraft movements from 8 to 30 some 375% extra aircraft operations each month.

The parish council has received representations from residents expressing their concern that increasing operation days of the aero tug and more light aircraft take off and landings will bring increased noise disturbance, it has also been highlighted to council that some members of the club, although in support of the increase in hours, have concerns that gliding will be disrupted by an increase in powered aircraft movements.

The detrimental effect these additional operations will have on residential amenity through an increase in noise and nuisance levels is of extreme concern.

- 2014/1038 and 1395/14 Erection of first floor extension, Felsham Garage Cottage, Upper Green – *NO OBJECTION based on the information available.*
- 2014/1039 There were no MSDC decisions to note.
- 2014/1040 **Finance** – The clerk’s financial report for June 2014 was approved.
- 2014/1041 The following payments were approved. Prop by Cllr Garrod with all in favour. Clerks salary for May 2014
- 2014/1042 The completion of the Internal Audit by Andrew Conquest was noted. All was shown to be in order with no action to be taken.
- 2014/1043 **Correspondence** – The resident letter expressing concern about the long grass in the bulb planting areas on Upper Green was noted.
- 2014/1044 Cllr Simpson proposed that discussion of the next item of correspondence be deferred to the next meeting. Vote taken with 2 for and 3 against, motion failed. Cllr Simpson left the room due to his declaration of pecuniary interest in the next item.
- 2014/1045 Discussion took place regarding the letter received from the Village News Editorial Team dated 11th June 2014. It was suggested that whatever the rights and wrongs of the issues surrounding the article published in the newsletter that council accept the apology made and move on. It was noted that there had been no public comments made, either to council or the Village News committee, in regard to the article. At the chairman’s invitation members of the village news team were asked to contribute to the discussion and it was agreed that if anything controversial or critical of the parish council was submitted to Village News in the future that the council be informed where possible in order that a response could be made within the same issue of the newsletter. It was resolved not to issue any further response to the letter, prop Cllr Garrod with all in favour. Cllr Bornett left the meeting. It was noted that his apologies had been passed via a note to the chairman.
- 2014/1046 It was noted that one written response and two verbal replies had been received in response to the letter issued to landowners regarding provision of land for a memorial copse. All three replies stated that they had no land available for a project of this kind.
- 2014/1047 **Vehicle Activated Signs** – It was agreed that the cost of a VAS was prohibitive, it was suggested that investigation be made into sharing a machine with neighbouring councils, Cllr Otton agreed to gauge interest from her other parishes.

- 2014/1048 **Alternative location for conservation and wildlife area** – It was agreed that as no land was available at the present time this project could not be pursued however the similar project at the churchyard would be monitored with interest.
- 2014/1049 **Village Maintenance** – Nothing to report.
- 2014/1050 **Conservation Area** – It was noted that MSDC have a new enforcement officer, Cllr Simpson will make contact with her to establish the current position with the various enforcement issues relating to the village.
- 2014/1051 It was confirmed that the pump from Castle Farm had been recovered and consideration of a suitable place to resite it was needed.
- 2014/1052 It was agreed that MSDC be contacted to express concerns about the disrepair of the listed wall in the grounds of the Six Bells PH.
- 2014/1053 There were no other matters reported.
- 2014/1054 **Footpaths** – There were no matters reported.
- 2014/1055 **Matters to be brought to the attention of council** – It was noted that the PCC did not know who had painted the lych gate and investigations into the damage were ongoing.

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 15th July at 7.30pm