

DRAFT SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF MAIN COUNCIL ON 3rd SEPTEMBER 2019.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ALLOTMENTS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD AT FELPHAM COMMUNITY HALL FELPHAM
16th JULY 2019**

PRESENT: Councillors: P English, G Grundy, Miss A Barker, D Smart, M Rumsey & G Matthews.

John Austin / Geraldine Whitehead – FAGS representative.

A 36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies had been received from Councillors: Mrs J Wild and Mrs G Moss.

Apologies had been received from Glenn Powell - FVCS & St Michael's Allotment Site and Steve Alderton – Tree Warden.

A 37. ABSENCE WITHOUT APOLOGIES:

There were no absences without apology.

A 38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest at the outset of the meeting.

A 39. QUESTION TIME:

There were no members of the public present and therefore no questions or issues raised.

A 40. CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

(a) Tree Replacement on Blake's Mead Site: *Correspondence via email from Mark Warwick – ADC Tree Warden and Anthony Baker ADC. (this was in response to dead trees being reported on the Blake's Mead estate).*

(b) Binsted Pond: *Hedge and grass cutting. (this was in response to recent hedge cutting that had not been carried out by Felpham Parish Council, the owners of the Hedge – to establish and clarify this).*

There was no other correspondence to report.

A 41. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING 18th JUNE 2019:

These minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record. These had already been ratified by Main Council at its meeting of 2nd July 2019.

- ***Please note – A 32 should read Arun not Arundel.***

A 42. MATTERS ARISING:

There were no other matters arising, that had not already been reported to Main Council on 2nd July 2019.

A 43. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT JWAAC MEETING – 28th NOVEMBER 2019:

There were no proposals at this time, only those that were already on the agenda.

A 44. FELPHAM ALLOTMENTS AND GARDENS SOCIETY REPORT:

Geraldine Whitehead and John Austin of FAGS were in attendance and reported the following:

The waiting list has 5 Felpham residents, 6 deferred start, 1 plot holder request and 24 non-resident requests. There are no plots available. One plot holder has decided she cannot keep up with the plot and given it up and a new plot holder has taken it on. The site survey by the 'weed control' group has identified the problem weeds as Mare's tail, Couch grass, Bind weed and Rose Bay Willow herb. They have suggested a glyphosate weed killer as a first method of control.

The unusable 'mare's tail' plot has been sprayed and is off limits at present, apart from 10sq m which is being used as an experiment for the 'no dig' method. This has been covered with cardboard and weed suppressant, followed by compost and some courgettes planted in holes in a cover, to test grow ability.

A plot inspection has been carried out and a few plot holders contacted, mainly due to the sudden growth of weeds after the rain and sun. Most have responded with more diligent husbandry and some newcomers given advice and help.

The committee has agreed to charge all new plot holders a deposit which could be used, if necessary, to help return an abandoned plot to good condition before re-letting. This is being added to the tenancy agreement. An improvement to the current water supply is being considered as some of the outside plots are a long way from the current taps. There will be plot judging in the first half of August. Awards are for best 2.5 rod, 5 rod, 10 rod, best newcomer and one for innovation.

Presentation of awards will be at the summer BBQ on the 17th August. Most of our plot holders are finding the sudden spurt of weeds challenging but at least the crops are managing to match the growth of the weeds and harvest is at present very good.

End of report.

Geraldine and John had requested FPC look in to a possible grant aid for persons of Disability to have an allotment. The meeting asked that they give more information for the next meeting as regards to cost, age group etc.

A 45. ST MICHAEL'S ALLOTMENT SITE REPORT:

Report from FVCS Representative (Glenn Powell): - No report had been received. Glenn was absent from the meeting, he had sent his apologies.

Due to an increase in grey squirrel infestation and the destruction of allotment holders vegetable plots, action was needed prior to this getting out of hand.

A specialist had been employed to assist in the pest control of the area.

Councillor's Miss A Barker and G Grundy requested it to be recorded in the minutes that:

Regarding the grey Squirrel situation at St Michael's they were both strongly against any culling.

A 46. FACILITIES CONDITION REPORT:

Drygrounds Lane – vegetation had recently been cleared by WSCC.

Planters – all in a good condition.

Binsted Avenue pond area – The hedge has been cut – the grass also. A resident has been written to – to clarify FPC own the hedge. A quote is being obtained by Steve Alderton to cut down to head height – about 4ft needs to be removed. We are currently still waiting for an update on works on the area from Paul Cann and Sue Furlong.

Grassmere Parade – broken wall chased up and Jill Mills from WSCC has assured the Office that this will be repaired as soon as possible. Otherwise in a clean and tidy state.

Fisherman's Gardens – in an excellent condition.

A 47. REPLACING TREES:

The Admin Assistant to the Clerk had written to Mark Warwick and Anthony Baker at ADC. Mark Warwick (Tree Warden for Arun) and Anthony had both replied to say that the affected trees would be replaced – a list was being obtained to state where these were in the area of Blake's Mead.

A 47. IMPROVEMENTS TO STREET SCENE AND OPEN SPACES REVIEW.

(a) Work In Progress.

| <i>Item</i> | <i>Current status</i> | <i>Action</i> |
|--|---|---|
| <i>Allotments general</i> | <i>Press for additional allotment sites in north of Parish.</i> <i>Update from ADC requested.</i> | <i>Liaise with ADC as and when possible sites are identified. This is perceived as a long term proposal and possible unlikely to occur.</i> |
| Further Allotment Sites | Identification and approach to landowners etc with regard to area earmarked for school on Site 6 proposal and land above Downview school. Ongoing management. | <i>Currently WSCC are carrying out the process for inviting proposals/interest for a new school. Councillor Mrs J Wild in lead on this.</i> |
| Binsted Pond area | Potential encroachment by builders. | <i>Extend hedge – report from Tree Warden due.</i> |
| King George V Playing Fields | Management Plan prepared by ADC. | <i>Management Plan for 2014-2024 received by Council.</i> |
| Longbrook Park | General improvements and possible vegetated shingle project. | <i>Management Plan for 2012-2022 received by Council.</i> |
| Fisherman's Gardens & The Lobster Pot Area | All in a state of good repair. | <i>Ongoing</i> |

**A 48. LONGBROOK PARK, KING GEORGE V & OLD RECTORY GARDENS
UPDATES:**

King George V & Longbrook Parks – Neil O'Connor from ADC reported the following:

Coles funfair will be on site this week, also new concrete bollards are due to be installed at the end of Felpham Gardens to prevent further access by travelers. Unfortunately the previous wooded railing was simply sawn off at ground level.

Anthony Baker of ADC – Essentially business as usual. *There is a consultation underway regarding the play area; the Snooks Corner group are carrying out vegetation control work in the vegetated shingle area; the life ring needs replacing and has been raised; there appears to be an increase in the amount of litter being generated – I will advise Tivoli to carry out more frequent collections.

Longbrook Park - Andy Camp of the Snook's Corner Community had reported the following:

The Snook's Corner Community Group's efforts have been concentrated mainly on weeding and watering the plants around and within the boat at the corner of Sea Road and tidying up the shingle bank in Longbrook Park.

We have received some very favourable and kind response for our efforts in both areas from members of the public. The wild flowers around the boat – most of which have come from previous years' re – seeding have been absolutely outstanding (as have been some of the weeds!) We are very grateful to the owner of The Lobster Pot for allowing us to use their water supply at the old toilet building, which is being converted into storage, we believe.

Sadly – we wasted over an hour of our “shingle bank” time last week, clearing up broken bottles, dirty nappies, discarded barbeques and other unpleasant rubbish which had been strewn around the benches and seats as well as one of the litter bins. Whilst one could blame wild life for some of the “scattering” they cannot be blamed for smashing bottles into various sizes. These people obviously have no regard for the more pleasant users of the park, their children and their pets. Shame on them!! Both tables have now been burned – thanks to “disposable” BBQ's being seated on them.

Also worth mentioning is that some of the group (who are also members of Felpham Village Conservation Society) cut the privet, weeded and de-littered the area next to Oldcorn's. I don't know who owns the bench – but it has been falling to pieces for the last few years. Perhaps the Parish Council could use some of their efforts to contact the owner of the bench

and get them to do something about it. *FPC to enquire regarding the budget to repair/replace the bench. Councillor Miss A Barker proposed, seconded by Councillor D Smart – all agreed. If this was to go ahead, a plaque stating provided by Felpham Parish Council would be sited on the bench. This would be after all investigations were carried out to find out a possible owner of the bench, FPC have tried previously to obtain this information but unfortunately we did not achieve this.*

***Anthony Baker to be contacted regarding the date of consultation.**

Old Rectory Gardens – James Jones-McFarland of ADC – No report received.

Admin Assistant to the Clerk to chase up as no report has been received since May 2019.

A 49. TREES: REPORT BY TREE WARDEN:

Steve Alderton – was not in attendance and had sent his apologies. He is meeting with Rob Cairns – Littlehampton Probation Team to discuss the possibility of help towards the Tree work needed to be carried out and other Felpham Parish Council jobs. He will update after the meeting – 18th July.

A 50. MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE – PREVIOUSLY AGREED WITH THE CHAIRMAN:

There were no matters of urgent public importance.

A 51. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 20th AUGUST 2019.

The meeting closed at 7.19 p.m.

Approved.....

Date.....