

Felsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 24th March 2014 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr Simon Garrod Cllr David Simpson
Cllr Hayley Nunn Cllr Mick Zarych
Cllr David Williams
PCSO Colette Denny 8 members of the public
Mrs. Paula Gladwell (Clerk)

2013/940 **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr Harry Wragge, Cllr Christopher Bornett – rearranged date was not convenient, and Cllr Penny Otton.

2013/941 **Declarations of Interest** – None

2013/942 **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 18th February 2014 were signed as a true record.

2013/943 **Adjournment for:**

Cllr Otton's Report – Cllr Otton report was received and will be circulated.

Police Report – PCSO Colette Denny gave her report, which will be circulated.

Public Participation – Several issues were raised regarding problems being experienced by residents of The Orchard including; the concerns regarding sewage backing up because of the interceptors from the new properties pumping out on a timer, it was confirmed that this was an issue that only the landlords Mid Suffolk DC or Anglian Water could address. The parish council together with Cllr Otton have repeatedly pressed MSDC to investigate the sewerage problems and it is understood that an officer has been on site and visited with all residents affected with the view to providing a solution.

The clerk has previously reported the uneven pavement and it is understood that repairs will be made within the next 14 days.

Discussion took place regarding the new low level lighting for no's 1 – 6 The Orchard. It was confirmed that this scheme was not intended to provide public lighting but to fulfil a request identified by the parish plan for strategic lights to help individuals with access and egress to their homes. It was noted that residents of The Orchard felt that some street lighting would be valuable for safety when walking at night. It was noted that others felt that no lighting should be provided in a rural village such as ours. Council confirmed that a review of Street Lighting was planned as part of a refurbishment project.

It was suggested that trees at the rear of no 9 The Orchard were interfering with overhead cables, the clerk agreed to contact UKPN to try to clarify why tree trimming had not taken place here.

Other issues raised included a request for an additional dog poo bin on Bury Road. An update was requested on various actions that were identified by the parish plan. It was confirmed that only two entries had been received for the Village Sign design, some funding is already available but further efforts are necessary to raise the remainder needed to provide a village sign. The parish council welcome any offers of help towards projects such as these and recognise that input from outside the parish council is essential in order to progress some of the actions with a need for someone to spearhead any fund raising projects. It is understood that various working groups are addressing many of the actions raised by the parish plan and an update on their progress would be welcomed.

A plea was made to extend the current maintenance scheme on Lower Green for a further year or two to see what else comes up and to encourage the wildlife, it was agreed that the change to the grass cutting regime on Lower Green last year has become a very contentious issue with many expressions for and against being put forward and council confirmed that the future maintenance of Lower Green will be fully considered before a decision is made on the 2014 programme.

Meeting resumed:

- 2013/944 **Clerks Report** – It was noted that there are many exceptions within the Community Right to Buy legislation and a sale as a going concern for community benefit would probably trigger an exemption of the requirement to notify therefore it was confirmed that there should be no adverse effects for tenants on any application for Community Asset registering. It was confirmed that a full listing would be made for the post office.
- 2013/945 There had been no application for the role of History Recorder for Felsham and the post would be re advertised.
- 2013/946 The annual litter pick took place on Saturday 22nd March with a small turnout but a lot of bags filled. Thanks were extended to all those who gave their time and community spirit to pick up litter.
- 2013/947 The complaint regarding the dust cart causing damage to the surface of the drives in The Orchard has been passed to MSDC and it is understood that this is being followed up by them and Orwell Housing. It was confirmed that the driveways are not made up to take heavy vehicles and that bins should probably be left at the road edge.
- 2013/948 The Gedding Parish Meeting elected Richard Vass as the Gedding Chairman with Linda Claydon acting as finance officer.
- 2013/949 Dog poo and litter articles have been submitted to the village news and notices will be erected on the footpaths as soon as possible in an effort to combat the increasing dog poo and litter problems.
- 2013/950 **Planning** – There were no applications to consider.
- 2013/951 There following MSDC decisions were noted; 0265/14 Hawthorne Tree (1) Trim back overhanging branches from neighbouring property. Willow Tree (2) to be re pollarded, 23 Meadow Close – NO WISH TO OBJECT
- 2013/952 **Finance** – The clerk's financial report for March was approved.
- 2013/953 The following payments were approved. Prop by Cllr Garrod with all in favour. Clerks salary for Feb 2014
- 2013/954 It was resolved to appoint Andrew Conquest to carry out the internal audit for 2013/14. The Terms of Engagement and Audit Plan were approved
- 2013/955 It was resolved to award the following grants from the 2013/14 budget Mid Suffolk CAB £35, Suffolk Age UK £35 and East Anglian Air Ambulance £35 Prop Cllr Garrod, Sec Cllr Zarych with all in favour.
- 2013/956 **Correspondence** – It was noted that several resident letters had been received some against and some in favour of continuing the maintenance programme for Lower Green together with a letter from a Suffolk Wildlife Trust employee.
- 2013/957 There were no comments to further tabled correspondence.
- 2013/958 **Welcome Pack** – The welcome pack leaflet was approved and it was agreed that it would form part of a pack including the conservation leaflet, back copies of Village News, the footpath map and any other relevant information at the time of giving. It was suggested that the pack be bound with a designed outer cover. Cllr Williams will create designs and seek quotes for production of these for the next meeting.
- 2013/959 **Women's Bike Race Event** – It was agreed that due to the anticipated very brief visit by riders through the village no full-scale event would be sustainable. Cllr Simpson agreed to arrange a small open social get together with marquee on Upper Green on the day.

- 2013/960 **Speedwatch** – It was noted that Beyton had erected some small camera signs on the 30 MPH posts. Cllr Zarych will contact them to see how they dealt with Highways permission and costings.
- 2013/961 **Review of Street Lighting** – Deferred to next meeting.
- 2013/962 **Provision of a memorial Copse** – Deferred to next meeting in the absence of Cllr Bornett.
- 2013/963 **Annual Parish Meeting** – It was agreed that a different format for the village meeting might encourage a higher turnout. Several options were discussed and it was agreed that groups and organisations be offered the chance to produce a design board for display rather than a written or verbal report. This would encourage a more relaxed event, with perhaps refreshment provided to encourage mingling rather than regimental rows of chairs. Provision of a speaker was suggested and it was agreed to consider this further at the next meeting. Cllr Simpson would approach Suffolk Wildlife Trust to see if someone might suggest a speaker and theme. An alternative was a WW1 commemoration subject.
- 2013/964 **Conservation Area** – It was noted that various enforcement reports had not been acknowledged by MSDC and it was agreed that these should be followed up. A list of reports would be analysed and actioned if necessary.
- 2013/965 **Footpaths** – Concern has been expressed regarding the increase in dog poo left on all footpaths in the village and it was confirmed that the signs are ready to be put up. It was agreed that poo bags be purchased to the value of £10 and be made available on footpaths.
- 2013/966 There were no other matters reported
- 2013/967 **Village Maintenance** – Cllr Zarych confirmed that he would teak oil the Upper Green bench again.
- 2013/968 Lengthy discussion took place regarding grass cutting of Lower Green. It was confirmed that there was no interest identified from the parish plan for a wildlife area on Lower Green or anywhere else in the parishes. It was suggested that if people want a long term natural meadow type area then perhaps a more suitable site could be found with independent analysis and advice sought in order to look at providing a scheme in the best way possible that would be pleasing for everyone. It was suggested that the Poplar suckers which appeared prevalent last year were causing a safety hazard for children playing now that they had been cut as the stumps are very sharp. It was agreed that as the initial years trial was coming to an end consideration of the maintenance programme for Lower Green for 2014 would be added to the next agenda.
- 2013/969 **Proposal to close the meeting and defer any remaining items to the next meeting** – It was resolved to continue with the agenda.
- 2013/970 **Matters to be brought to the attention of council** – It was agreed that cork tiles be purchased for the notice board.

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 15th April 2014 at 7.30pm