

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

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear
Councillors: Emma Aylward, Bob Budd, Kirsty Halls, Gloria Moss, Graham Page,
Jules Verhulpen, Pat Young

MC 194. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillors: Antony Bassett, Steve Baker, Jacki Burton, Glen Hewlett, Tom Harty,
Martin Harvey, Jane Parker, Rick Parker

MC 195. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None

MC 196. QUESTION TIME:

There were 5 members of the public present.

There were three questions from the public gallery:

Who is responsible for the ongoing maintenance of art installations on Blakes
Mead which are looking tired?

Clerk to investigate

Can Felpham Parish Council put information on the website regarding devolution
for residents?

The Clerk advised that very little definite information is available at this time and
that updates will be shared as they are received by Felpham Parish Council.

Is a planter being positioned at Grassmere Parade under the Parish Council
noticeboard?

The Clerk advised that The Conservation Society have placed some planters in the
village with more planned to follow in due course.

MC 197. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES:

None

MC 198. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillor Russ Marsden Sear advised that he had attended the recent Meet Home
Start event along with Councillor Pat Young, which was very interesting and
informative.

Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear further informed councillors that he and a number of
councillors including Councillor Emma Aylward, Councillor Jules Verhulpen and
Councillor Pat Young had worked at a Sage House Dementia Charity Event which
raised £1300.00

MC 199. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MAIN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4TH FEBRUARY 2025.

The minutes were APPROVED as a true and accurate record.

MC 200. CLERK'S REPORT:

The Clerk reported on ongoing developments at Rabbit Island following a visit from ADC Enforcement Officers.

MC 201. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A resident had enquired regarding the possibility of Felpham Parish Council funding gym equipment at King George V. As budgets for 25/6 have now been agreed, it would not be possible to currently consider this suggestion.

MC 202. 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:

- An update on Rabbit Island
- A new footpath application will shortly be considered to run from Arun Leisure Centre to Whitfield Close
- Trees on the footpath behind Downview School have now been removed and upgrade works will continue through the Easter holidays.
- All WSCC street lighting will be changed to LED remote operation lights.
- A new dog poo bin has been requested for KGV
- Repairs to the broken benches at Blakes Mead Playground are ongoing.
- All WSCC school children have been offered a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place preference school place.

MC 203. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE DATED 4TH FEBRUARY 2025.

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

MC 204. CLERK'S REPORT

None

MC 205. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, LICENCING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COMMITTEE DATED 4TH FEBRUARY 2025.

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

MC 206. CLERK'S REPORT

None

MC 207. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PROJECTS & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE DATED 11TH FEBRUARY 2025.

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

MC 208. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported on plans to install a VE Day Blue Plaque at Grassmere Parade jointly organised by Felpham Parish Council and the Conservation Society.

MC 209. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE DATED 11TH FEBRUARY 2025.

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

MC 210. CLERK'S REPORT

None

MC 211. TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED DONATIONS OF UNUSED COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES

Councillor Bob Budd proposed that councillors agree the donation of unused councillor allowances as follows:

September 2024

Councillor Emma Aylward, Councillor Jules Verhulpen: Freaky Felpham children's gifts

December 2024

Councillors: Russ Marsden-Sear, Pat Young, Bob Budd, Emma Aylward, Jules Verhulpen: St. Mary's Christmas lunch

This was seconded by Councillor Emma Aylward and unanimously agreed.

MC 212. FELPHAM CAR PARKS

Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear reported that petitions had been handed to Felpham Parish Council, organised by District Councillor Elaine Stainton, requesting that 'Felpham Parish Council reconsider their intention to allow Arun District Council introduce Car Parking Charges.'

This petition was incorrect and at no point had Felpham Parish Council supported charging. In fact, Felpham Parish Council pay an annual donation to Arun District Council to keep the Felpham Car Parks free to support businesses and residents.

The minutes from October 2023 clearly show the measures that were supported and the reasons why:

The proposed changes to the free parking provision in Links Avenue and Grassmere

include the following mechanics:

1. ADC to introduce a Pay & Display machine within the car park. Visitors to the car parks would not be required to pay for parking but would be required to obtain a ticket for free parking from the Pay & Display machine. Once obtained, visitors would be required to display the ticket on the dashboard of their vehicle. Any vehicles not displaying a valid free parking ticket would be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice. This would enable Arun District Council to gather quantifiable data regarding the usage of the car park and to ensure that abandoned vehicles are identified at an early stage.

2. Alongside the introduction of machines within the car park, the proposed changes

include introducing a no return period within the free car parks. Thus, ensuring that Arun District Council can take enforcement action against motorists abusing the car parks and to remove abandoned vehicles in a timelier manner. It is also considered that introducing the requirement to obtain a parking ticket, alongside the introduction of a no return period, will discourage 'long stayers' within the free car parks, enabling greater availability of parking spaces.

3. Further meetings will be required to enable discussions regarding the updating of the original contracts between ADC and Felpham Parish Council. The original contracts dates back to 1994 /1995 and the Parish Council contributions have not increased in line with the terms set out in the original contract. It is considered that the terms and conditions of the original contract require updating as are now outdated. This will likely include increasing the Parish Councils contributions to reflect the increased costs incurred by ADC for the maintenance and operation of Links Avenue and Grassmere car parks.

4. At this time, Arun District Council are unable to confirm an exact increase to the contributions, but we are anticipating the increase to be 10%, in line with inflation, for both Links Avenue and Grassmere car parks.

5. ADC have also met with our Property & Estates team regarding the condition of Links Avenue car park and have agreed to resurface and re-line the whole car park. These works are anticipated to commence during 2024. The estimated cost of the repair and maintenance works is anticipated to be in the region of £35,000.

Grassmere car park is scheduled to be resurfaced and re-lined in 2025/2026 at an anticipated cost to the Council of £40,000. However, this cost was anticipated in 2022 as part of our planned maintenance schedule and is likely to increase. Due to the increasing costs of business rates, water & sewerage and repairs & maintenance to both car parks, we anticipate the Parish Council contributions being revisited as part of contract re-negotiations in 2024.

At no point were charges supported by Felpham Parish Council and councillors were alarmed that businesses are being misinformed by a District Councillor.

Councillor Jules Verhulpen proposed that the Clerk write to the local businesses that signed the petition, to inform them that the petition was misleading and incorrect, enclosing a copy of the original minutes. This was seconded by Councillor Kirsty Halls and unanimously agreed.

Councillor Kirsty Halls proposed that the Clerk write to District Councillor Elaine Stainton to request that she desists from spreading false information regarding Felpham Parish Council and recalls all incorrect petitions. This will be copied to the Arun District Council Monitoring Officer. This was seconded by Councillor Bob Budd and agreed by the majority of councillors with two abstentions.

MC 213. MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE:

None

MC 214. BUSINESS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION:

None

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 8th April 2025 6.15pm

Approved.....Chairman

Date