

**MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL FELPHAM PARISH MEETING
HELD AT FELPHAM COMMUNITY HALL, FELPHAM PO22 8FA
27th JULY 2021 7:00PM**

PRESENT: Councillors: Graham Matthews, George Grundy, Mary Harvey, Michael Harvey, Gloria Moss, David Smart, Jaine Wild, Glen Hewlett, Paul English, Anne Barker, Kevin Watson & Ros Kissell.

Members of the public: there were eight members of the public present.

John Watling, Mike Porter, Dennis Payne, David Meagher, Alan Barker, Simon Wild, Clint & Rachel Searle.

Apologies had been received from Matthew Copeland.

**APM 1. TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON
29th APRIL 2019:**

The minutes were noted.

There were no matters arising.

APM 2. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

In attendance were members of the 'action group' which had been formed in relation to the landlord's enclosure of land between the Glenwood Estate, Bognor Regis and the Arun Estate and Leisure Centre, who had now denied public access to currently 'undesignated' footpaths across it.

The following points/comments were made by various members of the group:

- Why has the council not taken a more proactive approach to the issue as 'had happened in other parish councils?'
- The land had been accessed and the 'footpaths' on it used for over twenty years. (Councillor Mary Harvey stating that the footpaths had been used for fifty years or more). It was noted that the public rights of way could/may be established by application based on 20 years use.
- So far 24 people had written statements of their usage of the 'footpaths' in response to the information required by the County Council to address the issue and consideration of formalizing the 'footpaths' as public rights of way.
- No one from Felpham, currently, had written in support of usage or the 'action group'.
- The land was in private ownership and had recently been purchased by a new landowner.
- The new landowner had erected large, galvanised fencing, stopping access by public onto the land.
- The landowner was holding motorbike scrambling events on the land.
- The landowner had 'permission' to hold up to 24 events per year on the land. Any events in excess of this requiring planning permission.
- No applications to date had been received for building on the land.
- Two Councillors had been verbally abused by the landowner in a recent meeting held to try and discuss the issue.

In respect of the above, the council was requested to consider:

1. **Taking a more proactive role and using its contacts and communications with the principal authorities, to assist in achieving the aims of the 'action group'.**
2. **Placing links to the 'group' and its information and how people could support the 'opening' up of the footpaths.**
3. **Discussing this formally at a Council Meeting.**

The Clerk to the Council, in response to comments made, clarified the following:

- The Parish Council had previously written to the group in support of their 'campaign'. This was confirmed by David Meagher.
- The Parish Council had previously offered advice, guidance and mapping provision to the group. This was also confirmed by David Meagher.
- As the land in question was private, the footpaths being used were not designated public rights of way, but ones created over time by the usage of these by the public. It was agreed that applications could be made to register the footpaths as PROW (Public Rights of Way) under the 20 year rule.
- The council was not aware of, nor had received any, planning applications for the site.
- The Clerk believed that the land was part of a strategic gap/gap between settlements in both the Felpham Neighbourhood Plan and the Arun Local Plan.
- The Clerk felt it unlikely that the any planning permissions for development on the land would be successful (but not impossible), as the land was within the Environment Agency's flood plan map and the land susceptible to flooding, with the Aldingbourne Rife running along one side of it.
- The Clerk advised that he would contact Arun District Council with regard to the usage of the land for motorbike events and whether or not they had, or were envisaging, any planning applications for the site.
- The Clerk stated that he would bring the matters discussed at the meeting, to the attention of the Council, in a formal manner for them to decide how it wished to progress the issue going forward.

There were no other questions or issues raised at this meeting.

APM 3. ANY OTHER MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE:

There were none.

The meeting closed at 8.12 p.m.

Approved.....Chairman

Date