

DRAFT SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF MAIN COUNCIL ON 3rd MARCH 2020.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ALLOTMENTS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD AT FELPHAM COMMUNITY HALL FELPHAM
18th FEBRUARY 2020**

PRESENT: Councillors: P English, Mrs J Wild, D Smart, Mrs G Moss, G Grundy,
Miss A Barker, K Watson & G Matthews.

Steve Alderton – Tree Warden.

Geraldine Whitehead – FAGS representative.

Members were informed that this meeting would be recorded.

A 151. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor M Rumsey.

Glenn Powell – Felpham Village Conservation Society & St Michael's
Allotment Site.

John Austin – FAGS.

A 152. ABSENCE WITHOUT APOLOGIES:

There were no absences without apology.

A 153. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

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

A 154. QUESTION TIME:

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

A 155. CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There was no correspondence to report or announcements to be made.

A 156. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING 21st JANUARY 2020:

These minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record. These were ratified by Main Council at its meeting on 4th February 2020.

A 157. MATTERS ARISING:

A 138 (c) - Public Rights of Way Maintenance - Councillor Mrs J Wild reported that although she herself had not been able to visit the footpaths but her husband had met with Darryl Hobden of WSCC as these were badly flooded and messy. Geoff Farrell of Felpham Village Conservation Society had also visited these and felt that in the current weather situation there was no point in trying to clear these now and to wait for better weather to arrive for works to go ahead.

It was agreed that the Admin Assistant to the Clerk write to Darryl Hobden to ask what action is going to be taken and when to clear these and to report any response at the next Allotments meeting.

A 144 – Councillor Miss A Barker raised the question of Future Proposals of Vermin Control – due to be raised at the meeting of February 18th – as a result of recent events, it was decided by the Chairman that this be removed from the February Allotment agenda as more time was needed to compile information and input from the plot holders and volunteers as well as Councillors. Councillor Miss A Barker then withdrew her question. Councillor Mrs J Wild wished it to appear in these minutes that it would be on a future Agenda after we had consulted certain bodies for advice.

Councillor Mrs J Wild informed the meeting that she had personally contacted the Police and reported the Contractor that had been used to control the vermin.

Councillor P English clarified that as it was not Felpham Parish Council that had been reported, nor was it the Council that had reported the contractor, and in essence therefore this was not a Council matter.

A 149 Litter – Councillor Miss A Barker reminded the committee of the meeting with the Assistant to the Deputy Head at Felpham Community College Site to discuss the issue of litter. Councillors Mrs J Wild and K Watson would also be attending.

There were no other matters arising.

A 158. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT JWAAC MEETING – 11th MARCH 2020:

Councillor G Matthews informed the meeting that the dredging of the Rife would be discussed, and that another question would be raised from Councillor Mrs R Kissell regarding the lighting / accidents on the A259.

There were no other new proposals, currently.

A 159. FELPHAM ALLOTMENTS AND GARDENS SOCIETY REPORT:

Geraldine Whitehead of FAGS reported the following:

“We have three quarter plots available which will be offered to the three at the top of the waiting list as soon as they are prepared. The wet weather is holding up use of the rotovator. That will leave 9 local residents on the waiting list and 7 more awaiting a requested deferred start.

We have investigated sources of manure/soil improver and will be buying in a quantity in the near future to sell to the plot holders.

We have arranged a working party for the 29th of February when we will use the rotovator if the weather permits and finish some late tree pruning and tidying up. A BBQ will be tempting the workers with delicious smells before they put work on hold and enjoy the food at lunch time.

The weed control group have posted information in the cabin to help plot holders, with identifying certain invasive weeds and ways of dealing with them. They will start active help when the weeds start to grow in a few weeks time.

The small hall at St Mary’s has been booked for the AGM on the 24th of November.

Recently the wet weather has made working on our plots difficult. Some plot holders have decided to wait for better conditions while others have been seen enjoying the few dry and balmy days to prepare for the start of the growing season.

The recent storm thankfully did little damage on our plots, but we will all be glad when Spring arrives”.

Councillor Mrs J Wild raised the question of dogs being allowed on the allotments – Geraldine replied that they were not and it was pointed out that St Michael’s also do not allow dogs.

A 160. ST MICHAEL'S ALLOTMENT SITE REPORT:

Glenn Powell was unable to attend the meeting but had submitted the following report:

“The storms have done some damage with a couple of sheds over, but we escaped quite well as we are protected by high hedges and trees. We lost the roof off the reclaimed beach hut but by this meeting it will have been refitted and better secured.

The milder than usual weather has started the grass growing and Ron has already cut round the back areas. He is recovering quickly from his operation. Hopefully we can get more mowing done once this latest wet weather has gone. Several plot holders have started to prepare their plots but others are still to do so. It's that time of year. The grass cutting tidies up the whole site and encourages people to keep their plots active. Most people have kept off the car park grass area and used the higher harder ground for parking. Someone keeps removing the 'polite' council notice reminding people to keep off the grass. Not sure who or why. We've had more wood chippings delivered and will have a mini work party to fill in the ruts in track over the next week or so.

It was good to get a more formal council email that the policy on controlling squirrels is not yet decided and is still under consideration. We would hope it could be decided in time for the planting season and with plot holder consultation. Please note my November report for recommendations.

The daffodils planted round the perimeter and in the orchard are starting to show and we are looking forward to a cheerful display this Spring. Hanging baskets will be planted up in March to be 'brought on' in April and up in May. We have our March work party planned for Saturday 21st March at 9-12. Plant Sale May 16th.

Councillor K Watson wished to state that after visiting St Michael's he was delighted to see the plots and meet with Glenn Powell. Glenn had reported how pleased he was with Councillor Watson's visit.

A 161. FACILITIES CONDITION REPORT:

Drygrounds Lane – nothing new to report.

Fisherman's Gardens – remains in a very good condition.

Planters – FPC plaques to go on the Bognor stretch by St Michael's – to be ordered.

Grassmere Parade – remains in a tidy condition.

Binsted Avenue pond area – Simon Neville was met by Councillor D Smart to discuss the possibility of a replacement gate. Simon said in principle he did not see a problem.

Any response will be reported. Councillor P English has asked Paul Cann regarding an explanation of why the enforcement route is not being actioned as promised. A response is yet to be had.

A 162. IMPROVEMENTS TO STREET SCENE AND OPEN SPACES REVIEW.

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. 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>
<i>Further Allotment Sites</i>	<i>Identifying new possible sites.</i>	<i>Ongoing.</i>
<i>Binsted Pond area</i>	<i>Potential encroachment by builders. Permission sought for a possible bench and wildlife boxes on grassed area in front of the hedge. Site meeting with Simon Neville of WSCC and Councillor D Smart.</i>	<i>Extend hedge. Hedge cut. Annual Maintenance quote received - 'to maintain the hedge and to remove rubbish created = £395 + VAT - agreed. Paul Cann to be contacted regarding Residents letter to explain any actions to be taken regarding possible risk of flooding, focusing on the current climate change.</i>
<i>King George V Playing Fields</i>	<i>Management Plan prepared by ADC.</i>	<i>Management Plan for 2014-2024 received by Council.</i>
<i>Longbrook Park</i>	<i>General improvements and possible vegetated shingle project.</i>	<i>Management Plan for 2012-2022 received by Council.</i>
<i>Fisherman's Gardens & The Lobster Pot</i>	<i>All in a state of good repair.</i>	<i>Ongoing.</i>

Area		
<i>Greenswards/Seafront</i>	<i>Clarification being sought from ADC regarding Dog Fouling fines/education by environmental officers. Trip switch box – ongoing vandalism. New box and key requested. This is also a Health & Safety concern. (Key now received and box to be moved inside the housing block with the other Prom timers).</i>	<i>Awaiting ADC to clarify on dog fouling procedures as not consistent, awaiting Calendar of scheduled visits. Admin Assistant to the Clerk to obtain where this has been sub-contracted out to.</i>

A 163. LONGBROOK PARK, KING GEORGE V & OLD RECTORY GARDENS UPDATES:

King George V & Longbrook Parks – Neil O’Connor of ADC had reported that the Kite Festival had applied to return this August. Councillor Mrs J Wild reported a broken swing – this has been reported by the Admin Assistant to the Clerk to Neil O’Connor – report number: 9455. (19/2/20).

Greenswards/Seafront – Shingle being moved week ending 21st February.

Longbrook Park – Andy Camp of Snook’s Corner Group had sent in the following report:

“ the usual litter pick was carried out on the 2nd February and the daffodils planted in the autumn on the greensward in Sea Road have started to appear”.

New play equipment was in place.

Old Rectory Gardens – James Jones- MacFarland, of ADC, had no updates, at this time.

A 164. TREES: REPORT BY TREE WARDEN:

Steve Alderton was in attendance and reported that the tree order is being chased up for this years planting. Tree applications are being viewed by himself and Rohan Amick as they arise.

A 165. MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE – PREVIOUSLY AGREED WITH THE CHAIRMAN:

There were no matters of urgent public importance.

A 166. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 17th March 2020.

The meeting closed at 7.10 p.m.

Approved.....

Date.....