

DRAFT SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF MAIN COUNCIL ON 07th SEPTEMBER 2021.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ALLOTMENTS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD AT FELPHAM COMMUNITY HALL FELPHAM
17th AUGUST 2021**

PRESENT: Councillors: Paul English, Kevin Watson, Jaine Wild, Gloria Moss, Anne Barker, Kevin Watson, Dave Smart, Graham Matthews & Andrew Fells.

Councillor Bob Budd was also in attendance in the public gallery.

Tree Wardens: Positions Currently Vacant.

FAGS Representative: John Austin & Geraldine Whitehead

A 21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

No apologies had been received.

A 22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

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

A 23. QUESTION TIME FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There was one member of the public present at the meeting and two questions were raised:

Liz McCallum asked the following:

1. A recent petition has been launched gaining significant support and calling for the banning of pesticides in public areas. Would Felpham Parish Council be willing to reconsider their policy on the use of pesticides on allotments? Councillor Paul English advised that this matter had previously been dealt with by the committee and that the allotment holders had been written to discouraging the use of pesticides, which are not currently banned, and offering suggestions for suitable alternatives. **ACTION: When Received from Liz McCallum, Clerk to redistribute the letter and a link to the Pesticide Action Network in order that FAGS can send this information out to their members prior to the upcoming AGM for their consideration.**
2. Would Felpham Parish Council be willing to support the rejection of planning application M/99-21 Guernsey Farm, Yapton Road, Middleton-On-

Sea PO22 6DY - Change of use of existing farm shop and agricultural buildings to light industrial (Class E(g)) and storage and distribution use (Class B8)?

Councillor Paul English advised that this should be considered via the Planning Committee and requested that every councillor read this application and if a response is made, this would be on behalf of the individual and not a response on behalf of Felpham Parish Council.

ACTION: Clerk to distribute copy of planning application to all councillors.

Councillor Anne Barker Extended her thanks to Liz McCallum for her attendance and requested that any relevant information be forwarded in advance to assist councillors.

A 24. CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

A 25. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING 20th JULY 2021:

These minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record. These were ratified by Main Council at its meeting on 3rd August 2021.

A 26. MATTERS ARISING:

A13 - Councillor Jaine Wild advised that the hedge at Binsted Pond was now significantly overgrown. **ACTION: Clerk to check when hedge cutting is next due to take place. (no contract currently in place)**

Councillor Graham Matthews noted that he had previously commented on the fact that a significant amount of the keep fit trail at Longbrook Park was missing. Clerk has contacted Open Spaces at Arun District Council but no response has been received.

ACTION: Clerk to follow up with ADC Outside Spaces.

A14 - Councillor George Grundy requested that it be noted in these minutes that he had previously commented on the lack of maintenance to some huts in the Eastern Greensward and the need for grass cutting. **ACTION: Clerk to follow up with relevant parties.**

A17 - Replacement of planters - Clerk confirmed that order for planters had been placed and confirmed.

A18 - Community Verges/Bee Orchids in Felpham – Clerk has contacted the relevant officer at WSCC to establish this.

Councillor Anne Barker requested that the verge at the bottom of Flansham Lane/Middleton Road be added to this and requested a map be circulated to councillors showing open and green spaces within Felpham and by whom they are maintained. **ACTION: Clerk to distribute.**

Councillor George Grundy commented that the cycle path on the A259 between Bognor and Littlehampton has had the verges cut but the significant number of overhanging branches could pose a Health and Safety risk to cyclists, particularly at night. **ACTION: Clerk to follow up with relevant parties.**

Councillor Jaine Wild advised that some councils are not mowing before May for environmental reasons and enquired whether WSCC/Arun would be following this initiative. Councillor Graham Matthews updated the committee on WSCC policy and it was agreed that this would form part of the agenda when discussing community verges.

Councillor Dave Smart advised that he is reviewing the remit of each committee going forward and the format of the agendas.

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

A 27. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT CLC MEETING:

Councillor Graham Matthews advised that there were no County Forums planned before 2022. He was concerned that public had submitted questions in advance, but as they were not able to attend the meeting, the questions were not addressed within the public forum. **ACTION: Clerk to write to CLC regarding this matter.**

A 28. FELPHAM ALLOTMENTS AND GARDENS SOCIETY REPORT:

FAGS had sent in the following report:

“We had a committee meeting this month and arranged an Allotment social gathering with barbecue and music for the 21st August at 12 noon. We hope the weather will be kind and that it will be well attended.

Crops are growing well and the spaces where tomatoes and potatoes have been lifted due to blight are rapidly being filled with later crops that will mature into the autumn.

We have 50 local residents on the waiting list. The plot that had been vacated has been brought back into reasonable condition by volunteers and has now been allocated to two keen local residents at the top of the list.

We expect to have one or two plots vacated in the autumn at renewal time, but this will not make any great dent in the long waiting list.

In view of the need for providing more allotment space for the local residents we have looked into the problem. The field which is across the rife from St

Michael's allotments and accessed by a bridge, has been vacated recently and would seem to be the ideal place to extend St Michael's. The field area of just over 2 acres could provide up to 50 five rod plots or a lot more quarter plots for beginners. It would increase the revenue to the parish council considerably as well as cutting the waiting lists of both St Michael's and FAGS. Thus the parish council would be fulfilling their responsibility to provide sufficient allotments for the local residents.

While some work would need to be done in preparation, perhaps the Conservation society could be prevailed on to assist in the marking out of plots and pathways. As this field has been used for horse grazing for a while the soil below the grass would be in good condition for cultivation. We hope this idea will be considered seriously by the parish council."

FAGS discussed the idea of potential additional plot space being available at St. Michael's where there is currently a strip of overgrown land. **ACTION: Clerk to attend site to consider possibility.**

The horse field is currently under a rental agreement and when this is due for renewal, if the current renter does not wish to continue, this possibility will be considered.

The annual allotment review is due to take place shortly and FAGS have agreed to ask allotment holders for permission to share their information with Felpham Parish Council in order that we can share waiting lists.

A 29. PARISH COUNCIL MAINTAINED FACILITIES REPORT:

Drygrounds Lane – no visit to the site had been made recently. This needs to be monitored as there is a considerable amount of litter present. **Clerk to action.**

Fisherman's Gardens – Councillor Kevin Watson confirmed that the new monument has been installed and this was a great success with positive feedback being received on Facebook. The polished marble is resistant to vandalism. The monument has been insured and appears on the asset register at a value of £3500. There was no increase to the premium this year.

Binsted Avenue pond area – approach has been made to Gleeson Homes and we are liaising with the legal department with a view to being gifted the small strip of land that they own.

A 30. 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 wildlife boxes on grassed area in front of the hedge</i>	<i>Ongoing.</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 has communicated with Tesco and two additional bins are in situ.</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>Ongoing</i>

A 31. MONTHLY UPDATE ON LONGBROOK PARK, KING GEORGE V & OLD RECTORY GARDENS:

King George V Playing Fields – no reports received.

Greenswards/Seafront – no reports received.

Longbrook Park – no reports received.

Old Rectory Gardens – no report received.

It was previously 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. This is ongoing.

A 32. TREES: REPORT BY TREE WARDEN:

The Tree Warden vacancy was currently being advertised. Councillor Jaine Wild enquired whether the Tree Warden receives any allowance to cover their expenses. Clerk advised that mileage can be claimed tax free at 44p per mile with any sundries being refunded on production of a receipt.

A 33. ARUN DISTRICT TREE STRATEGY:

No reply has been received from Oliver Handson when invited to discuss the Arun Tree Planting Strategy or attend a future meeting.

A 34. LAND TO NE OF FELPHAM ADJACENT TO ARUN LEISURE CENTRE (LAND LYING TO THE EAST OF BROOKS LANE):

The information and links will be placed on the Felpham Parish Council website. Councillor Mary Harvey advised that the landowner, Brian Brooks, had previously emailed to advise that he was happy for dog walkers to use the land. However, we have not currently been able to locate this and there is a query as to whether the ownership has now changed.

ACTION: Councillor Kevin Watson is going to measure the height of the fence that has been erected on the land with a view to reporting any breach of planning if the fence is above 2m.

Members of the public can report breaches of planning directly and these reports can be open to interpretation and do not have to be based on planning legislation.

It was agreed that this item be left on the agenda for the next meeting.

A 35: CONTRACTS RELATING TO FISHERMAN'S GARDENS:

Councillor Andrew Fells commented that there was no basis for payment or date in the current contract.

ACTION: Clerk to ascertain these details

A 36. MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE – PREVIOUSLY AGREED WITH THE CHAIRMAN:

There were no matters of urgent public importance.

A 37. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 21st September 2021.

The meeting closed at 7.58 p.m.

Approved.....

Date.....