

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAIN COUNCIL OF
FELPHAM PARISH COUNCIL 1ST MARCH 2022.**

PRESENT: Councillors: Dave Smart, Anne Barker, Bob Budd, Matthew Copeland, Paul English, George Grundy, Mary Harvey, Michael Harvey, Glen Hewlett, Ros Kissell, Graham Matthews, Kevin Watson, Jaine Wild
Councillors In Attendance Virtually: Gloria Moss (unable to vote).
District Councillor Dave Edwards

MC 208. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

None.

MC 209. ABSENCE WITHOUT APOLOGIES:

None

MC 210. 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 211. QUESTION TIME:

There was one member of the public present who was a Felpham resident and drew the committee's attention to the Bognor Regis Golf Club planning applications and enquired when updates would be given by the Parish Council. The Clerk advised that regular updates are posted on the Felpham Parish Council website. Councillor Glen Hewlett explained that the application was published on the planning portal last Thursday and that Felpham Parish Council had challenged the duplications that existed in the large number of documents contained in the two applications. Virtual meetings had been held with Hallam Land Management and Bognor Regis Golf Club, but Felpham Parish Council have reserved judgement and remain unbiased in dealing with the application. The Planning Committee can only object/support on material planning matters and lists for these grounds are on the Felpham Parish Council website and on display in the Community Hall. It is very important that people make comments individually and not rely on Felpham Parish Council as our comments only count as one response. Councillor Paul English also explained the importance of not cutting/pasting or copying responses from others as these will also be counted as one response. See Agenda item MC. 227.

MC 212. DATES OF OUTSIDE BODIES MEETINGS & REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES:

None

MC 213. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MAIN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1ST FEBRUARY 2022:

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

MC 214. MATTERS ARISING/CLERK'S REPORT:

Main Council Clerk's Report – March 2022 – this was circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.

MC204

Virtual meeting of the ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL to be held on Wednesday 17 March 2021

13. To 'Make' The Felpham Neighbourhood Development Plan - 2019-2031 (Pages 35 - 38)

The Felpham Neighbourhood Development Plan 2019-2031 passed Examination in December 2020. The Examiner of this modified Plan concluded that the Plan passed the Examination and that the material modifications do not change the nature of the Plan and it does not require a Referendum so should proceed to be 'made'.

This 'making' of the plan will give it legal force and it will form part of the statutory Development Plan for that area. Consequently, decisions on planning applications in the neighbourhood area will need to be made in accordance with the Neighbourhood Development Plan or Order, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

MC205

Bognor Regis Golf Club Application now LIVE : **FP/274/21/OUT**

Comments can be made at :

<https://www1.arun.gov.uk/aplanning/OcellaWeb/planningComment?reference=FP/274/21/OUT>

Or by emailing : planning.responses@arun.gov.uk by 9th April 2022

The sooner you send in your comments, the more time planning departments have to make sure they're taking into account.

Types of comments

they can only take into account what is known as '**material planning considerations**'. These include:

- Loss of privacy
- Loss of light
- Car parking
- Traffic generation
- Noise and disturbance
- Character of the area
- Green Belt
- Conservation Area
- Design, appearance and layout
- National and local policies

They cannot take into account:

- Loss of value to a property
- Loss of view
- Personal disagreements
- Boundary disputes
- Covenants
- Commercial competition
- Construction disturbance
- Sunday trading
- Matters controlled under other legislation such as the Building Regulations

MC 190. Councillor Anne Barker advised that unfortunately Felpham Parish Council would not be able to present at the Farmers' Market due to a lack of Parish Council volunteers to set up and talk about the work of the council. **Clerk to advise Farmers Market**

MC 215. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

MC 216. 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 but it is understood that Councillor Charles was not able to attend due to ill health.
- (ii) **District Councillor Gill Madeley** (Felpham West) – no report or update had been received.
- (iii) **District Councillor Elaine Stainton** (Felpham West) - no report or update had been received.
- (iv) **District Councillor David Edwards** (Felpham East)
 - I'd like to inform the Council that ADC has agreed the Budget for 2022-2023. There are some excellent Capital Projects coming forward across the Arun District which will benefit everyone, including of course residents in Felpham.
 - This item is due to come before my Committee on March 10th where a decision will be made. Committee will discuss and I have decided that the recommendations will NOT be taken all together but taken as 3 separate votes. Specifically Seasonal Car Park Charges, Town Centre Car Park Charges, and Installing New Charges for Free Car Parks.
 - I have been contacted by a resident of the village about the pedestrian safe haven crossing at Snooks Corner. I have raised the issue with WSCC Highways and am awaiting a response.

This will require an application for a Traffic Regulation Order to be sent to WSCC Highways. I will do this and report back.

- I am sure you are aware that Cllr Charles remains not very well and although he did attend the Budget Meeting at ADC last week, and the Full Council at WSCC yesterday, he is now very tired and in need of rest so has asked me to give his apologies for tonight's meeting. He is still hoping to be able to attend the Parish Council in the near future. In the meantime, if there are any issues regarding County Matters, feel free to let me know and I will follow them up.
- I am going to arrange a Litter Pick at King George V playing field in the next couple of weeks, and it would be great to see you there if you are able. I'll give the details out as soon as I can arrange a date (it will be a Saturday morning)
- I have asked our Parks and Greenspaces Department if they are able to fly the Ukrainian flag in our parks and on our seafront. Initially I was told this was a "political gesture" and therefore not appropriate. However, I have responded in the strongest terms saying this is something the entire World is doing, including our government, and therefore we absolutely should be doing it too.

Councillor Dave Edwards also reported that he had attended a litter pick in Littlehampton where he saw contractors making a hedgerow and that he was keen for this to be replicated in Felpham and considered it to be positive from a climate change point of view. Examples had appeared on Arun Parks and Green Spaces Facebook page.

(v) District Councillor Paul English (Felpham East)

Councillor Paul English commented that there is a lot of litter around the Blakes Mead Estate and that a litter pick may also be beneficial here.

Councillor Paul English advised that he has contacted Arun District Council to work together planting trees in Felpham. **Clerk to chase up a response.** Councillor English was pleased to advise that money had now been set aside for other projects such as the Queens Green Canopy and Sunken Gardens.

MC 217. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, LICENSING & NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COMMITTEE DATED 8TH FEBRUARY 2022.

Councillor Michael Harvey advised that he had also declared a personal interest in the same matter that Cllr Jaine Wild had done previously.

The minutes were APPROVED as a true and accurate record

MC 218. MATTERS ARISING/CLERK'S REPORT

PL 104. Councillor Graham Matthews reported that gliders were flying very low over the large poplar tree in his garden with increasing regularity throughout the day. Clerk advised that a member of the public had attended Main Council last month and had been emailed with links to all governing and regulatory bodies and that any complaint should be made to the appropriate bodies. **Clerk to forward links to all councillors.**

MC 219. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE DATED 8TH FEBRUARY 2022.

The minutes were APPROVED as a true and accurate record.

MC 220. MATTERS ARISING/CLERK'S REPORT

Councillor Matthew Copeland advised that the **position of** Trustee at Felpham Memorial Hall will be discussed at the next meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee.

Councillor Glen Hewlett confirmed that the length of permissible questions to Arun District Council by members of the public is one minute. Councillor Dave Edwards is verifying this with Helen Burt of Arun District Council and Councillor Paul English commented that this is not conducive to democratic process.

MC 221. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE DATED 15TH FEBRUARY 2022.

A 118. Councillor Anne Barker advised that this should read Eco corridors and not Eco highways.

The minutes were APPROVED as a true and accurate record.

MC 222. MATTERS ARISING.

There were no matters arising.

MC 223. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PROJECTS AND RESILIENCE COMMITTEE DATED 15TH FEBRUARY 2022.

Councillor Jaine Wild was present at the meeting and Councillor Paul English was not present.

The minutes were APPROVED as a true and accurate record. MH GG

MC 224. MATTERS ARISING.

Councillor Mary Harvey queried the costs of placing a Clock on King George V pavilion. This will be discussed at the next Projects and Resilience Committee Meeting and Councillor Anne Barker requested that comments are sent in prior. Councillor Dave Smart had investigated this extensively and sent in a report that had been circulated to all councillors.

MC 225. BBQ EXPENDITURE APPROVAL (OVER £1000)

PR 381. The Clerk reported that the barbecues had been budgeted for in both this and the next financial year. The price is £1743 + VAT and was at budgeted at £2000 + VAT. West Sussex Young Offenders will assist with installation. The two barbecues will be ordered and installed simultaneously. The supplier will invoice in March 2022 and April 2022 to ensure that the budget is not exceeded in either financial year. An officially licenced Queen's Platinum Jubilee Logo graphic is available at an additional £45 + VAT and at a small additional cost Felpham Parish Council personalisation can be added. **Councillor Matthew Copeland proposed that these costs are approved, and this was voted for by 12 councillors with 1 abstention and 1 against.**

Councillor Smart raised for initial discussion only the issue over approvals for budgetary spending. His comments related to the issue over items which have already gone through 3 levels of budget approval yet still need further approval at Main Council. By way of example the budget for the barbecues was approved at budget setting by the Projects and Resilience Committee, it then went to the Finance and Administration for second approval and submission to Main Council for final acceptance. Councillor Smart suggested that this process already gave the necessary levels of approval for items that have an agreed budget, with the money already identified and set aside. Where no such budget has previously been identified then the process of approval as set in in the financial regulations must be followed. Councillor Paul English expressed a desire for all expenditure over set limits as defined by our Financial Regulations be approved by the appropriate committee or Main Council in order that councillors can vote and agree on all Parish expenditure decisions. Councillor Matthew Copeland advised that this will be discussed at the next Finance and Administration Committee meeting.

MC 226. FELPHAM CAR PARKS (FELPHAM PARISH COUNCIL RESERVE THE RIGHT TO WITHHOLD ANY PAYMENT FOR PROVISION OF CAR PARKING WITHIN FELPHAM PARISH CAR PARKS, LOCATED AT GRASSMERE PARADE AND LINKS AVENUE, AT OUR DISCRETION)

Following a long discussion over several months, Councillor Glen Hewlett requested the support of this Council for the question to Arun District Council at their forthcoming Environment Committee Meeting on March 10th:

Initial Question:

Felpham Parish Council has for a number of years paid ADC for the provision of free car parking in the parish. Since payments began approximately £100,000 has been paid for this provision. No formal consultation has been held with the Parish Council, a key stakeholder, regarding proposals to charge for car parking in Felpham despite assurances to the contrary.

The Parish Council discovered the proposal in committee minutes and, since then, has asked Arun's officers 14 questions on 3 different occasions regarding the matter. These have either been ignored, or inadequately answered.

So, we are now asking how can you proceed with this scheme without a detailed business case and without a proper consultation? Can you demonstrate the financial benefits, taking into consideration the introduction, running and administration of the proposed scheme (also taking into consideration the potential loss of our contribution), versus the impact on residents and businesses? What understanding does the committee have of car park usage in Felpham?

What knowledge of the impact this proposal will have on local businesses and organisations? Has any impact on the safety of roads and verges been adequately considered?

Supplementary:

With knowledge now of the Parish Council's sizeable contribution what will be the impact on this proposal if this contribution is withdrawn? Could it be that this proposal then could cost ADC more money than it alleges it currently could generate?

Councillor Kevin Watson enquired regarding the provision of free car parking on an annual basis. Councillor Paul English explained the historic payments from Felpham Parish Council to Arun District Council over a long period of time and that there was no formal agreement in place. Councillor Ros Kissell reported that Arun District Council have undertaken a survey with targeted residents in Felpham Village.

Councillor Dave Smart proposed that the question be supported by Felpham Parish Council. This was seconded by Councillor Anne Barker and unanimously voted for by councillors with one abstention by Councillor Paul English.

MC 227. MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE:

Councillor Glen Hewlett requested the support of Felpham Parish Council to hold a Public Meeting and an Extraordinary Planning Committee Meeting, to discuss the Bognor Regis Golf Club Developments, on Saturday 19th March at Felpham Community Hall, Meaden Way, Felpham, PO22 8FA. Doors will open at 12.30pm. with documents on public display. Members of the public can attend, and any public questions can be asked. An Extraordinary Planning Committee Meeting will commence at 2pm. As we expect a high attendance, speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes per person. Preference will be given to those who have submitted questions in advance.

It is very important that any objections/supporting statements should be sent directly and individually to Arun District Council and comments must be made on material planning matters. Lists of these can be found on the Felpham Parish Council website and on display in the Community Hall. All councillors and District Councillors are invited to attend.

Councillor Jaine Wild proposed that this meeting date be approved, and this was seconded by Councillor Matthew Copeland. This was unanimously voted for by all councillors with two abstentions by Councillor Anne Barker (as not able to attend) and Councillor Paul English.

Councillor Dave Smart requested that all councillors review the applications prior to the meeting.
Councillors expressed their thanks to the office staff for their work on this.

MC 228. BUSINESS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION:

None

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 5th April 2022 at 18:15.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.35 p.m.

Approved.....Chairman

Date