

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAIN COUNCIL OF
FELPHAM PARISH COUNCIL 4TH FEBRUARY 2025**

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear

Councillors: Antony Bassett, Bob Budd, Kirsty Halls, Glen Hewlett, Gloria Moss,
Graham Page, Jane Parker, Pat Young

Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear opened the meeting by welcoming Councillor Gloria Moss back as a councillor on Felpham Parish Council.

MC 173. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillors: Emma Aylward, Steve Baker, Jacki Burton, Tom Harty, Martin Harvey,
Rick Parker, Jules Verhulpen

MC 174. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None

MC 175. QUESTION TIME:

There were 7 members of the public present.

Members of the Rabbit Island footpath group outlined their concerns regarding the actions of the landowner and requested the views of Felpham Parish Council on Rabbit Island. Councillor Glen Hewlett advised the group that Felpham Parish Council wrote a letter of support at the outset of the action a number of years ago and have continued to contact Arun District Council to check on the progress regarding enforcement, although Felpham Parish Council are not an enforcement agency and have no powers in this regard.

Clerk to write Arun District Council/ WSCC regarding Rabbit Island.

MC 176. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES:

The Clerk gave an update on devolution following the recent ADALC meeting.

MC 177. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear reported on two visits to St. Michael's Allotments and the Horsefield. One visit was to assess the viability of Pocket Park as a location for a disabled greenhouse. The other visit was to the Horsefield and Rabbit Island with a representative of The Arun and Rother Rivers Trust, the Bognor Regis Tree Custodian, and members of the Conservation Society.

**MC 178. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE
MAIN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7TH JANUARY 2025.**

The minutes were APPROVED as a true and accurate record.

MC 179. CLERK'S REPORT:

As part of the King Charles III England Coast Path trail improvements (this runs right along the South Coast along Felpham Prom and on into Bognor) the Clerk has secured funding towards an information lectern at Felpham on the promenade. Felpham Parish Council have a blue plaque trail which runs along the path and through Felpham Village, and two of the plaques are positioned on the coastal path. A lectern will be placed on the trail with QR codes and information directing those on the path to the Blue Plaque Heritage Trail as well as to local businesses. An investigation into license requirements from Arun District Council is now ongoing.

MC 180. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Residents have contacted the office to complain about the poor state of repair of Felpham Road/Upper Bognor Road and resurfacing required. The Clerk has been in regular contact with WSCC regarding this matter.

MC 181. 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)- 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** submitted the following report:
 - The Lyminster bypass is almost complete
 - Complaints regarding Grevatts Lane traffic lights were investigated.
 - WSCC budget day took place, and a draft budget presentation was given to the Clerk.
 - Blake's Mead play park seats are still broken and repair requests ongoing.
 - King George V – an additional dog poo bin has been requested.
 - Footpath FEL 153/5 (behind Downview School) widening works will begin on Feb 17th.

A Petition from Felpham Car Park Action Group was handed to councillors requesting that Felpham Parish Council reconsider their intention to allow ADC to introduce car parking charges. Councillor Glen Hewlett advised that this was incorrect information being circulated to residents, and that Felpham Parish Council had never supported the introduction of charges and in fact pay a subsidy of approximately £4000 to keep Felpham Car Parks free. The car parks cost ADC £85000 a year to run, and the installation of machines was to monitor traffic flow. A three-year embargo has now been agreed.

MC 182. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE DATED 7TH JANUARY 2025.

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

MC 183. CLERK'S REPORT

None

MC 184. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, LICENCING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COMMITTEE DATED 7TH JANUARY 2025.

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

MC 185. CLERK'S REPORT

None

MC 186. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PROJECTS & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE DATED 14TH JANUARY 2025.

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

MC 187. CLERK'S REPORT

None

MC 188. TO APPROVE THE AMENDED GRANT AWARDS POLICY

Councillor Glen Hewlett outlined the changes to the Grant Awards Policy. **Councillor Antony Bassett proposed that Felpham Parish Council adopt the revised Grant Awards Policy. This was seconded by Councillor Bob Budd and unanimously agreed.**

MC 189. COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES: ANNUAL INCREASE

Councillor Glen Hewlett advised councillors of recent recommendations by Arun District Council to increase councillor allowances with a potential uplift from £663.80 to £688.40 (10% of ADC Councillor Allowances) from April. It is a personal choice as to whether to take the allowance and many councillors donate their allowances to charity or good causes.

Councillor Glen Hewlett proposed that councillors ratify the Finance and Administration Committee decision to agree the Annual Increase in Councillor Allowances. This was seconded by Councillor Graham Page and ratified by the majority of councillors with one vote against.

MC 190. TO CONSIDER NOMINATION OF AN ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE

County Councillor Jaine Wild had nominated land for consideration as an Asset of Community Value. Details had been circulated to all councillors.
County Councillor Jaine Wild to provide further supporting evidence to meet Arun District Council requirements.

Councillor Glen Hewlett proposed an extension of time for the meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Kirsty Halls and unanimously agreed.

MC 191. STORM OVERFLOW DISCHARGES AT LIDSEY WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS

The Clerk reported that based on Southern Water data, Lidsey Treatment Works had reported overflow discharges into the Rife for a continuous period of 558 hrs 45 mins (23.25 days) in January, directly affecting the bathing water quality at Felpham. This is of great concern and unacceptable.
Clerk to write to Environment Agency and Southern Water.

MC 192. TO RATIFY THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DECISION REGARDING PROCESS OF NOT ACCEPTING APOLOGIES

Recent guidance received from Arun District Council and SLCC advises that acceptance of apologies should not take place routinely.
Councillor Kirsty Halls proposed that councillors ratify the Finance and Administration Committee decision to agree a revised process that no apologies for absence will be accepted forthwith and that the 6-month rule will apply to all absences. This was seconded by Councillor Pat Young and agreed by the majority of councillors with one abstention.

MC 192. MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE:

None

MC 193. BUSINESS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION:

None

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

Approved.....Chairman

Date