

**MINUTES OF
THE ANNUAL ELECTOR'S PARISH MEETING
HELD AT FELPHAM COMMUNITY HALL, FELPHAM, PO22 8FA
7TH MAY 2023**

Members of the public were present.

Felpham Parish Councillors present: Bob Budd, Glen Hewlett, Russ Marsden- Sear, Pat Young

APM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

APM 2: TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 16TH MAY 2023:

The minutes were noted. There were no matters arising.

APM 3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear read the Chairman's Report (attached to minutes).

APM 4. COMMUNITY GROUP REPORTS

Sean Harvey, Community Warden, Arun District Council.

An update was provided to residents on the role of Community Wardens and fraud awareness. A Fraud Awareness talk will be held by Felpham Village Conservation Society on 21st May at 6m. £5 non members.

Sean.harvey@arun.gov.uk

Dave Smart, Felpham Emergency Resilience Group, provided the following update:

**UPDATE FOR FELPHAM ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING: 7TH MAY 2024
FELPHAM EMERGENCY RESILIENCE GROUP (FERG):
ACTIVITIES SINCE RELAUNCH IN JANUARY 2024.**

Despite the use of the word "Relaunch" Felpham Emergency Resilience Group, has since its formation in 2015 stood ready to help and support Felpham residents should a major emergency occur. In our 9 years of operation, we have responded to several emergencies and have been placed on standby for a number of other threatening situations, which fortunately did not need us to respond. However, our biggest activity has been that associated with the COVID pandemic.

During COVID our volunteers have delivered in excess of 10,000 prescriptions, collected shopping and assisted many of our vulnerable local residents. This activity is something we continue, albeit on a much lower scale and now only for those most in need.

COVID disrupted our usual activities, especially our ability to meet and carry out group training and development. Because of this we took the opportunity re-evaluate our whole operation. This included introducing new standards, documentation, and updating all our training material, as well as putting into place a stronger more resilient structure and seeking to attract more volunteers.

In January of this year, we held what was labelled as a “relaunch” meeting which was well attended. Not only current volunteers but many new faces which was particularly pleasing.

We are currently finalising our new group structure and have already embarked on a regular monthly training program. This training also involves outside agencies ensuring a wider understanding of who does what and what our own activities may be should we be called out or activated.

Our training usually takes place on the third Tuesday of each month, here in the Community Hall starting at 18.15. All are welcome.

The Parish Council has supported our development, and we are improving and enhancing our equipment and building stronger relationships with other agencies.

The group continues to be led by Gloria Moss (BEM), supported by Dave Smart:

dave.smart@felphampc.gov.uk, gloria.moss@felphampc.gov.uk

Dave Smart expressed his disappointment that councillors had left and not attended the Annual Parish Elector’s Meeting to answer residents’ questions.

APM 5. QUESTION TIME

Residents discussed parking at Grassmere Car Park and their dissatisfaction at potential charging that may be brought in. Councillor Glen Hewlett advised that the Felpham Car Parks were owned by Arun District Council and that a meeting concerning this was being held at Arun District Council on Thursday 4th May (Full Council). Felpham Parish Council have always fought to maintain free parking. A discussion followed and updates are awaited from the ADC meeting.

Representatives of Friends of Felpham Post Office requested a letter of support from Felpham Parish Council to enable a grant application. **Further information will be sought by the Clerk on this matter.**

Additional questions raised:

1. Who is responsible for the poles that have been erected at Felpham Seafront that are felt to be inappropriately sited?
2. When are ADC responsible for clearing the shingle at Felpham promenade?
3. Is there any further information available on the A259 proposed works that will affect Felpham residents – Councillor Glen Hewlett explained that these were attached to minutes and available on the website.
4. Land South of A259 and off Stanhorn Grove Felpham – clarification on the status of this area was requested and residents further asked for assurances from Arun District Council that stringent measures will be implemented to ensure that travellers are not able to access the land.
5. Cones are still present on the A259 by the crematorium and should these have been removed?

Clerk to gather information on all of the above.

APM 6. ANY OTHER MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE

None

The meeting closed at 8.33 pm

Approved.....Chairman Date.....



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2023/2024



Following an election in May 2023, FPC saw a new intake of parish councillors. Over the past year it has been an absolute honour and privilege to have been the Chairman of such a forward-thinking council.

We made a promise to continue all the good the previous council had done and to involve the community as we moved forward. I'm pleased to say that we have achieved that. We have increased public communication via social media and made to the council more accessible and approachable throughout the process. The projects committee has now been renamed the 'Projects and Community Involvement' committee.

Planning Committee – Chair Glen Hewlett, Vice Chair Graham Page:

Under the direction of Cllr Glen Hewlett, the Planning Committee has continued to scrutinise planning applications throughout the parish, ensuring that any plans are in keeping with our beautiful village and not detrimental to the wonderful street scene we have.

Glen has also worked tirelessly to ensure that Felpham parishioner's views on the Golf Club development were voiced at various meetings across the year. With his hard work and support from the parish council, we were delighted to announce in March that the development had been rejected by Arun District Council.

Allotments and Open Spaces – Chair Jane Parker, Vice Chair Kirsty Halls:

The A&OS Committee have continued over the year to manage our wonderful allotments spaces within Felpham (St Michael's and FAGS). We are delighted to have improved security at St Michael's meaning that unauthorised access has been drastically reduced.

The committee also oversaw the planting of new trees along residential verges in the parish.

Finance Committee – Chair Steve Baker, Vice Chair Jacki Burton:

I am pleased that the Finance Committee has continued to show due diligence and good practice when dealing with parishioner's precept. We have managed to keep our precept cost to parishioners one of the lowest in the district, whilst still providing support. Because of this, we have been able to make grants to local charities and clubs to ensure that they can continue to serve our wonderful community. We are also pleased to announce that following our election, we were able to overhaul the grant process meaning that grants are made quarterly rather than annually giving those clubs and community projects access to funding sooner rather than later.

I am proud to say that nearly half of the councillors elected, including myself, have refused to take councillor allowances. This means that we have been able to donate our allowances to good causes throughout Felpham, including support for breast cancer patients, a thermal drone to find lost pets, bonding blankets for our local Neo-natal unit, PDSA, and many more.

Projects and Community Involvement Committee – Chair Russ Marsden-Sear, Vice Chair Kirsty Halls:

This committee has probably seen the biggest change over the past year. In addition to the name change, we have worked tirelessly to bring new events and projects to the residents of Felpham. The 'Fun on The Prom' event continues to be the biggest annual event in Felpham attracting residents and visitors to the area in the thousands. In conjunction with public feedback and a 'greener' future we will continue to use laser displays rather than fireworks. The committee has also been able to increase the number of lifesaving defibrillators throughout the parish thanks to the work and effort by Cllr Pat

Young. Other work by this committee has included a large grant to enhance the facilities at King George V playground. Following a rebuild of the play area we are delighted to see so many of our younger generation enjoying a safe and free environment.

This year has also seen the introduction of two major events for Felpham. October saw the first 'Freaky Felpham' event. Despite bad weather, the event saw over 300 hundred people dress up and walk through our wonderful village celebrating Halloween. Children were asked to collect and solve clues on their route finally leading them to a fabulous, themed party at the end. Thanks to volunteers and councillor involvement, this event was put on free of charge. The feedback from residents was humbling and it is our intention to make this an annual event supporting families and children throughout the parish creating a safe, organised, and free event.

Secondly, we are proud to announce that we have now created an annual award ceremony to celebrate the achievements of local residents. Our parish is based on those that live here and every day, unbeknown to most of us, parishioners go about their day trying to make our wonderful village even better. As a council we felt that it was about time that those 'Heroes' were finally recognised. It was an absolute delight and honour to host a Gala Evening this year to celebrate those people. With winners ranging from support workers, charity fund raisers to even a young girl cutting off her hair to make wigs for child cancer patients. It was truly a wonderful evening and a humbling example of what the people of this wonderful parish do.

Once again, thank you Felpham for being the most amazing, caring, and thoughtful parish.

It has been an honour to serve you.

Russ Marsden-Sear, Chairman of Felpham Parish Council

Parishioner of the Year/Felpham Heroes winners



Felpham Parish Council are delighted to share details of the recent Parishioner of the Year/Felpham Heroes winners which were announced at our recent Gala Awards Evening:

Honorary Freedom of the Parish: Gloria Moss

Parishioner of the Year: Ross Fisher

Felpham Heroes 11-18yrs: Toby Clegg, Olivia Vine and Isabelle Isitt

Felpham Heroes Under 11yrs: Poppy Ellis-Williams, Hope Grant-Coombs