



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 5th October 2023 **at 7.30pm in Felbridge Village Hall**

Present:

Cllr. Jeremy Clarke
Cllr. Stephen Hall
Cllr. Bridget Huntington (Chairman)
Cllr. Jo King
Cllr. Ian McBryde (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr. Alex Horwood

Mrs. Patricia Slatter (in attendance)

A member of the public attended the start of the meeting to address councillors on his concerns regarding the proposed 200 dwelling development off Crawley Down Road.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from County Councillor Lesley Steeds
District Councillor Judy Moore did not attend

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

Cllr. Clarke did not take part in discussions relating to 2023/1069

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Nothing new to report.

5. FINANCE

(i) Receipts and Payments for September 2023

Date	To / From	Description	Amount	Current Account	Deposit Account
31 August		Brought Forward		£19646.77	£25138.24
		Receipts			
11 Sept	Lloyds Bank	Interest			59.21
25 Sept	TDC	Precept 2		13500.00	
		Payments			
8 Sept	NEST	Pension Contribution Aug	£182.21	-182.21	
11 Sept	Hire-a-Loo	Temporary Toilet Hire July	£132.80	-132.80	
11 Sept	HMRC	Tax and NI August	£365.82	-365.82	
11 Sept	Nick Dance	Grass Verge Cutting	£528.00	-528.00	
11 Sept	Clerk	Payroll August	£958.59	-958.59	
11 Sept	WR Hazeltine	Bus Shelter Cleaning Aug	£45.00	-45.00	
		Sub-Total	£2212.42	-£2212.42	
		Transfers	Nil		
		Carried Forward		£30934.35	
		Bank Balances		£30934.35	£25197.45
30 Sept	Available Funds - Current a/c plus Deposit a/c			£56131.80	
30 Sept	Allocated Reserves - traffic calming £2K, bus shelter £6K, playground £15K, skateboard ramp £2k) <i>includes restricted use CIL revenue</i>			-£25000.00	
30 Sept	General Reserve (available funds - including budgeted expenditure - minus Allocated Reserves)			£31131.80	
Current and Deposit Account statements were circulated to councillors on 3 rd October 2023, along with the above record of receipts and payments, for transparency and confirmation of accuracy					

(ii) **Second Quarter Finance Update:** Councillors had no questions relating to the document detailing income and expenditure against budget which had been circulated to councillors in advance of the meeting

(iii) **Budget Planning:** The Responsible Finance Officer advised that there would need to be an increase in the budget for 2024-25 to meet increasing costs which will require an increase in precept. **Action:** Chairman and RFO to prepare a budget for presentation at the next meeting

(iv) **External Audit:** The external auditor has signed off FPC's accounts for the financial year 2022-23 with no comments and the documents have been put on the noticeboard and uploaded to the website.

(v) **Playground: CIL Funding Application:** FPC's application has progressed to the third and final stage. The meeting at which all seven applications in Tandridge will be presented takes place in late October **Action:** Chairman and Clerk to update application detail to include records of latest damaged equipment and new complaints received and prepare a Powerpoint presentation to support the funding application.

(vi) **RBL Remembrance: Resolved:** It was agreed that last year's poppy wreaths should be reused with the usual £50 cost used instead to replace smaller items. **Action:** Clerk to order

6. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

(i) Grass Cutting: Final cut to be scheduled for late October when weather permits. **Action:** Clerk to arrange.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr. Steeds has attended the first meeting of the Steering Group jointly commissioned by SCC and WSCC. It involves a feasibility study of the A22 corridor between the M25 Junction 6 and East Grinstead and the A264 between M23 Junction 10 and Felbridge.

She was able to provide updated information to the group including the need to factor in Gatwick expansion and confirmed that the Tandridge Local Plan had been found unsound so the planned 4000 dwellings at South Godstone would not now be going ahead. She has proposed that the Felbridge Parish Council Planning Chairman be asked to take part in future meetings so his specific and extensive local knowledge can be made available.

Cllr. Steeds has secured resource to cut back overgrown vegetation obstructing footpaths on Highways land. FPC will provide a list of locations in Felbridge which meet the criteria in advance of her meeting with the Highways Officer responsible.

8. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

None provided

9. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS/UPDATES

Antler Homes Advertising Signs: Since Antler Homes failed to remove the three advertising signs which had been nailed to the fence on Felbridge Village Green near to the crossing, the Clerk submitted a report to Planning Enforcement. The signs were removed before further action was needed.

Crawley Mariners Advertising Sign: Cllr. Clarke reported that a large sign had been placed just inside the grounds. **Action:** Clerk to write to Crawley Mariners to ask for the sign to be removed or replaced. Since it includes advertising for two companies which don't operate from the site, it is in breach of the Tandridge Special Area of Advertising Control.

Coronation Planter: Cllr. Huntington has added some new plants for the winter season. Councillors thanked Cllr. Huntington for her work.

10. SURREY HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY/TDC

Surrey Highways

Overgrown Hedge Near Glebe: Cllr. McBryde reported this has now been cut back by the Surrey Highways contractor.

TDC

Playground: In addition to the swing which has still not be returned, there is now hazard tape restricting use of the see-saw.

Fence: The Clerk has taped off the end of the damaged fence between the car park and Village Hall field which is broken while waiting for TDC to repair.

Limes Pond Fencing: Damage has been reported by Cllr. McBryde

11. PLANNING

(i) Applications in Felbridge

2023/986 26 Rowplatt Lane, Felbridge, RH19 2PA

Resolved: No Action

2023/1069 Entrance Barrier, Lake View Road, Furnace Wood, Felbridge RH19 2QF

Resolved: No Action

2023/1094 Development Site At Grid Reference 536568 141067, Woodcock Hill, Felbridge RH19 2RD

Resolved: Felbridge Parish Council objects to this application. While the volume has dropped since the previous application (2022/1656), the same principles regarding the openness of the Green Belt being adversely affected by the buildings being moved into a more open area still apply. Felbridge Parish Council considers the buildings in the proposed position will ‘significantly impact’ the openness of the Green Belt contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework, and TDC Policy DP13 (F) ostensibly because the new development is being pushed away and behind the curtilage of the existing dwellings and into the open field.

(ii) Applications Received by Neighbouring Authorities

East Grinstead Town Council – none which directly affect Felbridge

Worth Parish Council will also be commenting on the Walnut Marches application. Part of the proposed development falls within the Worth Parish.

(iii) MSDC Development on Felbridge Border

DM/23/0810 71/123 Crawley Down Road Development – Drainage

Despite the Environment Agency requiring the developer and the MSDC Drainage Officer to incorporate FPC’s data evidencing flooding on the site into their reports before going back to the EA, the developer has instead just acknowledged FPC’s data and taken no further action.

Resolved: FPC to go back to the Environment Agency with this information expressing disappointment that their direction has not been followed. **Action:** Cllr. Clarke to draft email for Clerk to send to the Environment Agency and copy to MSDC officer for upload to portal.

11a Crawley Down Road Development – Condition Enforcement

Cllr. Clarke noted that the show home at this development has been open for some weeks but there is still work which the developer are required to complete before any dwellings are occupied. **Action:** Clerk to write to Steven King at MSDC to ask that the developer are reminded of the requirement to complete the kerb build out at the junction of the Crawley Down Road and Copthorne Road which was required as a condition of development to address a Highways safety risk.

iv) **Planning Enforcement:** Tandridge District Council have refused the application for containers to be stored in the car park at Beaver Fisheries following action from Planning Enforcement.

12. CONSULTATION – Surrey Boundary Review

The Local Government Boundary Commission review of Tandridge is due to be completed at the end of October. A further review into Surrey boundaries is now active. **Resolved:** Felbridge Parish Council would prefer to see Horne Parish Council remain within the Lingfield Division with Crowhurst moving to the Godstone Division if considered to secure a more equitable number of electors in each division. **Action:** Clerk to submit response on behalf of FPC.

13. CLERK’S REPORT

Correspondence:

Identifying Landowner: A resident asked for help in identifying the owner of a vacant property since there were issues with overhanging vegetation. Recommended searching Land Registry for ownership and asking TDC for advice on cutting back neighbouring vegetation.

Felbridge School Fireworks: This year's date is Friday 3rd November between 7.00pm and 7.30pm. The Village Hall carpark will be closed for safety during the display. Felbridge School PTA have said they will remove any spent fireworks casings from the playground, field and car park area on Saturday morning.

Surrey Football Association Funding: The Clerk has met a representative who is looking at the options for providing funds to Town and Parish Councils to support improvements to grass roots football grounds. Felbridge Football Club have been offered the opportunity to be involved. **Action:** Clerk to monitor

Hedge Cutting: The hedges at the Football/Tennis Club and alongside Warren Close have been cut.

Temporary Toilet Hire: Confirmation has been given to the supplier that the hire period will end on 31st October.

Annual Parish/Village Meeting 2024: **Resolved:** Thursday 18th April was agreed since it avoided the Easter period and coincided with a planning meeting allowing more time. **Action:** Clerk to book the main hall at Felbridge Village Hall.

13. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

Budget and Precept Level for financial year 2024-25

History Board for Village Green Area

14. DATES OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL AND PLANNING MEETINGS

The next full Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday 2nd November. A Planning Meeting is scheduled for 19th October

The meeting closed at approximately 2055.

Patricia Slatter

Clerk to Felbridge Parish Council

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