

DRAFT SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF MAIN COUNCIL ON 4TH JULY 2023

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ALLOTMENTS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD AT FELPHAM COMMUNITY HALL FELPHAM
20TH JUNE 2023 6.15pm**

PRESENT: Councillors: Antony Bassett, Bob Budd, Jacki Burton, Kirsty Halls, Martin Harvey, Jane Parker, Graham Page,

Councillors: Russ Marsden-Sear, Rick Parker (Ex Officio)

A 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Emma Aylward, Emma Carrick, Jules Verhulpen

A 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear declared an interest as a FAGS allotment holder.

A 3. QUESTION TIME FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were two questions from a member of public:

Question 1: More than 70 local authorities in the UK have already made the switch towards using safer weed control options or are trialling them at present. Will this Council join them?

Councillor Jane Parker responded to advise that Felpham Parish Council have in place a Control of Pests and Vermin Policy that strongly encourages plot holders to use green and sustainable gardening techniques and over the counter pesticides that are safe for use in a publicly accessible environment. Until the use of glyphosate is covered by legislation any ban would not be enforceable.

Clerk to write to Arun District Council to discourage the use of glyphosate in open spaces in Arun.

Question 2: Will Parish Councillors attend WSCC's Climate Change training as this is a matter of urgency?

Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear advised that two councillors could volunteer to attend and become Climate Champions, although no formal invitation for parish councillors to attend training had been received.

A further query was raised regarding the possibility of additional allotment plots being created in Felpham and this will be added to the September agenda.

A 4. CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Correspondence had been received from a resident enquiring regarding the possibility of tree planting in Firs Avenue West.

Clerk to obtain costings and report back.

A 5. CLERK'S REPORT:

Clerk to contact Arun District Council regarding the railings at the Western Greensward and enquire regarding the possibility that these could be altered or removed.

A 6. FELPHAM ALLOTMENTS AND GARDENS SOCIETY REPORT:

FAGS had sent in a report which was circulated to all councillors in advance and questions were invited from the FAGS representative.

A 7. MONTHLY UPDATE ON LONGBROOK PARK, KING GEORGE V & OLD RECTORY GARDENS:

No updates to report.

A 8. POLLINATOR PATHWAY INITIATIVE

Councillors were updated on the initiative and the possibility of a partnership with Bognor Town Council to extend the pathway along the Felpham Way to Butlins and beyond. Councillors expressed concerns that the grass was now covering the footpath and could cause a safety risk for pedestrians tripping over long grass or being forced to walk in the cycle path which may result in a collision. A further lack of maintenance to bushes along the Felpham Way was also raised.

Clerk to contact West Sussex County Council regarding grass cutting adjoining footpaths.

A 9. MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE – PREVIOUSLY AGREED WITH THE CHAIRMAN:

The Clerk outlined correspondence received from residents regarding the lack of clearance to footpaths in Felpham. The Clerk had contacted West Sussex County Council to raise concerns and been advised that the clearance programme is reduced this year. It is important that residents report concerns directly with WSCC and the link to report online is:
<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/>

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 18th July 2023 18:15

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm

Approved.....

Date.....