

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAIN COUNCIL OF
FELPHAM PARISH COUNCIL 7TH MARCH 2023.**

PRESENT: Councillors: Dave Smart, Anne Barker, Bob Budd, Matthew Copeland, Paul English, George Grundy, Graham Matthews, Ros Kissell, Kevin Watson, Jaine Wild

MC 196. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillors: Mary Harvey, Michael Harvey, Glen Hewlett, Gloria Moss

MC 197. ABSENCE WITHOUT APOLOGIES:

None

MC 198. 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 199. QUESTION TIME:

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

MC 200. DATES OF OUTSIDE BODIES MEETINGS & REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES:

Councillor Dave Smart circulated a report to all councillors regarding the ADALC meeting held on 2nd March 2023. Following the recent Arun Environment Committee meeting, where there was no opportunity for statements or questions due to the late distribution on the agenda, ADALC will be writing to Arun District Council seeking assurances that this will not happen again.

The clerk reported that the Joint Action Group (JAG) will no longer meet in the same way that it has to date. Inspector Neil Durkan holds a monthly briefing session with parish councils and other relevant community groups and this forum will ensure communications around place-based concerns are dealt with efficiently, and to avoid duplicating work.

MC 201. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MAIN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7TH FEBRUARY 2023

The minutes were APPROVED as a true and accurate record.

MC 202. MATTERS ARISING/CLERK'S REPORT:

None

MC 203. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from a Links Avenue resident concerned over illegal parking in the vicinity from a local business. These concerns have been raised with Arun District Council parking enforcement and wardens have visited the village on Sunday and Monday in response. They have also assured the office that weekday visits will continue to take place.

All other correspondence has been directed by the Clerk to the relevant committees.

MC 204. REPORTS FROM COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS:

(i) **County Councillor Jaine Wild** reported the following:

- The West Sussex County Council budget for 23/24 has now been set.
- Grit bins are filled once a year. Councillor Paul English raised concerns that these are not filled regularly enough and that some are empty. **Councillor Jaine Wild to check.**
- Portsmouth Water are not easily contactable regarding pavements and lack of maintenance following works.
- Brooks Field – Mr Wood pleaded guilty and for the offence of failing to comply with an Enforcement Notice, CW Bikes were ordered to pay a total of £3492 by collection order within 28 days. The footpath application will be decided by the Inspectorate on 4th April.
- The Great British Spring Clean 2023 is currently taking place.

Councillor Kevin Watson requested that litter posters be placed in noticeboards where there is room if not already in place. **Assistant Clerk to check and update.**

(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) – no report or update had been received.

(v) **District Councillor Paul English** (Felpham East) –

Councillor Paul English reported on the recent Environment committee meeting and advised that Felpham Parish Council will be consulted on King George V proposed works moving forward.

Councillors were very disappointed that Councillor Anne Barker was not able to speak at the meeting and at Arun District Council's undemocratic procedure/constitution. Councillor Paul English advised that it is the duty of the lead officer to inform Felpham Parish Council that this was being discussed and share documentation. **Clerk to request a review by the Constitutional Working Party copying in District Councillors and remind Arun District Council that Parish Councillors are elected by the residents of Felpham and should have been consulted and allowed to speak for three minutes.**

MC 205. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, LICENSING & NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COMMITTEE DATED 14TH FEBRUARY 2023.

The minutes were APPROVED by the members present of the Planning, Licencing and Neighbourhood Plan Committee as a true and accurate record.

MC 206. MATTERS ARISING/CLERK'S REPORT

None

MC 207. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE DATED 14TH FEBRUARY 2023.

The minutes were APPROVED by the members present of the Finance and Administration Committee as a true and accurate record.

MC 208. MATTERS ARISING/CLERK'S REPORT

None

MC 209. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE DATED 21ST FEBRUARY 2023.

The minutes were APPROVED by the members present of the Allotments and Open Spaces Committee as a true and accurate record.

MC 210. MATTERS ARISING/CLERK'S REPORT.

Councillor Paul English reported that rubbish had been cleared from the allotment plots and planting is taking place so allotment holders that were issued warnings will be allowed to continue with plots and inspections will take place every two months. **Councillor Bob Budd requested the opportunity to accompany the next inspection.**

MC 211. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PROJECTS COMMITTEE DATED 21ST FEBRUARY 2023.

The minutes were APPROVED by the members present of the Projects Committee.

MC 212. MATTERS ARISING/CLERK'S REPORT

None

MC 213. TO APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

It was proposed by Councillor Anne Barker and seconded by Councillor Paul English and unanimously agreed that the Council adopt the Power of General Competence.

MC 214. BLAKE'S COTTAGE

(Item heard earlier in the agenda with the agreement of councillors).

Jonathan Mullard, Secretary of the Blake's Cottage Trust attended the meeting to update councillors on Blake's Cottage. Information had been circulated in advance to all councillors.

Mr Mullard outlined his experience and updated councillors on the current situation: The cottage is in poor condition in terms of the roof and movement in the front wall caused by over thatching. Trustees were in talks with grant aiding bodies before the pandemic and the National Lottery Heritage Fund have just released details of their new strategy. The plan is to complete long term full renovation and remove the bungalow to the east, with the cottage being opened to the public as an asset to the village. Works are expected to cost in the region of £1M. A meeting is shortly planned with Historic England. The building is now listed on the Heritage at Risk Register which opens up more grant aid opportunities. A listed building application form has been completed or works to the roof. Trustees are keen to work closely with the Parish Council to make the cottage an asset to Felpham Village. It is planned to be open during the summer months and will eventually have an 1803 garden. Separate exercises are planned to involve local people and businesses with apprenticeship opportunities being created. Three new trustees have joined to add to the original three trustees. All details can be found on the website blakecottage.org and it is hoped that works can be completed by 2027 – the 200th anniversary of Blake's death. The trustees are hoping for support, advice, and encouragement from Felpham Parish Council.

Councillor Bob Budd proposed that Felpham Parish Council offer support, advice and encouragement and this was seconded by Councillor Jaine Wild and agreed by the majority of councillors with one abstention by Councillor Paul English.

MC 215. KING CHARLES III CORONATION

Councillors discussed plans to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III and ways that Felpham Parish Council could mark the event in Felpham.

Clerk to contact Conservation Society and offer support in purchasing bunting towards a possible joint initiative in the village.

Councillor Matthew Copeland proposed that funding be set aside for four further King Charles III commemorative benches to be placed throughout Felpham in addition to the one being installed at Blake's Mead. This was seconded by Councillor Paul English and unanimously agreed.

MC 216. ELECTIONS TIMETABLE

Councillor Dave Smart outlined the timetable for applications and procedural details.

MC 217. MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE:

None

MC 218. BUSINESS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION:

None

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 4th April 2023 at 18.15 hrs.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 19.45 hrs

Approved.....Chairman

Date