

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAIN COUNCIL OF
FELPHAM PARISH COUNCIL 7TH JANUARY 2025**

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear

Councillors: Steve Baker, Antony Bassett, Kirsty Halls, Tom Harty, Glen Hewlett, Graham Page, Jane Parker

MC 150. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillors: Emma Aylward, Bob Budd, Jacki Burton, Martin Harvey, Rick Parker, Jules Verhulpen, Pat Young

MC 151. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None

MC 152. QUESTION TIME:

There were three members of the public present.

MC 153. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES:

None

MC 154. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear reported that he had visited Bishop Tufnell School for a tour of 'The Harbour' towards which Felpham Parish Council provided a grant.

On Christmas Day, Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear joined other volunteers in serving Christmas dinners at St. Mary's Church. It is hoped that councillor allowances not taken will be authorised by Main Council for a grant to this venture next year.

MC 155. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MAIN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3RD DECEMBER 2024.

The minutes were APPROVED as a true and accurate record.

MC 156. CLERK'S REPORT:

None

MC 157. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Clerk outlined complaints received from residents regarding the state of roads in Felpham Village and the action taken to request remedial works. County Councillor Jaine Wild updated the council on a response from WSCC officers that 'we have recently raised safety jobs for a few potholes on Felpham Road. In addition to this, both Felpham Road and Upper Bognor Road have been added to our 'Find & Fix' list. This resource is aimed at repairing all defects in a road, including those that do not meet investigatory level. In respect of longer-term works, both roads are pending assessment by our Carriageway and Footway team. Once assessed, the team will then know where the roads sit, countywide, in terms of a future surfacing treatment.'

Clerk to report sink hole at the top of Links Road to West Sussex Highways.

MC 158. 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 reported on the recent Littlehampton Harbour Board judicial review and the potential cost implications to Arun District Council.

(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** submitted the following report:

- Several complaints have been received regarding the behaviour of a resident at 43 Summerley Lane
- Rabbit Island – a new enforcement date of the 19th February has been issued for the landowner to remove all equipment from the land.
- WSCC are supporting Blake's Cottage
- The Felpham Car Parks will remain free for a further three years and a Local Action Car Park Group will be set up to campaign for continuing free use.
- A walk of Bersted Brooks with Really Wild Bognor and Felpham was attended and found to be of interest
- Support has been given to opposition to the Ancton Lane planning application.
- Food waste collections will be starting March 2026
- Felpham Crossing works will commence on 13th January. Councillor Glen Hewlett enquired whether there is sufficient oversight of all roadworks particularly in view of the emergency works to Grevatts Lane as these will combine to cause considerable traffic problems in Felpham.
- Investigations are being made into a digital timetable display at the bus stop opposite The Southdowns pub.
- The lighting at Blake's Mead has now been signed off and all roads adopted by West Sussex County Council.
- Local Government Devolution and Reorganisation will be discussed by the Cabinet on 9th January.

MC 159. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE DATED 3RD DECEMBER 2024

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

MC 160. CLERK'S REPORT

Councillor Glen Hewlett confirmed that the precept request had been submitted to Arun District Council.

MC 161. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, LICENCING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COMMITTEE DATED 3RD DECEMBER 2024

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

MC 162. CLERK'S REPORT

None

MC 163. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PROJECTS & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE DATED 10TH DECEMBER 2024.

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

MC 164. CLERK'S REPORT

None

MC 165. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE DATED 10TH DECEMBER 2024.

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

MC 166. CLERK'S REPORT

None

MC 167. FELPHAM POST OFFICE/BLAKE'S COTTAGE

Requests have been received from both Felpham Post Office and Blake's Cottage for a letter of support.

Councillor Glen Hewlett outlined previous advice received that Felpham Parish Council should maintain a neutral stance for the following reasons:

- Any planning application for change of use would progress to the Planning and Administration Committee for consultation. Support offered in advance of this would mean that councillors must declare an interest and input and assistance from the Parish Council would be lost.
- Although much of the village may support both ventures, it is not possible without a referendum to ascertain the views of residents. For this reason, Felpham Parish Council should maintain an impartial stance as they have with the Rampion 2 consultation.
- Councillors are not able to offer any favour to one business in Felpham over another.
- Councillors are not able to provide individual support, as all decisions are made through committee voting. Any written support given would have to be provided in the capacity of a resident, but this would result in the loss of a vote at a Planning Committee consultation.

Councillor Steve Baker proposed that Felpham Parish Council maintain a neutral stance to Blake's Cottage/Felpham Post Office. This was seconded by Councillor Tom Harty and unanimously agreed.

Clerk to write to both organisations to explain the decisions made.

MC 168. CONSULTATION: 'STRENGTHENING THE STANDARDS AND CONDUCT FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN ENGLAND'

Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear advised councillors of the government consultation which closes on 26th February.

The consultation seeks views on proposals to introduce measures to strengthen the standards and conduct regime for local authorities in England.

Councillors were urged to respond individually, and a link will be circulated by the Clerk.

MC 169. ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTORAL REVIEW

Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear advised councillors that a free Felpham community governance review will be included as part of the Arun District Council electoral review.

MC 170. CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS

The Monitoring Officer has informed the Clerk that he has received two complaints regarding a parish councillor and those complaints are currently the subject of formal investigation by the Monitoring Officer.

MC 171. MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE:

None

MC 172. BUSINESS AT THE CHAIRMAN’S DISCRETION:

Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear reminded councillors of the upcoming councillor election on 10th January and confirmed that he will be attending the count to welcome the new councillor to Felpham Parish Council.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 4th February 2025 6.15pm

Approved.....Chairman

Date