

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAIN COUNCIL OF
FELPHAM PARISH COUNCIL 4TH JANUARY 2022.**

PRESENT: Councillors: Dave Smart, Anne Barker, George Grundy, Glen Hewlett, Graham Matthews, Kevin Watson, Jaine Wild.

Councillors In Attendance Virtually: Bob Budd, Matthew Copeland, Mary Harvey, Michael Harvey, Roslyn Kissell, Gloria Moss (unable to vote).

The chair thanked Councillors for their understanding and flexibility in ensuring this meeting went ahead. As advised by the Clerk in his initial email to all Councillors on the 17th Dec there was an option to hold a hybrid style meeting with a minimum of six councillors required to attend the meeting in person to enable the meeting to go ahead, with others joining in virtually. Based on responses this was seen as a sensible and pragmatic approach in the current situation.

MC 176. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor Andrew Fells.

MC 177. ABSENCE WITHOUT APOLOGIES:

Councillor Paul English.

MC 178. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

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

MC 179. QUESTION TIME:

Bryony Lawless from Worthing Homes and Together Arun attended to request the opportunity to update the Parish Council on the work being done at the Community Hall and to liaise with Chris Cook from Sussex Clubs for Young People who will be attending Main Council in February 2022. This was agreed in principle subject to determining the format of meetings in the current environment ensuring the opportunity for full engagement. Councillor Anne Barker proposed that the Clerk facilitates contact between Briony Lawless and Councillor George Grundy.

MC 180. DATES OF OUTSIDE BODIES MEETINGS & REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES:

None

MC 181. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MAIN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7TH DECEMBER 2021:

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

MC 182. MATTERS ARISING/CLERK'S REPORT:

Main Council Clerk's Report January 2022

MC158 (ii) Zoom License fees for Parish Council with public access facility (each item can be purchased individually, if parish use only (Huddle NOT compatible) only £119.90 licence required):

Zoom Meetings Pro

£119.90/license

1License(s)

Zoom Webinar

1000 attendees

£2,720.00/license

Annual

Large Meeting

1000 Participants

£864.00/license

Annual

Cloud Recording Storage

£384.00

Annual

Total : £4087.90 annually

Councillor Glen Hewlett felt that this option will not be needed if the government change legislation surrounding virtual meetings, with NALC AND SLCC currently lobbying the government for these changes to be made. Clerk advised that Microsoft Teams offers the same facilities at no additional cost to the Parish Council.

MC 167 Car Parks

I have spoken with Joe Lake (Middleton on Sea Clerk) they have already objected on similar grounds and concerns to us, but also as they believe that many years ago their car park was gifted to the community for free parking, they are investigating and checking archives/covenant.
(see Car parks Doc 20/12/21)

MC146 / MC 171 Agenda item 20 Banking Review.

Account applied for, may take a little longer than usual as they work through a backlog throughout December.

No change required to current Financial Regulations approved by MC on October 5th, 2021, in order to change account or open new savings accounts to protect savings above £85000. Discussed at Finance and Administration, proposed the opening of a Current and Savings account at Unity Trust Bank Ltd once agreed by Main Council

MC173 Superseded by Central Government Plan B inception from 10th December until further notice.

MC 183. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

MC 184. REPORTS FROM COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

- (i) **County Councillor John Charles:** no report or update had been received.
- (ii) **District Councillor Paul English (Felpham East)** – no report or update had been received.
- (iii) **District Councillor Gill Madeley (Felpham West)** – no report or update had been received.
- (iv) **District Councillor Elaine Stainton (Felpham West)** - no report or update had been received.
- (v) **District Councillor David Edwards (Felpham East)** – no report or update had been received.

MC 185. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, LICENSING & NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COMMITTEE DATED 14TH DECEMBER 2021.

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

MC 186. MATTERS ARISING/CLERK'S REPORT:

None

MC 187. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE DATED 14TH DECEMBER 2021.

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

MC 188. MATTERS ARISING/CLERK'S REPORT.

There were no matters arising that were not covered later in the agenda items.

MC 189. PROPOSED CHANGE TO CAR PARKING CHARGES BY ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

At the time of the meeting, there has currently been no response from Arun District Council to the questions raised by Felpham Parish Council. Councillor Glen Hewlett expressed his disappointment at the continued failure of Arun District Council to consult with Felpham Parish Council, answer questions and consult with residents. It was felt that Arun District Council did not anticipate that the subsidy paid to keep the car parks free paid by Felpham Parish Council may be withdrawn. Additionally, at the time of this meeting, the clerk had no response from District Councillors to emails sent.

Councillor Glen Hewlett and Councillor Anne Barker expressed a concern that the District Councillors are not respecting the will of the parish. Councillor Anne Barker proposed that Felpham Parish Council write to the leader of the council regarding the performance of the District Councillors.

It was agreed that the Clerk will write to Arun District Council again reinforcing Felpham Parish Council's objection, resubmitting unanswered questions, and challenging the decision-making process. Clerk to write again to District councillors requesting their views and details of the actions that they are taking to represent Felpham residents.

MC 190. BOGNOR REGIS GOLF CLUB DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Glen Hewlett discussed and explained the remit of the working party and thanked the seven Parish Councillors who had given up their time to attend. There is still limited information available and apart from the initial consultation paper and comments made during the informal virtual meeting with several members of the council no real detail about what the planning application may or may not be is available. Consequently, at this stage no formal decisions can be made on the council's position although the working party continues to consider what information is available and continues to compile its thoughts.

The outline application was submitted on 17th December with the application for the development for the new site expected to be lodged at the end of January.

Felpham Parish Council will now wait to see the official application. Councillor Glen Hewlett reiterated that any objections/support must be based on planning reasons, the Neighbourhood Plan and Arun Local Plan. Councillor Anne Barker commented that the Parish Council needed to be mindful that when information is available, there will only be a short period of time to share this information with residents. Councillor Barker felt that we must play our part in making residents aware and know their views to truly represent Felpham Parish. Councillor Dave Smart underlined the need for residents to make their own representation. Councillor Glen Hewlett requested that residents be made aware, without prejudice, by publishing details of the Bognor Regis Golf Club and their agencies proposal on the Parish Council website. **Clerk to publish.**

The Clerk confirmed that an email had been sent to Arun Planning Department asking for details of whether the application had been submitted.

In relation to planning Councillor Kevin Watson confirmed that Felpham in Focus will be publishing articles, starting in February's edition, advising residents on the work of each of the committees. These would appear in order as per the schedule of the committee meetings so the first will reflect the activities of the Planning & Licensing & Neighbourhood Plan Committee, which residents hopefully will find informative.

Associated with this and on a wider communication or community engagement issue, Councillor Anne Barker reiterated the need to take opportunities to share details of the work undertaken by Felpham Parish Council and its Committees with

residents by possibly approaching the Farmer's Market or Tabletop Sale to have a stand/stall with Councillors in attendance. **Clerk to investigate.**
Councillor Kevin Watson advised that other Parish Councils have an emailed monthly newsletter and asked whether this would also be a possibility. **Clerk to contact other Parish Councils for copies of their newsletters and contact Felpham Farmer's Market to book a stall for Councillor Anne Barker to attend on 12th February.**
Councillor Glen Hewlett requested that all councillors feed comments/concerns regarding the application to the Clerk and himself ready for when details of the planning application are received.

MC 191. GRANTS MAIN COUNCIL APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT

This was proposed by Councillor Glen Hewlett, seconded by Councillor Kevin Watson with five councillors voting in favour and two abstentions.

MC 192. BUDGET SETTING (FOR PRECEPT SUBMISSION TO ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL)

Councillor Dave Smart expressed his thanks to all committees for their work on this. There will be no change in precept which equates to a reduction when the inflation rate is taken into consideration. £23.19 will be the cost to a Band D property. Although Felpham is the fifth largest Parish Council, it is twenty first in the list of precept charges. Approval for the precept submission was proposed by Councillor Glen Hewlett and seconded by Councillor Kevin Watson with a unanimous vote to approve.

MC 193. MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE:

Councillor Glen Hewlett advised that the agenda for planning has only one application currently. Under delegated powers, as agreed by Main Council, Councillor Glen Hewlett and the Clerk can review any new applications and make comments to Arun District Council's planning department. Should Bognor Regis Golf Club's application become live, a meeting may go ahead in person. A meeting may be held on a weekend at the Community Hall if the Golf Club application is submitted, which would allow Felpham residents the opportunity to attend.
Finance meeting to be postponed as agreed with Councillor Matthew Copeland.

MC 194. BUSINESS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION:

The Chair reminded everyone that the ability to hold face to face meetings, due to the evolving COVID situation is still under national review. To facilitate any such meeting, if the numbers expected to attend preclude the use of the Conference Room, then it may be necessary to consider holding the meeting in the much larger Main Hall. This may result in meetings not taking place at the usual times, potentially even on a weekend. Councillors recognised this and if it was considered appropriate then this may be an appropriate way forward. The required notice would be given if this is approach is required.

Councillor Jaine Wild outlined the recent concerning actions of the owner of Brook's Field (land to the N.W of Arun Leisure Centre off Brooks Lane) and asked permission for the Clerk to write to Arun District Council.
Councillor Graham Matthews agreed that he was very concerned and had emailed David Meagher requesting that proof be forwarded to the Clerk.

Clerk to contact David Meagher and send an email to Arun District Council checking the status of their enforcement action, asking for details of the latest situation and their position on this.

Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 1st February 2022 at 6.15pm start, although depending on what conditions are in force at that time this may change.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.40 p.m.

Approved.....Chairman

Date