

DRAFT SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF MAIN COUNCIL ON 6th OCTOBER 2020.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ALLOTMENTS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD AT FELPHAM COMMUNITY HALL FELPHAM
15th SEPTEMBER 2020**

PRESENT: Councillors: P English, Mrs J Wild, Mrs G Moss, G Grundy,
Miss A Barker, K Watson & G Matthews.

A 167. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor D Smart.

Glenn Powell – Felpham Village Conservation Society & St Michael's Allotment Site.

John Austin & Geraldine Whitehead – FAGS.

Steve Alderton – Tree Warden.

A 168. ABSENCE WITHOUT APOLOGIES:

There were no absences without apology.

A 169. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest at the outset of the meeting.

A 170. QUESTION TIME:

There were no members of the public present, therefore no questions or issues were raised.

A 171. CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

(a) Request for Memorial Tree – a request had been received, from a resident, for a memorial tree. The preferred location for this had been King

George V Playing Fields, but unfortunately this was not possible. The Clerk suggested that should the meeting agree to the memorial tree, that the person requesting this liaise directly with the Tree Warden to identify a suitable site when the tree planting regime goes ahead.

It was RESOLVED that permission be granted to the request for a memorial tree, and that in the first instance the applicant liaise with the Tree Warden to identify a suitable location for this.

- (b) **Request from the Lobster Pot for consideration of an extension to the numbers of tables on Fisherman's Gardens** – Councillors were reminded that the Lobster Pot's current arrangement, for extra tables on Fisherman's Gardens, with Felpham Parish Council was to be reviewed. Then Lobster Pot have formally requested an extension as they are still trading with the same social distancing measures in place.

They were aware that the council had received a number of complaints from one neighbour in particular & if it would help were happy to discuss a reduction in tables & any relocation that would be more agreeable.

The Clerk advised that the Council had previously agreed to the placing of eight extra tables and that the arrangement between the two parties would be reviewed every three months.

After discussion, it was RESOLVED that, the current agreement with the Lobster Pot Café be extended for a further three months (up to beginning of December 2020).

- (c) The Clerk advised the meeting that the annual maintenance/cutting of the hedges at St Michaels' and Binsted Avenue would be carried out during October and both within budget.

There was no other correspondence to report or announcements to be made.

A 172. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING 18th FEBRUARY 2020:

These minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record. These were ratified by Main Council at its meeting on 3rd March 2020.

A 173. MATTERS ARISING:

A 158 Dredging of Rife – the meeting was made aware that this matter was brought up at the March 2020 meeting of JWAAC with a resolution that Monique Smart would chase this up with the Environment Agency. It was confirmed that no information, subsequently, had been received by the Council **and therefore the Clerk was requested to contact Monique Smart for any update.**

There were no other matters arising.

A 174. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT JWAAC MEETING – VIRTUAL MEETING PROPOSED FOR OCTOBER 2020:

There were no new proposals/items currently.

A 175. FELPHAM ALLOTMENTS AND GARDENS SOCIETY REPORT:

FAGS had sent in the following report:

“Since the start of lockdown we have been inundated with requests for plots from people who fancied growing their own while “locked in”! We now have a waiting list of 25 and no available plots although there maybe some when rent becomes due for next year in October.

I last reported to FPC in the middle off a cold wet winter and then we had a hot dry summer. Activities on the allotment for most of us have not been very different to normal. We have dug and planted and watched as our crops grew.

A few plot holders had difficulty getting their seeds and plants, as the whole country seemed to have decided that they would grow veg in their gardens (or make bread) while restricted to staying at home. Generally however most had ordered seeds in the autumn as usual and being a friendly bunch we share what we can.

There were a few differences, firstly we had to become accustomed to talking to our neighbours at a distance and to get used to watering our prized crops if we didn’t want to watch them shrivel and die.

Some of our plot holders were having to self isolate for health reasons and we managed to give them a helping hand when we could. Most of those have now returned to tend their plots.

The harvest so far has been excellent, with buckets of outdoor tomatoes and loads of courgettes and beans, a good early crop of potatoes and lots of other excellent veg.

Unfortunately the downside is a huge water bill, for however careful we were with water; there was no getting away from the necessity of giving some plants a drink to keep them alive, as the fickle rain always seemed

to fall elsewhere. It is something we will need to consider if the future seasons follow the same pattern”.

A 176. ST MICHAEL’S ALLOTMENT SITE REPORT – TO DISCUSS PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO PLOT HOLDER LEASES:

In light of the squirrel (and vermin) issues that had been experienced, periodically on the site, the Council had been investigating and collating information on how best to address this issue.

Councillors had been sent with their agendas for this meeting a report on this together with a proposed amendment to plot holders lease agreements which itemised possible ways in which vermin problems may/could be controlled in an appropriate and legal manner.

This was now to be discussed by this meeting and should it be agreed a consultation process take place with plot holders, and interested parties, on this.

After discussion it was RESOLVED that the wording be agreed and that this now go to all St Michael Plot Holders for consultation and comment. The results of this to be reported back to this Committee.

A 177. FACILITIES CONDITION REPORT:

Drygrounds Lane – no update.

Fisherman’s Gardens – remains in a very good condition and busy.

Planters – FPC plaques have gone onto Bognor Regis Town Council Planters along Felpham Way (on the Felpham side of the road).

Grassmere Parade – no update.

Binsted Avenue pond area – still awaiting a response from Gleeson’s with regard to the small pocket of land the Parish Council are interested in.

A 178. IMPROVEMENTS TO STREET SCENE AND OPEN SPACES REVIEW.

Work in Progress.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Current status</i>	<i>Action</i>
<i>Allotments general</i>	<i>Press for additional allotment sites in north of Parish. Update from ADC requested.</i>	<i>Liaise with ADC as and when possible, sites are identified. This is perceived as a long-term proposal and possible unlikely to occur.</i>
<i>Further Allotment Sites</i>	<i>Identifying new possible sites.</i>	<i>Ongoing.</i>
<i>Binsted Pond area</i>	<i>Potential encroachment by builders. Permission sought for a possible bench and wildlife boxes on grassed area in front of the hedge. Site meeting with Simon Neville of WSCC and Councillor D Smart.</i>	<i>Extend hedge. Hedge cut. Annual Maintenance quote received - 'to maintain the hedge and to remove rubbish created = £395 + VAT - agreed. Paul Cann to be contacted regarding Residents letter to explain any actions to be taken regarding possible risk of flooding, focusing on the current climate change.</i>
<i>King George V Playing Fields</i>	<i>Management Plan prepared by ADC.</i>	<i>Management Plan for 2014-2024 received by Council.</i>
<i>Longbrook Park</i>	<i>General improvements and possible vegetated shingle project.</i>	<i>Management Plan for 2012-2022 received by Council.</i>
<i>Fisherman's Gardens & The Lobster Pot Area</i>	<i>All in a state of good repair.</i>	<i>Ongoing.</i>
<i>Greenswards/Seafront</i>	<i>Clarification being sought from ADC regarding Dog Fouling fines/education by environmental officers. Trip switch box – ongoing vandalism. New box and key requested. This is also a Health & Safety concern. (Key now received and box to be moved inside the housing block with the other Prom timers).</i>	<i>Awaiting ADC to clarify on dog fouling procedures as not consistent, awaiting Calendar of scheduled visits. Admin Assistant to the Clerk to obtain where this has been sub-contracted out to.</i>

**A 179. LONGBROOK PARK, KING GEORGE V & OLD RECTORY GARDENS
UPDATES:**

King George V & Longbrook Parks – Neil O'Connor of ADC had reported the following:

“Old bins have been replaced
Metal gates repainted
Engravings on Summerly Lane entrance professionally treated.

No events scheduled for obvious reasons, however the football has started back again. Players now have to travel to and from games in their kit”.

Greenswards/Seafront – no update.

Longbrook Park – no updates received.

Old Rectory Gardens – no update received.

A 180. TREES: REPORT BY TREE WARDEN:

Steve Alderton was not a participant in the meeting and no update was Received, other than confirmation that it was still anticipated that the annual tree planting would still go ahead during October.

It was mentioned that the cutting back of ground level tree growth on Parish Council trees had commenced.

**A 181. MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE – PREVIOUSLY
AGREED WITH THE CHAIRMAN:**

Councillor G Matthews referred to an e-mail received by the Council, on the afternoon immediately prior to this meeting. This was a request for the Parish Council’s support for the relocation of one of the planters on Felpham Way. **It was agreed by the meeting that the proposal be supported and agreed.**

There were no other matters of urgent public importance.

A 182. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 20th October 2020.

The meeting closed at 7.15 p.m.

Approved.....

Date.....