

DRAFT SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF MAIN COUNCIL ON 3rd AUGUST 2021.

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE
ALLOTMENTS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD AT FELPHAM COMMUNITY HALL FELPHAM
20th JULY 2021**

PRESENT: Councillors: Paul English, George Grundy, Anne Barker, Kevin Watson,
Dave Smart & Graham Matthews.

A 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillors Gloria Moss and Jaine Wild.

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

John Austin & Geraldine Whitehead – FAGS.

A 2. ABSENCE WITHOUT APOLOGIES:

There were no absences without apology.

A 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

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

**A 4. NOMINATION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE FOR MUNICIPAL
YEAR 2021/22:**

Councillor Paul English was nominated by Councillor Dave Smart, this was
seconded by Councillor Anne Barker.

Councillor Anne Barker was nominated by Councillor George Grundy but had
no seconder.

**On a unanimous vote Councillor Paul English was therefore duly elected
as the Chairman of this Committee for municipal year 2021/22.**

A 5. NOMINATION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021/22:

Councillor Kevin Watson was nominated by Councillor Paul English, this was seconded by Councillor Graham Matthews.

Councillor Anne Barker was nominated by Councillor George Grundy but there was no second for the nomination.

On a unanimous vote Councillor Kevin Watson was therefore duly elected as the Vice-Chairman of this Committee for municipal year 2021/22.

A 6. QUESTION TIME:

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

A 7. CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There was no correspondence to report or announcements to be reported.

A 8. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING 20th APRIL 2021:

These minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record. These were ratified by Main Council at its meeting on 4th May 2021.

A 9. MATTERS ARISING:

A277 – Councillor George Grundy updated the Committee on his meetings with regard to seafront safety. He advised that he was due to meet with the Foreshore Officer after the end of July and Andrew Cuthbert (a fire officer and the gentleman who had stated an interest to the Council in this and had offered training) on the 26th July 2021.

There were no other matters arising that had not already been reported to Main Council.

A 10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT JWAAC MEETING (SHOULD THIS COMMITTEE CONTINUE IN ITS CURRENT FORMAT):

There were no items raised.

A 11. FELPHAM ALLOTMENTS AND GARDENS SOCIETY REPORT:

FAGS had sent in the following report:

“There is one vacant half plot which we are in the process of clearing before reallocating and there are 50 local residents on the waiting list.. The Felpham community is desperately in need of further allotment sites. We have continued to meet regularly as a committee, outside and socially distanced, and we are hoping to hold the BBQ, which we had arranged for July, fairly soon.

We have organised several working parties to clear a plot that had been abandoned and that will soon be reallocated.

We opened the allotments to the local residents as part of the open gardens and although the weather was not good we had quite a few visitors who enjoyed looking around and chatting to the plot holders.

This month has seen good and bad for the plotholders. The regular rain and warmth has produced massive growth on most green plants. However the same warm damp weather has brought the problem of blight. This attacks both tomatoes and potatoes. The tomato plants wither and turn brown and little can be done to save them. The potatoes can sometimes be saved if the foliage is cut off and removed as soon as the blight is seen, then the potatoes can be lifted with little damage, but if left, the blight works down the stems into the potatoes which are then inedible.

We have had good pickings of broad beans and our runners and French beans are starting to crop well. Those who have grown tomatoes in greenhouses are getting a good crop as long as they can keep the blight out of their greenhouses.

Courgettes are becoming abundant although some who miss a few days are finding marrows instead. Squash will not be long in developing while onions are drying in the long awaited sun.

Unfortunately however, the weather conditions have seen the weeds shooting up as soon as you turn your back. This is a busy time at the allotments”.

A 12. PARISH COUNCIL MAINTAINED FACILITIES REPORT:

Drygrounds Lane – no visit to the site had been made recently.

Fisherman’s Gardens – the current issues around the Council’s decision to revert back to the original contract with the Lobster Pot i.e. 4 tables and 12 chairs to be sited in the area, was discussed. The Chairman advised that he had discussed this with the Lobster Pot who were not happy with the Council’s decision. The Chairman advised that the Lobster Pot would be making a formal representation to the Council to revisit this issue and to rescind its decision.

The Clerk outlined the process necessary for any rescission of a decision within a six month period from that decision. The Chairman advised that this was not his interpretation of how this should be dealt, or the way it should be dealt, and insisted should be done through the suspension of standing orders.

At this time therefore the Council would await any representation from the Lobster Pot before discussing further, or being dealt with as an agenda item for Main Council.

Planters – issue of replacing planters at Felpham Bazaar to be discussed later in the meeting.

Grassmere Parade – no visit to the site had been made recently.

Binsted Avenue pond area – no visit to the site had been made recently.

A 13. MEDIUM TO LONG TERM STRATEGIC UPDATES/INFORMATION ON ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPERATED OUTDOOR AREAS:

Work in Progress.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Current status</i>	<i>Action/Update – Date:</i>
<i>Further Allotment Sites</i>	<i>Identifying new possible sites.</i>	<i>Ongoing.</i>
<i>Binsted Pond area</i>	<i>Potential encroachment. Permission for a possible bench and</i>	<i>Extend hedge. Annual Hedge cut.</i>

	<i>wildlife boxes on grassed area in front of the hedge</i>	<i>Approach made to Gleeson's re-small pocket of land at site.</i> <i>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 held by Council.</i>
<i>Longbrook Park</i>	<i>General improvements and possible vegetated shingle project.</i>	<i>Management Plan for 2012-2022 held by Council.</i>
<i>Footpath from Middleton Road onto King George V Playing Fields</i>	<i>Maintenance and rubbish clearance – no mans land.</i>	<i>Councillor K Watson in communication with Tesco and is chasing up how they can/may help. Report to be produced to bring to this Committee - KW to update.</i>
<i>Greenswards/Seafront</i>	<i>Clarification to be sought from ADC regarding Dog Fouling fines/education by environmental officers and point of contact.</i>	<i>ADC to clarify dog fouling procedures as not consistent, awaiting Calendar of scheduled visits.</i>

Discussion took place on possible future sites for further allotment plots with the land adjacent to the proposed school site, and football pitch site on Blake's Mead being broached specifically. **It was agreed after much discussion that clarification was needed on whether or not WSCC would be utilizing the School site, how ADC would be utilizing the football pitch site and what purpose would be seen/proposed for the triangular piece of land adjacent that currently had no proposed future usage.**

A 14. MONTHLY UPDATE ON LONGBROOK PARK, KING GEORGE V & OLD RECTORY GARDENS:

King George V Playing Fields – Neil O'Connor of ADC had advised the two following matters:

- The once again extended football season is now over.
- August's Kite Festival has been cancelled.

Greenswards/Seafront – no reports received.

Longbrook Park – no reports received.

Old Rectory Gardens – no report received.

It was agreed that the Clerk contact the relevant officers at ADC with regard to where they were with the Management Plans for King George V and Longbrook Parks.

A 15. TREES: REPORT BY TREE WARDEN:

The Tree Warden vacancy was currently being advertised. To date no interest had been shown in the position.

A 16. ARUN DISTRICT TREE STRATEGY:

Information on this had been circulated to all Councillors, in advance of the meeting. The District Council was currently in the process of drafting a ten year Tree Planting Strategy with a final document to be discussed by them towards the end of this year.

As part of the preparation of the strategy ADC is keen to seek the views of Parish Councils and how this may dovetail with any existing tree planting commitments of Parish Councils and to look at opportunities for partnership working. In this respect a questionnaire had been sent out, with the strategy information, and Parish Councils were requested to respond with their views.

After discussion, the responses to the Tree Strategy questionnaire were agreed and it was also agreed that that Oliver Handson of ADC be invited to discuss the Arun Tree Planting Strategy to a future meeting

A 17. REPLACEMENT OF PLANTERS AT FELPHAM BAZAAR, FELPHAM ROAD:

The Clerk brought up this again and advised that the planters were now beyond repair and required to be replaced in their entirety. In the meantime it had been agreed with Bognor Regis Town Force that the summer planting of these not be done until such time as the planters had been replaced.

The Clerk confirmed the figure for replacement, which had been advised previously, at £1037.00 plus VAT.

It was agreed that as the figure was above the £1k threshold that a recommendation be made to Main Council that the sim of £1037 plus VAT

be agreed for the replacement of the two planters at the Felpham Bazaar on Felpham Road.

A 18: BUSINESS AT THE CHAIRMAN’S DISCRETION:

(a) Community Verges/Bee Orchids in Felpham – the meeting was advised that WSCC had now cut the grass verges where the bee orchids had been located. Councillor Graham Matthews, for clarification purposes, explained the e-mail that had been received from WSCC on their community verges scheme and how he had visited the site to find pyramid orchids as well. He had walked the verges from the bottom of Downview Road to the Leisure Centre roundabout which held a variety of orchids and therefore a possible site(s) for a community verge scheme, and in this respect felt that the Council could consider this as a future project.

It was agreed that the Clerk (in this case the new Clerk from 01/08/21) liaise with Councillor Graham Matthews on this and then with WSCC.

There was no further business to be discussed under this agenda item.

A 19. MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE – PREVIOUSLY AGREED WITH THE CHAIRMAN:

There were no matters of urgent public importance.

A 20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 17th August 2021.

The meeting closed at 8.06 p.m.

Approved.....

Date.....