

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAIN COUNCIL OF
FELPHAM PARISH COUNCIL 6TH FEBRUARY 2024.**

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear, Vice Chair: Councillor Rick Parker

Councillors: Steve Baker, Bob Budd, Kirsty Halls, Martin Harvey, Glen Hewlett, Graham Page, Jane Parker, Pat Young

County Councillor: Jaine Wild

MC 161. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillors: Emma Aylward, Antony Bassett, Jacki Burton, Emma Carrick, Tom Harty, Jules Verhulpen

MC 162. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None

MC 163. QUESTION TIME:

None

MC 164. DATES OF OUTSIDE BODIES MEETINGS & REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES:

Councillor Glen Hewlett advised councillors of the Rampion 2 preliminary hearing which will be held in Brighton this week.

MC 165. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MAIN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9TH JANUARY 2024

The minutes were APPROVED as a true and accurate record.

MC 166. CLERK'S REPORT:

None

MC 167. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Clerk reported on correspondence received from residents regarding the poor surfacing of Felpham Road. The Clerk confirmed that repeated requests for full resurfacing have been made to West Sussex Highways and that an urgent request was made to address the pothole near The George which has now been repaired. A large area is planned for resurfacing near the kebab shop.

MC 168. REPORTS FROM COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- (i) **District Councillor Joan English** (Felpham East) – Not present at meeting and no reports received.

- (ii) **District Councillor Tom Harty** (Felpham East) Councillor – Not present a meeting and no reports received.
- (iii) **District Councillor Gill Madeley** (Felpham West), **District Councillor Elaine Stainton** (Felpham West) – The Felpham West District Councillors attended the meeting to state that in their opinion the installation of free ticket machines in the Felpham Car Parks would be a precursor to charging, that tickets will be taken for fun by young people and that this would drive traffic into side roads and cause issues to residents. Petitions had been created locally.

Councillor Glen Hewlett reiterated his report to the Finance Committee on the recent discussions between representatives from Arun District Council (ADC) Car Parks and Felpham Parish Council councillors. The notes of these meetings had been circulated to all councillors: In October 2022, Arun District Council's Environment Committee proposed the installation of car park machines with charging in Felpham's free car parks. Councillor Glen Hewlett attended this meeting to raise concerns, but the initiative did not progress due to the lack of a business case. At this time, the Chair of the Arun District Council Environment Committee recommended that this return to the committee with consideration of a potential increase from Felpham Parish Council in their donation to keep parking free. ADC officers recently returned to the ADC Environment Committee and put forward a proposal for machines to be placed in car parks with free car parking for a designated period as long as the free ticket was displayed in the vehicle. A no return period would also be introduced to combat abuse of parking that had become an issue. The ADC Environment Committee agreed the initiative and machines will be installed to gather data for six months from 1st April:

Links Avenue:

- Enforcement will be carried out 7 days a week.
- Enforcement will be between 8am-6pm, in line with other ADC car parks. This will ensure that residents are able to park overnight, and impact of the changes are kept to a minimum.
- The free parking period is proposed to be 2 hours. This will ensure that visitors to the area are able to make use of the local shops and amenities, whilst ensuring a good turnover of vehicles in the car park.
- The no return period is proposed to be 6 hours. The aim of the higher no return period is to discourage long stayers from leaving vehicles in the car park all day or returning a short time later. This is key given the size of Links Avenue car park (32 unmarked spaces).

Grassmere:

- Enforcement will be carried out 7 days a week.
- Enforcement will be between 8am-6pm, in line with other ADC car parks. This will ensure that residents are able to park overnight, and impact of the changes are kept to a minimum.
- The free parking period is proposed to be 8 hours. This is due to the Community Centre, church and nursery located in the vicinity of the car park.
- The no return period is proposed to be 2 hours.

As Felpham Parish Council felt that 8 hours was in excess of what was needed and would not combat abuse of the parking from students or stop people from outside of Felpham parking all day, it was agreed that Felpham Parish Council's contribution to keep the car parks free will not increase at this time.

The cost to Arun District Council to run Grassmere Car Park is £65487 per year. The cost to run Links Avenue Car Park is £20411 per year. No charges could be introduced without a public consultation.

Councillor Steve Baker reiterated that this was an Arun District Council initiative that had been agreed by the Arun District Council Environment committee and voted for by Arun District Councillors. Numerous complaints regarding the abuse of free parking had been received from residents to the Clerk.

West Sussex County Councillor Jaine Wild voiced concerns over the installation of machines and the possibility that these would not be removed. It was suggested that Middleton Parish Council are considering taking on the lease of their car park. Councillor Glen Hewlett commented that this would incur the costs of the car parks to the Parish Council which would inevitably lead to an increase in precept to all residents who may not use this free parking. Currently all ADC council taxpayers are bearing the costs of free car parks.

Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear commented that it would be irresponsible to make any decisions without the collection and use of data which is the purpose of the installation of the machines. This will show how the car parks are used.

Councillor Glen Hewlett commented that Felpham Parish Council both currently and in the future will continue to fight for Felpham Parish as a whole. This is an Arun District Council decision, and this matter will be reviewed if there is a public consultation.

(iv) County Councillor Jaine Wild submitted the following report:

- A new digitally signed bus stop is to be placed at the Southdown's.
- LED lights replacements are due to be installed at the St. Mary's/Drygrounds crossing and upgrades made to the footpath in two phases: 24/25, 25/26. Councillor Glen Hewlett commented that this will become a single transit crossing in the interests of safety, whereas the golf club developer is proposing a change to the Downview lights away from this safer option.
- Proposed changes will shortly be implemented to alleviate problems with parking at Downview Primary School including the installation of bollards at Sutton Close.
- The keep clear signs recently installed to combat parking over the entrance to a bungalow at Worms Wood have been placed incorrectly and investigations for the installation of a layby are taking place.
- On 20th February an appeal will be heard regarding the footpath through the centre of the land NW of Arun Leisure Centre, off Brooks Lane.

MC 169. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE DATED 9TH JANUARY 2024

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

MC 170. CLERK'S REPORT

None

MC 171. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE DATED 16TH JANUARY 2024

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

MC 172. CLERK'S REPORT

None

MC 173. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PROJECTS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE DATED 16TH JANUARY 2024

The minutes were APPROVED by the members present of the Projects and Community Involvement Committee as a true and accurate record.

MC 174. CLERK'S REPORT

None

MC 175. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, LICENCING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COMMITTEE DATED 16TH JANUARY 2024.

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

MC 175. CLERK'S REPORT

Councillor Glen Hewlett advised councillors that the Bognor Regis Golf Club planning application will be heard by the Arun District Council Planning Committee on Wednesday 14th February and that he will attend the meeting on behalf of Felpham Parish Council to read a statement agreed by Main Council.

MC 176. ADOPTION OF ROADS ON BLAKE'S MEAD/SITE 6

Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear expressed his disappointment at the response from West Sussex County Council to an enquiry as to when the roads on Blake's Mead/Site 6 will be adopted:

'Most of the access roads within this development are adopted, but there are a small number built by Bovis Homes in the centre of the site that are not yet. They are sorting these now and they are right at the end of the process so adoption should happen very soon'.

West Sussex County Councillor Jaine Wild to follow up.

MC 177. FELPHAM CAR PARKS

See MC 168..

MC 178. TO AGREE THE FELPHAM PARISH COUNCIL POLICY FOR GRANTING OF THE HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE PARISH.

Councillor Steve Baker proposed that councillors adopt the Felpham Parish Council policy for the granting of the Honorary Freedom of the Parish. This was seconded by Councillor Bob Budd and unanimously agreed.

MC 179. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE NOMINATIONS FOR THE HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE PARISH.

Councillor Bob Budd nominated Gloria Moss as the first recipient of the 'Honorary Freedom of the Parish' in recognition of the work undertaken by Gloria which has been of unique benefit to the Parish Council particularly in relation to Felpham Emergency Resilience Group and public use defibrillators. It was also noted that Volunteer President Gloria Moss, has been volunteering with the British Red Cross for over 40 years and recently received the British Empire Medal (BEM) which is given to mark the achievements and service of extraordinary people across the UK. This was seconded by Councillor Glen Hewlett and unanimously agreed.

MC 180. MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE:

None

MC 181. BUSINESS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION:

Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear advised councillors that nominations have been submitted for Felpham Heroes/Parishioner of the Year and that the Projects and Community Involvement Committee will consider all applications after the closing date on 29th February.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 5th March 2024 18:15 hrs.

Meeting finished 7pm

Approved.....Chairman

Date