

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAIN COUNCIL OF  
FELPHAM PARISH COUNCIL 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024.**

**PRESENT:**

Chair: Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear, Vice Chair: Councillor Rick Parker  
Councillors: Antony Bassett, Steve Baker, Bob Budd, Jacki Burton, Kirsty Halls, Glen Hewlett,  
Graham Page, Jane Parker, Pat Young

**MC 182. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Councillors: Emma Aylward, Antony Bassett, Emma Carrick, Tom Harty, Martin Harvey, Jules Verhulpen

County Councillor: Jaine Wild

**MC 183. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

None

**MC 184. QUESTION TIME:**

Questions submitted by a member of the public requesting an FOI to Environment Agency and the response received are attached to the minutes.

**MC 185. DATES OF OUTSIDE BODIES MEETINGS & REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES:**

None

**MC 186. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MAIN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

The minutes were APPROVED as a true and accurate record.

**MC 187. CLERK'S REPORT:**

None

**MC 188. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear confirmed that he will contact the Tesco's General Manager regarding litter on the footpath at Tesco Express, Felpham.**

**MC 189. 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 at meeting and no reports received.

(iii) **District Councillor Gill Madeley** (Felpham West) - Not present at meeting and no reports received.

(iv) **District Councillor Elaine Stainton** (Felpham West) - Not present at meeting and no reports received.

(v) **County Councillor Jaine Wild** had submitted the following report in advance:

1. WSCC BUDGET 16/2/24 NOTES FROM MEETING ARE:
  - a. March 2026 will see food waste being collected at the kerb side along with other household waste.
  - b. Community food hubs have stopped eight tons of food from being wasted
  - c. WSCC considering closing the Records Office at Chichester on Saturdays because of lack of footfall.
  - d. There is a 20 million investment on highways for roads, lighting, grass cutting and signage.
  - e. Decarbonisation of libraries taking place.
2. Attended Flood Forum at North Bersted 26/2/24
3. Attended teams meeting 21/2.26 re Summer Highways with WSCC
4. Problems with highways vehicles blocking driveways in Rife Way sorted out
5. Blakesmead Adoption..... nothing heard yet.
6. Still working with Highways and Enforcement Officers regarding traffic problem at Downview School.

**MC 190. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE DATED 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

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

**MC 191. CLERK'S REPORT**

Councillor Glen Hewlett updated councillors on the 5<sup>th</sup> Year Report on the Performance of the Solar Panels.

**MC 192. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE DATED 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

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

**MC 193. CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk reported that payments are being received and keys collected for St. Michael's Allotments.

**MC 194. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PROJECTS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE DATED 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

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

**MC 195. CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk reported that the power point at Blake's Road will be fitted on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

**MC 196. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, LICENCING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COMMITTEE DATED 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

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

**MC 197. CLERK'S REPORT**

Councillor Glen Hewlett reported on the recent refusal of planning application FP/274/21/OUT and M/16/22/PL.

Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear congratulated Councillor Glen Hewlett on his excellent speech on behalf of Felpham Parish Council at the Arun Planning Committee meeting and also noted the contribution made by Arun District Councillors Martin Lury and Simon McDougall at the meeting.

**MC 198. FELPHAM FLOODING/ARUN FLOOD FORUM**

Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear reported to councillors on the recent Arun Flood Forum where Felpham Parish Council had been declined an invitation despite requesting inclusion. Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear still attended the meeting and read councillors a proposed letter of complaint to Arun District Council regarding this matter. **Councillor Glen Hewlett proposed that councillors accept the letter and that this be sent by the Clerk to Arun District Council. This was seconded by Councillor Bob Budd and unanimously agreed.**

**199. FAGS CCTV**

Deferred.

**MC 200. CLERK/RFO PAY AWARD**

It was proposed by Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear and seconded by Councillor Steve Baker that this item be closed to the public (Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Govt Act 1972 7.6 (b) ss 100 and 102) due to its confidential and contractual sensitivity. This was unanimously agreed.

**MC 201. MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE:**

None

**MC 202. BUSINESS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION:**

The Clerk advised councillors that the Allotments and Open Spaces meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> March is cancelled at the request of the committee Chair.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 18:15 hrs.

Meeting finished 7pm

Approved.....Chairman

Date .....

## **MC 184. ATTACHMENT**

Thank you for your email dated 19 February 2024 regarding management of the Aldingbourne Rife and recent flooding:

We consulted our technical teams please see response below:

- 1. Can the EA indicate whether it is their long-term plan to leave the emergency pumps in place to manage the high-water levels along the Rife area?**

*The emergency pumps were installed in November following the heavy rains and named storms, and they are not a sustainable long-term solution to keep them here. Although we have had more heavy rain this last week or so, we do not expect to see the same water levels we saw in October, November and December last year, and are looking to demobilise the emergency pumps in the week commencing 4 March 2024 (although subject to change).*

- 2. The promenade is a popular and well used route for many hundreds of people, not only recreationally but also using it to go and from work. What plans to the EA have in place to reopen the promenade and can they give a timeline of when this is likely to happen?**

*Once the pumps are removed, the promenade will be re-opened by the Local Authority.*

- 3. Recognising the there is now clear evidence that the Rife cannot adequately deal with the levels of water that train into this watercourse what is the EA's short-, medium- and long-term plan to manage this?**

We will continue to work with landowners, the NFU, the MP and local authorities to explore solutions to reduce local flooding impacts.

In the short term, the EA have committed to carrying out a silt survey of the rife, jointly funded with Southern Water, to help inform the flood risk management actions landowners can take in the area. Building on our recent flood recovery work with partners, with the established Arun Flood Forum we also plan to continue discussions with local residents and stakeholders throughout 2024 to understand a combined approach to managing flood risk in the catchment.

In the long term, work completed as part of the Aldingbourne Rife Integrated Flood Risk Management Study identified two key locations where options for fluvial flood risk reduction should be investigated: Barnham and Felpham. We undertook some additional modelling/assessment work to confirm the scale of flood risk reduction that could be achieved in Barnham, and to help us assess the impact on flood risk of making changes to the pumping regime at Felpham. These projects are on our programme, and we will be using evidence gathered from recent events, alongside any future discussions within the Arun Flood Forum, to inform the business case for each.

- 4. Given the amount of development planned along the catchment area of the Rife has the EA re-evaluated its position on whether it support such planning applications and if not, in light of recent events why not?**

*As part of the planning process, applicants must provide evidence to demonstrate that any new development doesn't increase flood risk elsewhere. We will also request evidence of flood plain compensation for any works undertaken within a flood zone that are likely to have an impact on flood storage capacity. Our advice is that floodplain compensation is provided on a*

*level-for-level basis. This ensures that any new structure or land raising within the floodplain will not impede water flows or increase flood risk elsewhere.*

*If an applicant can meet these requirements, we may not object to an application on flood risk grounds – but this does not remove the need for the Local Planning Authority (LPA), to apply the sequential test and to consider whether it has been satisfied. A failure to satisfy the sequential test can be grounds to refuse planning permission. The LPA are responsible for weighing up all planning considerations and making an informed decision based on local and national planning policy and have overall responsibility for ensuring that all developments are constructed in line with the documentation that is submitted during the planning process.*

I hope this answers your questions. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information.