

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE MAIN COUNCIL OF
FELPHAM PARISH COUNCIL
6th OCTOBER 2020.**

PRESENT: Councillors: D Smart, Mrs J Wild, G Grundy, G Matthews, Mrs M Harvey, Mrs G Moss, M Copeland, K Watson, Miss A Barker, Mrs R Kissell, G Hewlett, P English & M Harvey.

MC 46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

No apologies were received.

No other apologies had been received.

MC 47. ABSENCE WITHOUT APOLOGIES:

There were no absences without apology.

MC 48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest at the outset of the meeting. These could be made as and when necessary during the meeting.

MC 49. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

There was one member of the public on the telephone link. No questions or issues were raised.

MC 50. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MAIN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1st SEPTEMBER 2020:

The minutes were **APPROVED** as a true and accurate record.

MC 51. MATTERS ARISING:

MC 31 – the Clerk confirmed that a condolence card had been sent to the family of Hilary Flynn, on behalf of the Council

MC 43 – the meeting was advised that the Chairman of the Council Chairman had produced a risk assessment, on behalf of the Council as employers, for staff to be able to return to work. This had then been gone through with the 3 members of staff, through a formal meeting process, and agreed by all.

There were no other matters arising.

MC 52. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

(a) West Sussex Association of Local Councils (WSALC) – correspondence between WSALC and Felpham Parish Council (FPC):

- Notification from WSALC that they were going to carry out a review of the services provided to them by the Sussex & Surrey Association of Local Councils (SSALC) – **Tuesday 18th August**. This was received without any prior notification or consultation with its 139 members.
- FPC e-mail to WSALC with six questions relating to why, what and how the review would be carried out and the timing of the review – **Tuesday 18th August**.
- **Tuesday 25th August** - FPC chase up WSALC by e-mail with regard to no response to the e-mail of 18th August.
- Holding response from WSALC received by FPC stating that a full response would be made in due course (no date for this given) – **Wednesday 26th August**.
- Freedom of Information (FOI) request sent to WSALC (through SSALC as the umbrella organisation) comprising of 16 questions relating to the review to be carried out – **Wednesday 26th August**. WSALC had 20 working days to respond to the request.
- On the 20th working day – **Friday 25th September** WSALC advised FPC that they did not believe that it was for them to respond to the FOI request but SSALC as it was they who had received it in the first place (albeit that the request and questions were specifically to WSALC not SSALC).
- FPC e-mail WSALC directly with the same FOI request previously sent through SSALC – **Friday 25th September**.
- WSALC reported to the Information Commissioners Office for non-compliance to FOI request – **Monday 28th September**.
- E-mail Received from the two Arun District Association of Local Council (ADALC) representatives with their substantiation of what the WSALC review was and why it was felt necessary – **Wednesday 30th September**.
- Currently awaiting responses from the Information Commissioners Office and WSALC.

The Clerk was thanked for all his efforts that had been made on behalf of the Council, to date, and it was RESOLVED that the Council offer its continued support to the Clerk going forward, in resolving this matter..

There was no other Correspondence to report, that had not already been circulated to Councillors prior to this meeting.

MC 53. REPORTS FROM COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS:

All County and District Councillors for Felpham had been sent agendas for this meeting:

- (i) Acting (Interim) County Councillor and District Councillor D Edwards** – was absent from the meeting but had sent in a report which was as follows:

“It’s my sad duty to step in and take on this role. Hilary was my mentor, and my dear friend. I still miss her terribly. At the first virtual Full County Council Meeting back in July, I was unable to attend because I was too upset to take part, but I wrote a tribute to Hilary which was read out by the Leader.

After that meeting, I was asked by the Leader of West Sussex County Council if I would be prepared to take up the interim role for Felpham until the election in May 2021. I was also asked if I would stand for the Felpham Division at the election and after a lot of deliberation I have now agreed to do this. So, if there are any County issues that occur or get sent to you pertaining to Felpham, then please let me know and I will be happy to deal with them.

Meetings are now taking place again after the August break. We had our second virtual Full Council Meeting on the 18th September.

I brought a Notice of Motion to the Council back in December 2019 and finally managed to get it discussed at the September meeting. The Motion was for Recognition for Veterans who have Succumbed to PTSD, and I was very pleased when my Motion was unanimously agreed by Council. I continue to work for our Veterans across the County, and this Motion is another step to ensuring we continue to provide suitable outcomes for Veterans and their families. The work starts now on making this particular project happen.

An update on The Children's Services Department sees it continuing to go from strength to strength, and the improvements made over the past few months have been welcomed by the Commissioner. The new team have really changed things around and this will ensure that we provide the best possible solution for our children looked after.

I am also pleased to report that the Fire and Rescue Service plan put in place after the poor Inspectorate rating has been responsible for significant improvements where required. So much so, that the Inspector has effectively said our Fire and Rescue Service is where it should be now. Again, lots of hard work from the teams involved, and it's really paying dividends.

Locally, you will all be aware of the Summerley Private Estate and the signage that went up. As County Councillor I have spoken several times now with a Director of SEMCO who has said they feel extremely foolish about the way things developed and have taken steps to do things properly. Their intention was never to stop the public from using the Estate to reach the beach, but merely to emphasise that the Estate is Private. They have now consulted with every resident on the Estate, and the majority have voted in favour of some sort of signage to be erected. The next stage is to give several options to the Residents and for them to choose the most suitable. The signs range from a very simple "Private Estate" to something a little more informative. SEMCO have kept me abreast of the situation and I continue to liaise with them directly".

- (ii) **District Councillor Paul English** (Felpham East) – that he had been talking to residents at Flax Mean with regard to the current issues relating to accommodation and facilities. He advised that when he had any further information and detail he would relay this to the Council via the Clerk.

Councillor English was also working on issues around the recently installed barriers between Woodhill Way and Westmorland Drive. He was able to report that ADC would be carrying out some additional cosmetic works at this site to soften and smarten up the immediate environment.

- (iii) **District Councillor Mrs Gill Madeley** (Felpham West) – no report or update had been received.
- (iv) **District Councillor Mrs Elaine Stainton** (Felpham West)- no report or update had been received.
- (v) **District Councillor David Edwards** (Felpham East) – the following report had been submitted:

“Flax Mean - There has been an ongoing issue with the shower facilities at Flax Mean. The building is only equipped with 2 showers upstairs and 2 showers downstairs for around 30 residents. Some flats were large enough to have an ensuite fitted but the majority were not. Because of Covid19, the District Council installed some external showers for residents. These are basically portaloos sized cubicles installed on the lawn! In 2020, we are expecting elderly and vulnerable residents to shower outside which is wholly unacceptable! The residents have now received correspondence from ADC saying that the cost to install 9 new showers in two vacant rooms will be £205,000! Not sure anyone was asking for gold plated fittings! The District Council believes this is not financially viable and therefore are looking to find alternatives. Bearing in mind that Winter is approaching, I really would not expect anyone to have to leave their flat, walk outside for a shower and then have to attempt to dry off in a small sized cubicle that will still be wet, before having to walk back into the building. It is something we used to have to do at a caravan park in the 1970's and is not what we should be expecting people to do in 2020!

I have contacted Philippa Dart for a discussion about what can be done to make this situation better for the residents, and the current Cabinet Member is in support, so this quite rightly has cross party support.

Woodhill Way/Westmoreland Drive

Barratts David Wilson have installed some new barriers to stop vehicular and motorcycle access between these roads. The barriers were installed without consultation with the residents which again has caused issues. The general consensus from residents on the Blakes Mead side in Woodhill Way is that the barriers are an eyesore, has removed parking and are completely over the top. Interestingly, the view from Westmoreland Drive residents is far more positive. They are glad there is at least something in place that restricts vehicles and particularly motorcycles, though they do think something more aesthetically pleasing could have been installed.

I have contacted the Developer to see if anything can be done and will speak with WSCC Highways regarding the siting of not one but two gates which will undoubtedly slow up emergency vehicles if they ever needed to use the route”.

MC 54. DATES OF OUTSIDE BODIES MEETINGS & REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES:

The Clerk reported the following:

Past Meetings:

No meetings had been held since the last Main Council Meeting.

Future Meetings:

There proposed virtual/remote meeting planned for JWAAC in October has now been cancelled. The Council have currently been advised that the next meeting will be in February 2012.

MC 55. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, LICENSING & NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COMMITTEE DATED 8th SEPTEMBER 2020:

The minutes were **APPROVED** as a true and accurate record.

MC 56. MATTERS ARISING:

There were no other matters arising.

MC 57. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING DATED 8th SEPTEMBER 2020.

The minutes were **APPROVED** as a true and accurate record.

MC 58. MATTERS ARISING:

There were no matters arising.

MC 59. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE DATED 15th SEPTEMBER 2020:

The minutes were **APPROVED** as a true and accurate record.

MC 60. MATTERS ARISING:

A 171 (a) the Clerk advised that the request for a memorial tree had now been

withdrawn.

A171 (b) the meeting was advised that the Lobster Pot Cafe had been advised on the Council's decision on extending the current arrangement with them for a further three month period.

A 173 – The Clerk had contacted Monique Smart at WSCC, with regard to inviting the Environment Agency to a future JWAAC Committee. She confirmed that this had been done and they were due to attend the cancelled October JWAAC meeting. They will now be invited to the February 2021 meeting. **It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Environment Agency, along with photographs to be provided by Councillor Matthews, to ascertain when the EA would be considering/carrying out the dredging of the Rife at Felpham and up to Aldingbourne.**

A 176 – the Clerk confirmed that all plot holders on the St Michael's site had been sent a copy of the consultation document, for additions to plot holder lease agreements. The closing date for responses was Friday 16th October 2020.

A 177 – the Clerk confirmed that the Council were still awaiting a response from Gleeson's with regard to land at Binsted Avenue.

There were no other matters arising.

MC 61. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PROJECTS, & RESILIENCE COMMITTEE MEETING DATED 15th SEPTEMBER 2020.

The minutes were **APPROVED** as a true and accurate record.

MC 62. MATTERS ARISING:

PR 190 – the Clerk was requested to write to ADC with regard to any proposals they may have to install lighting around the inner path of the King George V Playing Fields, in the future.

PR 192 – Councillor G Moss advised that she had contacted ADC with regard to the possibility of holding a Christmas Market in Felpham. ADC had stated that they would not be taking any bookings for events for the remainder of this year, as a result of Covid-19.

PR 194 – Councillor Mrs G Moss reported that the defibrillator had now been installed at the Methodist Church and that the battery, casing and electric supply to the defibrillator on the sea front were being investigated.

There were no other matters arising.

MC 63. REPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY HALL MANAGER FOR THE MONTHS OF AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2020:

The above had been circulated to all Councillors, prior to the meeting for information.

MC 64. MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE:

There were no matters of urgent public importance.

MC 65. BUSINESS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION:

(a) Grants Award Panel – it was proposed and agreed that the panel would meet, to determine the grant applications received, directly after the Finance Committee meeting of Tuesday 13th October 2020.

There was no other business at the Chairman's discretion.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 3rd November 2020.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.35 p.m.

Approved.....Chairman

Date