

Felsham Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the MEETING of FELSHAM PARISH COUNCIL held on 21st June 2022 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr Simon Garrod (Chair), Cllr Mark Tavenor, Cllr Ken Sparkes, Cllr Paul Kearney,
In attendance: SCC & MSDC Cllr Penny Otton, 1 Member of the Public (Mr Jell),
Isabelle Reece (Clerk & RFO)
Apologies: Cllr David Simpson

2022/020 Welcome & To receive apologies – Cllr Garrod welcomed all to the meeting and received apologies from David Simpson

2022/021 Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation – No interests were declared & there were no requests for dispensation.

2022/022 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting – The minutes from the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 17th May 2022 were considered, approved & signed as a true record

2022/023 County & District Cllr Penny Otton – Cllr Otton's report to the Parish Council had been received & was noted – and forms part of these minutes. She highlighted the success of her Motion to commit SCC to improving rivers, investigating what more can be done to enhance waterways, and to increase engagement & support with farmers & environmental groups in future strategies. She also mentioned an on-going campaign to produce an SCC bid for the new Suffolk Highways contract, currently held by Kier, the National Grid pylon proposal; and the rule changes for next year's elections, including the requirement for photo ID to vote.

2022/024 Public Forum – Mr Jell, who is to be formally co-opted onto the Council at the July Meeting, was welcomed by the Chairman

2022/025 Clerk's report

2022/026 Finance

a. To receive the Annual Accounts 2

The Annual Accounts were received

b. To note the risk assessment & internal controls

The Risk Assessment & Internal Controls were noted

c. To review & approve the Certificate of Exemption (for External Audit)

The Certificate of Exemption from External Audit was reviewed, approved & signed

d. To review & approve the Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 (AGAR Section1)

The Annual Governance Statement was reviewed, approved & signed

e. To review & approve Accounting Statement 2021/22 (AGAR Section2)

The Accounting Statement was reviewed, approved & signed

f. To confirm dates for the period for the exercise of public rights

The period for the Exercise of Public Rights was set as 1st – 30th July 2022

g. To approve orders requested for payment

£288 for grass cutting (Top Garden Services) - approved

£cccc BDC - approved

h. Insurance update

Cllr Garrod had renewed the Insurance via CAS rather than Zurich because the latter was an 'unknown quantity' at short notice: NFU had declined to quote.

i. Council bank account mandates –

Cllr Garrod reported that the new mandate forms had been returned

2022/027 Planning

i.To consider any applications received: including: DC/22/02237 – APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION WITHOUT COMPLIANCE OF CONDITION(S) - Application under Section 73 of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for 3373/13 for the

Removal or Variation of Condition 3 (Restriction: limit on hours, number and type of aerotow operations) Continued & permanent use of land for Gliding Club purposes – Rattlesden Gliding Club, High Town Green, Rattlesden – NO COMMENT to BMSDC
ii.To consider any other applications received – No other Applications had been received
iii.To note any decisions made by MSDC - PLANNING PEWRMISSION GRANTED
DC/22/02274 extension Old Barn, Cockfield Rd

2022/028 Village Maintenance:

- a. Report from Tree Officer – Nothing to report
- b. Cllr Nunn & Ewan had cleaned algal growth from the white village signs, as well as some of the other main signs; one on Lower Green is in very poor condition, with peeling paint and lettering damage.

2022/029 Conservation Area:

- a. Report from Conservation Officer – nothing to report.
- b. Nothing reported

2022/030 Footpaths:

- a. Report from Footpath Officer – The first cut of the season had been carried out, but the grass had regrown considerably because of the recent rain & warm weather. Paths near Felsham Hall had had an extra cut, carried out by The Farm.
- b. Matters reported – Cllr Kearney volunteered to replace Cllr Nunn as Footpath Officer; the bridge where wildlife earthworks could become a problem is being monitored

2022/031 Correspondence – The resignation of Cllr Hayley Nunn was noted: The Chairman paid tribute to her valuable contribution while a Member of the Council and proposed a vote of thanks, which was unanimous & enthusiastic. It was decided to publicize several County & District Councils' notices on the website. *A propos* the BDC Parking Strategy Cllr Kearney reminded the Council that there were upwards of 30 residences in the parish with no direct or off-road parking; something that will prove problematic for electrical charging. He added that most electricity substations do not have capacity sufficient to sustain adequate output for public charging points that were envisaged for the future; and that these are questions of infrastructure that will need to be addressed. Cllr Garrod suggested sharing the DC Prosperity Fund information with the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, Mr Andrew Conquest

2022/032 Local Housing Needs Survey – Nothing had been heard from the CAS contact Sunila Osborn; Cllrs Simpson, Sparkes & Nunn (the original Working Group) to liaise and pursue progress

2022/033 Village Sign Update – Work on the pre-planning design is now being is now under way

2022/034 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Report - The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to everyone who had contributed in any way to a well attended and very successful event that had been enjoyed by everyone.

2022/035 Matters to be brought to the attention of the council – Cllr Tavernor offered to arrange for a notice of Vacancy on the Council in the Village News; Cllr Sparkes reported that a parishioner had raised concerns about the daily occurrence of dog faeces on a footpath near the Garage; he also reminded Council of the need for formal nomination of Mr Andrew Conquest as the Parish Council's appointment to the Felsham Charitable Trust. Cllr Kearney reported a missing post near Brook Hall and an overgrowth of vegetation on a sign near Frog Hall

2022/036 To confirm date of next Meeting – Tuesday 19th July 7.30pm

The meeting was closed by Cllr Garrod at 20.25hrs

Signed _____ Chairman

Dated _____

Cllr Penny Otton

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SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

Latest SCC information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

For information on supporting Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk, email: refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk

Welcome Guidance for Ukrainians arriving in the UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk>

1) Motion Passed, Further Commitment to Suffolk Rivers

Full Council convened on the 19th May. I proposed a motion for greater commitment towards improving rivers in Suffolk. Currently, all Suffolk rivers have been reported by the Environment Agency to have failed government standards. Increased pollution comes from a rise in sewage discharges, as well as chemicals used in agriculture that run off into waterways.

Our motion committed SCC to improving rivers, investigating what more can be done to enhance waterways, and increase engagement and support with farmers and environmental groups in any future strategies. Our motion was passed unanimously.

Below is a picture of our Group campaigning a successful protest outside Endeavour House:

2) Successful Protest on Suffolk Rivers



3) Current petition for in-house Suffolk Highways maintenance contract

Our Group has started a petition, demanding that SCC produces an in-house bid for the new Suffolk Highways contract. The contract, which will have been held by Kier for 10 years, is up for renewal next year.

Since Kier's arrival, our Group has seen astronomical prices for the maintenance of Suffolk's highways. Some of these prices include £5,000 for a pair of dropped kerbs.

Our Group believes an in-house bid from SCC to take back control of Suffolk Highways is needed to get things done. We need 3,675 signatures to bring this to debate at the Council. Please sign here (ensure you make your name public, or it won't count!): <https://www.petitions.net/for-suffolk-county-council-to-develop-an-in-house-bid-for-suffolk-highways-maintenance>

4) National Grid consultation

National Grid have released proposals to increase pylon networks across Suffolk's countryside, in light of the Government's strategy to grow the East of England's offshore electricity generation. Our Group are strongly against the development of more pylon networks impacting Suffolk's rural landscape and cultural heritage. The proposals are even criticised by Conservative MPs Dan Poulter and James Cartledge.

Our Group will put pressure on this Council to respond to the consultation, in collaboration with Essex and Norfolk, stressing the significant need for sea-level cables that reduce the community impacts of National Grid's proposals. Our Group will respond ourselves if the Conservative fail to address our concerns.

If you would like to voice your opinion on the matter, click here (Deadline is the 16th June):

<https://eastangliagreen.participatr.io/index.php?contentid=13>

BUS SERVICE; DANS COACH TRAVEL ; I have sent details of a possible new service but as yet no start date. They need permission from the Travel commissioners.

MIDSUFFOLK

The cabinet has agreed to do something about the cost of living crisis. Possible discretionary payments and travel vouchers. More funding to CAB . they will now appoint a Cost -of -living co-ordinator. When details are available I will certainly let you know.

NATIONAL GRID PLANS; the cabinet has objected.

PROPOSAL FOR A SPORT AND HELATH HUB; STOWMARKET/ONEHOUSE AREA. These will be looking at in detail, but includes various sports activities; running track, all weather pitch.

PARKING STRATEGY; this is a general questions on the state of parking in the district , but I know there is a problem at The Orchard.

NEW RULES FOR NEXT YEARS ELECTIONS; all will have to have photo ID!! . the council will be faced with dealing with those you do not.. Rules for EU citizens will change

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Website - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolkgli.wordpress.com\)](#)