



FELBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month (except January and August)
at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th April 2024 **at 7.30pm in Felbridge Village Hall**

Present:

Cllr. Jeremy Clarke (Planning Chairman)
Cllr. Stephen Hall
Cllr. Bridget Huntington (Chairman)
Cllr. Lesley Steeds, County Councillor
Cllr. Judy Moore, District Councillor

Cllr. Jane Groom
Cllr. Alex Horwood
Cllr. Ian McBryde (Vice-Chairman)

Mrs. Patricia Slatter (in attendance)

Two members of the public attended the meeting as observers

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None

2. **DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS**

None in addition to those previously disclosed

3. **APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7th March were approved and signed.

4. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Playground Upgrade A draft agreement between TDC and FPC, who will project manage the playground upgrade, has now been provided by TDC and circulated to councillors. The project will be progressed as soon as possible to try to have the works completed for the summer holidays.

Action: Clerk to liaise with FPC's insurers. Clerk and Chairman to progress and report back.

Footpath and Verge on Copthorne Road Cllr. Huntington has reported that the path is inaccessible and a drain appears to be blocked leading to regular flooding and damage to the verge. Cllr. Steeds has asked Surrey Highways to attend.

5. FINANCE

(i) Receipts and Payments for March 2024

Date	To / From	Description	Amount	Current Account	Deposit Account
29 Feb		Brought Forward	£23249.19	£23249.19	£25197.45
		Receipts		0.00	
31 Mar	Lloyds Bank	Interest	0.00	0.00	£161.85
		Total	£23249.19	23249.19	
		Payments			
8 Mar	NEST	Pension Contribution Feb	£245.26	-245.26	
8 Mar	HMRC	Tax and NI February	£546.54	-546.54	
8 Mar	Clerk	Payroll February	£1268.74	-1268.74	
8 Mar	WR Hazeltine	Bus Shelter Cleaning Feb	£45.00	-45.00	
27 Mar	Clerk	Payroll March	£1268.74	-1268.74	
			£3374.28	3374.28	
		Sub-Total		£19874.91	
		Transfers	Nil		
		Carried Forward		£19874.91	£25359.30
		Bank Balances		£19874.91	£25359.30
31 Mar	Available Funds - Current a/c plus Deposit a/c			£45234.21	
31 Mar	Allocated Reserves - traffic calming £2K, bus shelter £6K, playground £15K, skateboard ramp £2k) <i>includes restricted use CIL revenue</i>			-£25000.00	
31 Mar	General Reserve (available funds - including budgeted expenditure - minus Allocated Reserves)			£20234.21	
Current Account statement was circulated to councillors on 2 April 2024, along with the above record of receipts and payments, for transparency and confirmation of accuracy					

(ii) S137 Funding Request from St. Catherine's Hospice

Approved: Councillors agreed to make a donation of £250 to St. Catherine's Hospice which provides support to Felbridge residents. **Action:** Clerk to respond to application and add payment to the Agenda for the next meeting on 2nd May.

(iii) Approval of costs relating to proposal for migration to .gov.uk website and email addresses

Having previously agreed to migration to .gov.uk, councillors considered four anonymous options for providers. From these options, a decision was taken to appoint a smaller company who offered flexibility and the lowest ongoing costs and were recommended by other smaller councils. **Action:** Clerk to progress and report back.

6. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

(i) **Grass Cutting:** The Clerk met with Surrey Highways regarding grass cutting for 2024. There is no option for works to be devolved to FPC as was the case for the previous four years. Highways advise that they have new systems in place using GPS to ensure that works are completed and there will be a dedicated website with an interactive map available for works to be monitored and any issues reported. **Action:** Clerk and councillors to monitor.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr. Steeds continues to attend regular meetings with Surrey Highways and FPC Planning Chairman Cllr. Clarke regarding the proposed MSDC developments on the Felbridge border and the resulting impact on roads and traffic in Felbridge.

As a member of the SCC Gatwick Sub Committee, Cllr. Steeds has emphasised that in addition to issues with noise and pollution, increased traffic would have a particularly adverse impact on Felbridge roads and the Star Junction in particular.

Following Cllr. Huntington's report of a blocked drain on the pavement on Copthorne Road, Cllr. Steeds has visited the site with a Highways officer and arranged for the drain to be cleared and added to the Highways schedule for regular clearance.

Cllr. Steeds had been informed that boxes of magazines were being stolen outside newspaper retailers in both Felbridge and Dormansland and was contacted by the Federation of Small Retailers about the problem. The thefts were affecting sales. She reported this to Surrey Police and fortunately the thief was apprehended at about the same time as her report.

8. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr. Moore reported that a cyclist had come off their bike after hitting a pothole at the Star Junction. The latest air quality results were now available from TDC and Cllr. Moore would send them to the Clerk. Cllr. Clarke explained how the figures were generated and how the results could be interpreted.

9. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS/UPDATES

Tree debris on Grass Verge/Village Green: Cllr. Hall reported that there were tree branches and debris on the grass verge on Crawley Down Road and on the Village Green. **Action:** Clerk to report to TDC as both areas are Common Land.

Limes Pond: Cllr. McBryde asked for an update on when the Limes Pond would be cleared and the fence repaired. The Clerk responded that she chased this regularly with TDC and believed the delay to be due to pond clearance now being undertaken by volunteers.

Gatwick Visit: Cllr. Groom had attended a behind the scenes visit to Gatwick for councillors. The visit was useful and updated information had been provided on future plans and noise and pollution reports. Traffic at the airport is now back to 84% of 2019 levels. A new fast charger point for electric vehicles is also now available for public use at Schlumberger House near the entrance to the South Terminal.

10. SURREY HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY/TDC

Surrey Highways

Potholes on the A264: Patching in this area appears to be taking place on a weekly basis.

TDC

Limes Pond Clearance: Clerk has again chased up this outstanding work.

Open Drain in Village Hall Grounds: A narrow uncovered drain has been reported. It is within the area where there was tree clearance last year. **Action:** Clerk to monitor and follow up if necessary

Graffiti on Shelter: The sides and roof have been covered in graffiti.

SCC Rights of Way

Nothing new to report

11. PLANNING

(i) Applications in Felbridge

Considered at the Planning Meeting on 21st March

2024/207 Wildwood, Herons Lea, Copthorne, Crawley, Surrey, RH10 3HE

Resolved: No Action

2024/139 Yerba Buena, Herons Close, Copthorne, Crawley, Surrey, RH10 3HF

Resolved: No Action

There were no applications for consideration at the full meeting

(ii) Adjoining Planning which may affect Felbridge

Nothing which might directly affect Felbridge

(iii) MSDC Development on Felbridge Border

Meeting with Surrey Highways, Cllr. Steeds and Cllr. Clarke

This useful meeting followed FPC's email to Highways following the concise 'no objection' consultation response from an officer to the Imberthorne Farm development which Cllr. Clarke had noted on the MSDC Planning Portal.

The officers attending were asked if they were satisfied that this development would mitigate its highway impacts, as this is the test the Inspector gave to MSDC for them to determine the application. In a positive response, SCC confirmed they are not satisfied and are having continued discussions with MSDC and TDC. SCC feel that TDC should be consulted on this application due to the significant impacts that it could have upon the roads within Tandridge. SCC are planning to send further comments to MSDC in the next couple of weeks to clarify the position and a follow up meeting is planned. SCC are pushing that if this development goes ahead that their main aim is to secure physical improvements in the area and not financial contributions to schemes (such as the 'corridor project') which may never be implemented. It was noted that Surrey Highways are being helpful and proactive in working with both FPC and TDC in response to the additional proposed MSDC developments in the Felbridge area. Cllr. Clarke explained that while procedural restrictions mean that Surrey Highways are unable to formally object to these applications, they are working to ensure that conditions relating to Highways are imposed and mitigation delivered.

12. CLERK'S REPORT

Antler Homes Development A resident has reported that at least one home is occupied and provided a photograph. This has been reported to MSDC since there is a condition which prohibits occupation before all Highways works are completed.

King's Portrait

Delivery of free portrait being provided for all Town and Parish councils is expected within the next week

Temporary Toilet Hire for 2024

The supplier has confirmed that costs would be held at the same level as 2023. To be added to the Agenda for the May meeting.

Policies Review

Councillors were asked to review the policies on the FPC website in advance of the Annual Meeting to be held immediately prior to the May meeting. The Clerk is reviewing the CCTV policy using data from the ICO website and will upload once available.

SGN Emergency Gas Works

Works to identify and repair a gas leak at the junction with the Copthorne and Crawley Down Roads started on Wednesday.

SGN Equipment Upgrade Works

Works will start at the end of April to upgrade the gas network on the A22 between the Mormon Temple and Woodcock Hill. Temporary lights will move along the A22 as works progress. It is expected to take 12 weeks.

13. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

Year End Finance

Temporary Toilet Hire for Felbridge Village Hall Grounds

15. DATES OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL AND PLANNING MEETINGS

The next full Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday 2nd May. The Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Village Meeting (public meeting) will take place on 18th April followed by the usual Planning Meeting.

The meeting closed at approximately 2030.

Patricia Slatter

Clerk to Felbridge Parish Council

www.felbridge-pc.org.uk

