

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAIN COUNCIL OF
FELPHAM PARISH COUNCIL 5TH JULY 2022.**

PRESENT: Councillors: Dave Smart, Gloria Moss, Anne Barker, Bob Budd, Paul English, George Grundy, Mary Harvey, Michael Harvey, Glen Hewlett, Ros Kissell, Kevin Watson, Jaine Wild

District Councillor Dave Edwards

The meeting opened with a minute's silence in memory of County Councillor John Charles who has sadly passed away.

MC 46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor Matthew Copeland, Councillor Graham Matthews

MC 47. ABSENCE WITHOUT APOLOGIES:

None

MC 48. 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 49. QUESTION TIME:

There were no members of the public present at the meeting. No questions or issues were raised.

MC 50. DATES OF OUTSIDE BODIES MEETINGS & REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES:

Councillor George Grundy attended the Arun County Local Forum on Monday 20th June. Councillor Grundy commented that many questions were raised but not answered at the meeting including his own regarding police coverage in Felpham. **Clerk to request copies of meeting minutes and forward to Councillor George Grundy and all councillors.**

MC 51. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MAIN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7th June 2022:

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

MC 52. MATTERS ARISING/CLERK'S REPORT:

Councillors noted the previously distributed Clerk's report. There were no other matters arising.

MC 45. Councillor Glen Hewlett queried the outcome of the meeting held on 24 June 2022 at Bognor Regis Town Hall, Council Chamber between Aldingbourne Rife Footpaths and Country Park Action Group and Arun District Council. The Clerk confirmed that Doug Millen had attended the meeting and reported that the planning contravention matters at Brooks Field are still with Arun District Council solicitors for consideration. Councillor Glen Hewlett expressed his disappointment that this was the case as the matter had been with solicitors since March and meanwhile the landowner continues his actions on the field.

MC 53. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

MC 54. REPORTS FROM COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

- (i) District Councillor Gill Madeley** (Felpham West) – no report or update had been received.
- (ii) District Councillor Elaine Stainton** (Felpham West) - no report or update had been received.
- (iii) District Councillor David Edwards** (Felpham East) –
 - District Councillor Dave Edwards advised councillors of the sad passing of County Councillor John Charles and details of the funeral arrangements will be circulated in due course.
 - Councillor Edwards confirmed that the Bognor Beach Access Working Party will be meeting shortly to consider ways of clearing stones from beach. The group will report back to the Arun District Council Environment Committee. Councillors were keen to support access to the beach for all and District Councillor Paul English confirmed that he had previously raised the problems regarding beach access in Felpham where the ramps are covered in stones, and he felt that as a seaside resort this should be dealt with to allow disabled access at high tide. Councillor Dave Edwards advised that there is currently no budget for clearance of the ramps which are not DDA compliant. As the tidal drift is over 6 metres along the coast, this is an ongoing problem. Councillor George Grundy advised that due to the stones, the local angling club had to use another ramp and move vehicles along the prom which poses a danger, and this should be pointed out to Arun District Council. Councillor Mary Harvey advised that the single most important factor is the protection of the toe of the sea wall to prevent this being undermined. Councillor Dave Smart suggested that councillors await the outcome of the meeting of the Beach Access Working Party and their report to the Environment Committee.
 - Councillor Edwards advised that a Full Council meeting will take place at Arun District Council next week.

- Councillor Edwards reported on social media comments following the introduction of an appointment system for questions at the Town Hall. The fact that there is no drop in facility has angered some residents, but this is a practical measure and anyone in crisis will still be seen and signposted.

Councillor Anne Barker expressed her concern at notices on Felpham Matters from a vocal minority and in particular a person implying that they represent residents of Felpham/Bognor.

Councillor Dave Smart questioned the staffing levels within Arun District Council, which have greatly reduced from pre-Covid levels, affecting the delivery of services. District Councillor Dave Edwards confirmed that there had been a 40 per cent reduction in staffing coupled with a strategic plan to employ more digital services. The new Chief Executive of Arun District Council has identified this as a problem and actions will be taken to resolve the issues.

Councillor Glen Hewlett advised District Councillor Dave Edwards that councillors had reviewed the new proposed Compliance Strategy by Arun District Council and comments had been submitted. He felt that this was a strategy for doing nothing and that lack of staff in the planning department did not mitigate the need for enforcement. The strategy did not state whether this was temporary or permanent and if temporary, where was the recovery strategy? Many Clerks in neighbouring parishes were not aware of the proposed strategy.

Clerk to copy Felpham Parish Council response to all Arun District Councillors.

(iv) **District Councillor Paul English** (Felpham East) – Nothing to report

MC 55. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, LICENSING & NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COMMITTEE DATED 14TH JUNE 2022.

The minutes of 14th June 2022 were APPROVED as a true and accurate record.

MC 56. MATTERS ARISING/CLERK'S REPORT

None

MC 57. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE DATED 14TH JUNE 2022.

The minutes were APPROVED as a true and accurate record.

MC 58. MATTERS ARISING/CLERK'S REPORT

None

MC 59. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE DATED 21ST JUNE 2022.

The minutes were APPROVED as a true and accurate record.

MC 60. MATTERS ARISING.

A 28. Councillor George Grundy queried progress regarding life saving equipment on St. Michael's Island. The Clerk confirmed that the office is investigating this matter.

MC 61. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PROJECTS AND RESILIENCE COMMITTEE DATED 21ST JUNE 2022.

The minutes were APPROVED as a true and accurate record.

MC 62. MATTERS ARISING/CLERK'S REPORT

None

MC 63. TO DETERMINE THE NEED/DEMAND FOR MAIN COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN AUGUST

Councillor Dave Smart invited councillors to comment on the need for Main Council and committee meetings in August. In previous years, this was determined by whether there was any new business. It was agreed that proposed dates would remain in place, but that two weeks prior, the chairman of the committees would contact the Clerk to decide whether an August meeting was required.

MC 64. NOMINATION AND ADDITION OF CLLR KEVIN WATSON ONTO PROJECTS AND RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

The addition of Councillor Kevin Watson onto the Projects and Resilience Committee was proposed by Councillor Paul English and seconded by Councillor Mary Harvey. This was unanimously agreed by all councillors.

MC 65. TO AGREE AND APPROVE ALLOTMENTS AND OPEN SPACES DECISION TO SURVEY THE BRIDGE AT ST. MICHAEL'S ISLAND (A&OS A 28.)

Councillor Anne Barker proposed that the decision made by the Allotments and Open Spaces Committee to survey the bridge at St. Michael's Island (A&OS A 28.) be approved and instructed at a cost of £1665.11 which will come from General Reserves. This was seconded by Councillor Bob Budd and unanimously agreed.

MC 66. MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE:

None

MC 67. BUSINESS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION:

Councillor Dave Smart offered his apologies in advance for the next Main Council meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 2nd August (TBC) at 18.15 hrs.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 19.00 hrs

Approved.....Chairman

Date

Main Council Clerks Report July 2022

Agenda Item May:

MC 17. Defibrillator installation imminent.

Sea Defences now has its own agenda item at P&R Committee

Clerk's reports will appear as an addendum to Minutes to avoid any confusion as to what was reported during meetings with the reports circulated prior to the meeting.

MC 18. Ongoing

MC 19. Complete

Agenda Item June:

MC 41. To Approve the AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Report) 2021/22

AGAR signed by Chairman approval following discussion at Main Council. Has now been sent off to External Auditor and displayed on website and noticeboards having been made available for public inspection.

MC 42. Logo on website and in use by Parish Office

MC 43. To Approve resolution of Felpham Parish Staff reorganisation as agreed at the Finance and Administration Committee of 10th May 2022 (F11). Closed to public due to its confidential and contractual sensitivity. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Govt Act 1972 7.6 (b) ss100 & 102)

Report by Cllr David Smart in Teams meetings associated documents, also distributed for councillors.

Passed to Finance and Administration Committee for ongoing administration of new contracts and job descriptions. All staff have now signed these with effect from 4th July 2022.

MC 45. A meeting took place at 2pm on 24th June at the Town Hall, attended by Doug Millen.

Agenda Item July:

19. Clerk advised a Bridge inspection to be arranged to ensure its integrity unless Councillors decide it is not required, surveyors contacted for quotes.

Met with Ricky Young <Ricky.Young@celtduk.com (11/5/22), The only quote received is from a local specialist bridge surveyor is £ 1,665.11