

**MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL FELPHAM PARISH MEETING
HELD AT ST MARY'S CENTRE, FELPHAM
1st May 2018**

PRESENT: Councillors: G Matthews, G Grundy, Mrs M Harvey, M Harvey, Ms H Flynn,
Mrs G Moss, D Smart, Mrs J Wild & Mrs R Kissell.

District Councillor: John Charles.

Members of the public: there were no members of the public present.

Apologies had been received from Councillors M Copeland & Ms L Jones.

**APM 1. TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON
2nd MAY 2017:**

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record

There were no matters arising.

APM 2. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF FELPHAM PARISH COUNCIL 2017/18:

The Chairman advised the meeting of his annual report and read out its content. ***(A copy of his report is attached to these minutes).***

The meeting was advised that a version of the report would be placed on the Parish Council's website with hard copies being available from the Parish Council Office, on request.

APM 3. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

The Clerk advised that he had received no questions from members of the public, in advance of the meeting.

There were no other questions or issues raised at this meeting.

**APM 4. MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE
CHAIRMAN:**

There were none.

The meeting closed at 6.12 p.m.

Approved.....Chairman

Date

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR 2017/18

May 2, 2017, was one of the most memorable days of my life. When we moved to Felpham in 2014 I knew I wanted to embrace village life and become part of the community but never believed that just 2½ years later I would be elected Chairman of Felpham Parish Council (FPC). I was, and remain, honoured to undertake this position and hope I have shown commitment, professionalism, understanding, fair mindedness and neutrality.

As always when someone new takes over someone else makes way. On this occasion not only the position of Chairman but also that of Vice Chairman changed and Councillor Gloria Moss was elected Vice Chairman. It is only right that I express thanks again to David Edwards and Barbara Piedot, the previous incumbents, for their dedication and commitment during the previous year of office.

The past year was once again a busy one for the council. As well as normal council work we also faced a number of ad hoc challenges and tasks.

Probably the year's most significant – and controversial - test for the council was the acquisition of the village's new Community Hall. I am happy to say that after months of hard work, a lot of discussion and soul searching, and the diligence of council and centre staff, the community hall is now up and running; and becoming a real success. This is testament to the foresight of councillors, staff and villagers.

Initially the process to take over the Community Hall can only be described as onerous and our relationship with ADC, the developers and service suppliers was tested to the extreme. However, on July 4 we voted (on a majority decision) to take on the hall. This also meant moving the council's offices to the new hall from Grassmere in August. Council Clerk Richard Wickens and Assistant to the Clerk Heather Alderton worked tirelessly before, during and after the move to ensure council work continued as normal whilst the physical transfer was underway.

The move itself went reasonably well although we found ourselves without telephones, internet or the ability to send or receive emails due to the failings of BT. These problems continued through to December and caused considerable problems to the running of both the council and the hall. Richard, Heather and Hall Manager Doug Millen demonstrated remarkable resilience and perseverance in ensuring that council and hall business continued uninterrupted through this time.

The Community Hall quickly started to draw interest and bookings grew. The Hall Manager should be complimented on his proactive approach in securing a growing list of hall users. Other matters to note, and activities to recognise, over the last 12 months include:

- Fun on the Prom. Councillor Gloria Moss, through sheer commitment and hard work, made this a resounding success yet again. There is no doubt that without her guidance and determination this event simply would not happen. Gloria was assisted by a small working group of volunteers, including councillors and villagers, whose assistance is greatly appreciated.
- Councillor vacancies. As previously mentioned David Edwards and Barbara Piedot stepped down at the start of the council year. In addition Eileen Taylor tendered her resignation in February and George Blampied submitted his resignation in March. I would like to thank all for their work in the community and wish them well in their future ventures. After extensive and on-going publicity, awareness raising and briefings with possible candidates three people came forward and were duly elected councillors at our April meeting. These are Lynne Jones, David Chuter and George Grundy. One position remains unfilled. Welcome to our new councillors.

- Neighbourhood plan. A working party continued to review and update our local neighbourhood plan. This work is ongoing.
- Road mitigation. Some of the road mitigation measures agreed for Felpham following a public referendum have been implemented. New speed humps were placed in Downview Road and Outerwyke Road as part of the measures, however they continue to divide opinion and their effectiveness is in question. Researched data seems to confirm they have resulted in a small speed reduction. Additional road mitigation measures will follow in the coming year. One of these is the proposed new roundabout for Summerly Lane and Felpham Way which is seen as a positive move and has wide council support.
- Felpham Emergency Resilience Group (FERG). Extensive training and volunteer recruitment has been completed this year with other council bodies in West Sussex and beyond identifying FERG as an example of best practice. The group continues to evolve.
- Parish Boundary change. Agreement was reached with Yapton Parish Council on a proposed change to the Parish Boundary which will bring the whole of the Blakes Mead development in to the FPC area. This will mean a more cohesive approach to our actions for Felpham.
- Blakes Mead. In July a member of the Blakes Mead Community Association was voted on to the Blakes Mead committee as a Lay Member. This forges a valuable and strong link between the Parish Council and Blakes Mead Community Association (BMCA) with benefits for both sides.
- Website. In October the council agreed to change the format and look of its website to bring it up to date, easier to understand and make it more user friendly. The new website came online in early 2018.
- Data protection. Early 2018 saw the introduction of planned changes to the Data Protection Act which led to compulsory awareness training for councillors and staff. Council policy will be adapted to meet the needs of the changes.
- Budget. Throughout late 2017 and early 2018 each committee set about the usual review and setting of budgets for 2018/19. It is a measure of the council's diligence and the clerk's adherence to fiscal control that the council remained within budget for 2017/18 and that for 2018/19 we can report a small reduction in the council precept.
- Annual grants applications. Once again many applications were received for council grants. Each was scrutinised to make sure they complied with strict criteria supporting grant approval. Not all applications were successful but the council has to be mindful that any award has a true value to the community. Agreement was reached on a number of applications and the successful applicants notified. An awards evening was held to present cheques to the successful applicants.
- Dennis Peerman. 2017 ended on a sad note with the news that former councillor Dennis Peerman had passed away. Dennis had been unwell for some time and his family were present when he passed on. Our condolences to them at this difficult time.
- BT. Our frustration at BT's handling of our move to the new community hall, and the level of compensation they offered, continued to anger and disappoint us. Even after the intervention of Felpham's MP Nick Gibb, who has complained to BT's CEO on several occasions, BT's position remains unchanged. We continue to consider our options.
- Enhancement projects. Work neared completion on two projects which will bring benefits to the village. These are the installation of new Gateway signs and the installation of another defibrillator outside Boots the Chemist in Felpham Road.

These matters are just a snapshot of the work the council has undertaken in 2017/18. We continue to be well represented at numerous other meetings and I thank those councillors involved for their continued efforts in making sure Felpham's interests are clearly heard. Our county and district councillors continue to provide a valuable insight into decisions and

activities at higher levels within the county, so giving us the wider picture of the area in which we work.

I want to take this opportunity to take a moment and think of some of the challenges faced by a number of our councillors. This year has been a trying one for a number of reasons, ranging from problems with health through to issues relating to council business. Throughout these challenges these councillors have continued to give of their best and I believe that deserves, at the very least a well done and a big thank you.

In summary, it has been an eventful year, some good, some bad and some sad. The council has however, despite being short on numbers, continued to work hard and represent the residents of Felpham to the best of its ability. It has been, and continues to be, a steep learning curve for me and I am reminded of a famous person once saying: "Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new". I may still be relatively new but I can assure you that I will continue to give of my best regardless of what position I hold within the council.

Dave Smart

Chairman Felpham Parish Council