

DRAFT SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF MAIN COUNCIL ON 05th OCTOBER 2021.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ALLOTMENTS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD AT FELPHAM COMMUNITY HALL FELPHAM
21ST SEPTEMBER 2021**

PRESENT: Councillors: Paul English, Kevin Watson, Anne Barker, Andrew Fells, George Grundy, Glen Hewlett, Graham Matthews, Dave Smart (Ex Officio)
Councillor Bob Budd was also in attendance in the public gallery.

Tree Wardens: Positions Currently Vacant.

FAGS Representative: John Austin & Geraldine Whitehead

A 38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor Gloria Moss, Councillor Jaine Wild, FAGS representatives.

A 39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

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

A 40. QUESTION TIME FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

A 41. CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

A 42. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING 17th AUGUST 2021:

These minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record. These were ratified by Main Council at its meeting on 7th September 2021.

A 43. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT CLC MEETING:

None

A 44. MATTERS ARISING:

A29 - Councillor Anne Barker enquired whether there was any progress regarding the land at Binsted Pond. Councillor Paul English advised that discussions and investigations are ongoing.

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

A 45. FELPHAM ALLOTMENTS AND GARDENS SOCIETY REPORT:

FAGS had sent in the following report:

“The Allotment social was a great success. As it started to rain as we set out the tables and chairs we wondered if anyone would brave the weather. But in the end the sun was kind to us and as people arrived on the dot of 12 noon the rain stopped, and the sun shone for much of the afternoon. Over 50 allotment holders or friends enjoyed great BBQ food and drinks while a lovely group of musicians and singers cheered us with their music.

The weather has gone from one extreme to another. After the constant rain of the early summer which brought blight to tomatoes and potatoes, we now have a dry period where runner and French beans are getting thirsty and the water taps are having a lot of use for the first time this year.

Most of the crops are ripening well with squash and courgettes in abundance, and although the summer raspberries were poor due to the wet weather the autumn raspberries and blackberries have loved the sun and are tasting of summer.

The plot that was vacated and reconditioned has been split in half and two people from the waiting list are enjoying their first time with an allotment plot. This has cut the list by two but many still waiting!”

Three quotations have been received to clear the area of brambles at St. Michael's Allotments (approximately 70m x 7m x 2m). This would create 6 to 8 small plots and almost clear the waiting list. These have all come in at similar amounts to clear the brambles to ground level, with disposal being significant part of the cost, and do not currently appear to be cost effective.

Councillor Bob Budd to source a further quotation from a known contact. Councillor Dave Smart suggested contacting Ford Open Prison to see whether they ran any community work projects. **Clerk to contact St. Mary's Church who use volunteers, Ford Open Prison and Chichester College.**

Councillor Andrew Fells advised that on the Summerly Estate similar work had been carried out by a company called Coastal Landscapes and will provide contact details.

Councillor Kevin Watson asked whether current allotment holders would be prepared to undertake some of the work to keep costs down. **The Clerk advised that they had discussed clearing two trial plots and will follow this up.**

Councillor Anne Barker asked whether a community working party could be set up as many residents would enjoy contributing to the local community.

Councillor Paul English and Dave Smart expressed concerns that this would need to be project managed and may have health and safety implications.

Councillor Bob Budd suggested that those people currently on the waiting list be contacted to offer the plots with the proviso that they clear their own plots.

Councillor Paul English suggested that brambles could be burnt on site to reduce disposal costs, Also to contact contractor Sean Smart. **Clerk to contact residents on the waiting list to offer this suggestion and gauge support.**

Councillor Dave Smart suggested contacting West Sussex County Council to see whether the contractors who maintain the outside of the hedge adjacent to the road would be able to provide a quotation. Also to contact ford prison ref help on a community project **Clerk to contact.**

A 46. PARISH COUNCIL MAINTAINED FACILITIES REPORT:

Drygrounds Lane – nothing to report

Fisherman's Gardens – nothing to report.

Binsted Avenue pond area – on going.

Clerk advised councillors that many of the parish noticeboards were in a state of poor repair and some maintenance is now required. Photographs have been taken and a list of works compiled. This has been sent out for quotations and will be submitted to the Finance and Administration Committee.

A 47. MEDIUM TO LONG TERM STRATEGIC UPDATES/INFORMATION ON ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPERATED OUTDOOR AREAS:

Neil O'Connor (Greenspace Technical Office, Arun District Council) advised that there was nothing to report this month.

Councillor Paul English asked that the remit and job description of Greenspace Technical Officers be requested, in order that the committee can ascertain the areas that they should cover. **Clerk to request this.**

It was previously agreed that the Clerk contact the relevant officers at ADC regarding the Management Plans for King George V and Longbrook Parks. Councillor Dave Smart advised that the responses received had not answered the questions asked and that these needed to be asked again. **Clerk**

to contact ADC and circulate plans and answers to all councillors.

A 48. MONTHLY UPDATE ON LONGBROOK PARK, KING GEORGE V & OLD RECTORY GARDENS:

Councillor Paul English would like more precise answers as to when the fitness equipment will be replaced at Longbrook Park. This was removed almost two years ago due to damage and although it has been stated that it will be replaced in 'due course', there are no timescales attached to this. **Also to copy in Councillor David Edwards. Clerk to respond and ask for budgets, details of the committee dealing with this and for specific dates, copying in both Dave Edwards and himself.**

A 49. TREES: REPORT BY TREE WARDEN:

The Tree Warden vacancy was currently being advertised. **Advertisements to be updated and brightened to attract attention.**

Councillor Paul English expressed concerns that we are losing many of the new trees planted in Felpham to water starvation, with three young trees being lost recently. It was felt that although notices are attached to the trees, residents living near to these may not realise that there is no watering carried out and that they may be prepared to occasionally water them. **Councillor Paul English to send Clerk location of trees and Clerk to draft a letter to residents asking them if they would be prepared to water the trees. Councillor Anne Barker suggested and agreed to post a notice on Felpham Matters alerting residents of this strategy and need for watering.** Councillor Dave Smart suggested copy be submitted to the WSCC quarterly magazine, for an article advertising this initiative on the part of Felpham Parish Council. **Clerk to contact.**

A 50. ARUN DISTRICT TREE STRATEGY:

It was noted that Oliver Handson had thanked Felpham Parish Council for returning questionnaires and that he had advised that this was a ten year strategy, with any plans being phased in over this period.

A 51. LAND TO NW OF FELPHAM ADJACENT TO ARUN LEISURE CENTRE (LAND LYING TO THE EAST OF BROOKS LANE):

The Clerk reported that there appears to have been a groundswell of opinion from the pressure group with over 100 witness statements supplied. West Sussex County Council and Public Rights of Way are also involved. Information and links have been placed on the Felpham Parish Council website. A request

for updates on the enforcement order has been sent to Neil Crowther but no update has been received currently.

A 51. FUTURE PROJECT KING GEORGE V RECREATION GROUND

The Clerk advised that a response is being awaited from Phillipa Dart as to the proposals for King George V now that the pitches are not being improved and that the project is reverting to the school site at Blake's Mead.

Councillors had been circulated the pavilion proposal put forward by Councillor Jaine Wild.

Councillor Glen Hewlett observed that this would be a huge project in terms of both work required and funding. He questioned why the toilet facilities were not open.

Councillor Paul English advised that on the last two occasions when the toilet facilities were in use, they had been subject to vandalism and specialist cleaning was required. Historically, Site 6 had been agreed and then Arun District Council changed the proposal with no consultation. The builders advised that consultation would be required for the project. **Clerk to await response from Philippa Dart, establish what is planned and copy in David Edwards.**

Councillor Kevin Watson suggested that a joint venture might be a way forward as this would be too large a project for Felpham Parish Council to oversee.

Councillor Dave Smart referred to the questions asked previously of Arun District Council regarding the renovation and updating of the toilet blocks.

Councillor Kevin Watson commented that the area was surrounded by a lot of local housing and was used by many residents including footballers, dog walkers and families.

Councillor George Grundy suggested that a café would enable the park use to be less seasonal and that toilets are a requirement in public areas and should be open all the time.

Councillor Bob Budd commented that the facilities offered at Hotham Park were superior and that the issue with a lack of parking was a concern.

Councillor Anne Barker suggested that we need to focus on future needs and not focus on historical problems with the toilets.

Councillor Glen Hewlett agreed and commented that other local toilets were open 8am to 8pm in the summer and 8am to 5pm in the winter. These were clean and well-maintained areas.

The Clerk advised that the toilet and changing areas at West Meads had initial problems but that these had been successfully overcome by working with local PCSOs and Sussex Police to combat anti-social behaviour and that they now operate very successfully.

Councillor Glen Hewlett mentioned that these are our premier pitches in Felpham and that this should be reflected in the facilities.

Councillor Andrew Fells questioned why, if Hotham Park can successfully run facilities, it cannot happen at King George V Recreation Ground.

Councillor Dave Smart suggested that we should write to Arun District Council asking why the toilets cannot be opened and whether consideration had been given to refurbishment. **Clerk to contact.** Clerk suggested that dependent on the response, future contact could be made with Felpham Colts with a view to

them potentially agreeing with Arun a lease that would include refurbishment of the existing pavilion and maintenance of the pitches, much like Arun have with Bognor RFC.

A 52: CONTRACTS RELATING TO FISHERMAN’S GARDENS:

Councillor Glen Hewlett fully explained the contents of the agreement that had been prepared by councillors (hard copies are available in the parish office). Clerk advised that the Lobster Pot’s public liability insurance had been increased to £10M in line with the parish’s liability to Arun. Councillor Andrew Fells asked whether the Lobster Pot was a corporate identity and whether the agreement period was for three years. It was agreed that the contract would show Lobster Pot Bognor Regis Ltd. It is reviewed on an annual basis and can be terminated with six months’ notice in line with our agreement with Arun District Council. Councillor Dave Smart proposed that Councillors Paul English, Kevin Watson and Glen Hewlett now meet with Tom Barnes from the Lobster Pot to discuss and reach a final agreement prior to Main Council approval. This was seconded by Councillor Anne Barker and unanimously agreed.

A 53. MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE – PREVIOUSLY AGREED WITH THE CHAIRMAN:

There were no matters of urgent public importance.

A 54. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 19th October 2021.

Councillor Anne Barker would like the minutes to reflect the fact that the meeting overran.

The meeting closed at 7.25p.m.

Approved.....

Date.....