

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAIN COUNCIL OF
FELPHAM PARISH COUNCIL 2ND JUNE 2026**

PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear
Councillors: Bob Budd, Tom Harty, Glen Hewlett, Gloria Moss, Jane Parker, Rick Parker, Russ Parkinson, Dave Smart, Maggie Watling

County Councillor David Darling

MC 19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillors: Emma Aylward, Antony Bassett, Kirsty Halls, Graham Page, Jules Verhulpen, Pat Young

MC 20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None

MC 21. QUESTION TIME:

There were three members of the public present.

One member of the public enquired whether signage directing residents to the Community Hall/Felpham Parish Council could be replaced. **Clerk to email WSCC Highways, who it is believed removed the original signs.**

Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear advised that concerns had been raised regarding loud music being played on the Felpham greenswards during the hot weather and disturbing other visitors. **Clerk to contact ADC parks/Foreshore officers**

MC 22. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES:

Councillor Bob Budd advised the committee of his attendance at a recent Zoom meeting of the Arun Town and Parish climate change group meeting. Councillor Bob Budd requested permission to invite the officer to attend a Main Council meeting after the summer to update councillors on the latest initiatives. **Councillor Bob Budd to extend an invitation**

MC 23. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND COUNCIL ACTIVITY UPDATE

Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear advised councillors of a new Felpham Parish Council mobile phone that will be used exclusively for events including Fun in the Park.

A steam railway, dog show and vintage cars are also confirmed for the day.

MC 24. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12TH MAY 2026.

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting were APPROVED as a true and accurate record.

MC 25. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MAIN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12TH MAY 2026.

The minutes of the Main Council Meeting were **APPROVED** as a true and accurate record.

MC 26. CLERK'S REPORT

None

MC 27. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised that Arun District Council Cleansing Team and Arun Parks had been emailed regarding the litter strewn around the Community Hall, skate park and open spaces due to the overflowing bins that had not been emptied.

Repairs to the three solar lights running from the Lobster Pot towards Bognor have been instructed.

Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear advised councillors that the Chichester gala will feature the Chichester Model Engineers steam railway rides if they wished to view it in advance of Fun in the Park.

MC 28. 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) – District Councillor Tom Harty updated councillors on training following a recent report into Arun District Council which found "significant failures" in its role as a social housing landlord. The report by the regulator of social housing stated that the failings are "very serious" and the council must make "fundamental changes" so outcomes can be delivered.
- (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 David Darling** submitted the following report:
 - The first West Sussex County Council Full Council Meeting had 49 new and 21 returning councillors.
 - A new Liberal Democrat-led cross-party alliance has been formed to run the county council following this month's local elections. The leaders of the Liberal Democrats, Green Party, and Labour Group, alongside the newly appointed Chair Cllr Donna Johnson of the Local Alliance, Selsey, have agreed to work together. The 23 Reform and 11 Conservative members will scrutinise decisions made.
 - Councillor induction training has been underway
 - The current consultation on devolution closes shortly.
 - Elections will take place in May 2027 with a shadow cabinet being formed.

Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear welcomed Felpham County Councillor David Darling to his new role.

MC 29. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE DATED 19TH MAY 2026.

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

MC 30. CLERK'S REPORT

None

MC 31. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, LICENSING & NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COMMITTEE DATED 19TH MAY 2026

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

MC 32. CLERK'S REPORT

None

MC 33. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PROJECTS & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE DATED 19TH MAY 2026

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

MC 34. CLERK'S REPORT

None

MC 35. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT

This was previously circulated. The Clerk fully explained the report to councillors and took questions.

Councillor Glen Hewlett commented on the excellent report and offered his thanks to the RFO, Clerk and Administrative Assistant for their work.

MC 36. TO RATIFY THE DECISION OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF FELPHAM PARISH COUNCIL'S SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL.

Councillor Dave Smart proposed that councillors ratify the decision of the Finance and Administration Committee to approve the effectiveness of

Felpham Parish Council's system of internal control. This was seconded by Councillor Rick Parker and unanimously approved.

MC 37. TO RATIFY THE DECISION OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT AND AGAR (ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN)

Councillor Dave Smart proposed that councillors ratify the decision of the Finance and Administration Committee to accept and approve the Annual Audit Report and AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return). This was seconded by Councillor Gloria Moss and unanimously approved.

MC 38. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT SECTION 1

Councillor Gloria Moss proposed that councillors approve the Annual Governance Statement Section 1. This was seconded by Councillor Glen Hewlett and unanimously agreed.

MC 39. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2025/26 SECTION 2

Councillor Tom Harty proposed that councillors approve the Annual Governance Statement Section 2. This was seconded by Councillor Glen Hewlett and unanimously agreed.

MC 40. TO CONSIDER THE RESPONSE TO PORTSMOUTH WATER'S DRAFT DROUGHT PLAN

Councillor Glen Hewlett updated councillors on the plan which had been circulated in advance. **Clerk to email Portsmouth Water noting report.**

Clerk to write to Southern Water for an update on the recent drainage initiative.

MC 41. MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE:

Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear enquired whether councillors approve the August meeting recess, except for Projects and Planning. This will now be added to the next meeting for approval.

MC 42. BUSINESS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION:

None

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 7th July 2026.

Approved.....Chairman

Date