

# **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 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, and of the Planning Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

Present: Mr Ian McBryde (Chairman)  
Mr Brian Apps  
Mr Jeremy Clarke  
Mrs Linda Hainge  
Mrs Joan Harwood  
Mrs Bridget Huntington  
Mr Ken Harwood (District Councillor) (attended part of meeting)  
Mr Michael Sydney (County Councillor)  
Mrs Rosalind White (in attendance)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – were received from Mr David Archer.

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

There were no additions to those previously registered.

3. **APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014 and the Planning Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014 were approved and signed.

4. **CHAIRMAN/CLERK'S REPORT**

- (i) **Skateboard Ramp:** The new skateboard should be constructed during the latter part of December and installed January 2015. TDC have agreed to use their tractor and fork lift during installation to avoid damage to the grassed areas.
- (ii) **Replacement of Grit Bin on Woodcock Hill:** The new green bin was installed during November by Clutterbucks.
- (iii) **Pavement at junction of Rowplatt Lane/Copthorne Road:** The pavement at the end of Rowplatt Lane was resurfaced during November.
- (iv) **Parish Assembly:** This annual event on 27<sup>th</sup> November was attended by the Clerk and Chairman. Slides are circulated in the December bag.
- (v) **Verge outside Wards Farm:** The pavement should be cleared by the community gang by end November. Clerk sent email to the Hub management group on 17.11.14 to ask if the verge bordering Wards Farm could be added to the rural cut.
- (vi) **SCC Social Care Team:** Marnie Cotterill will speak at FPC's meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February about her role as a Social Care Development Coordinator.
- (vii) **Access road onto Crawley Down Road:** The results from the air monitoring equipment installed by TDC have been passed to the relevant people.
- (viii) **FSRA Carpark:** Linda Hainge attended the FSRA AGM on 28<sup>th</sup> November. TDC have confirmed that the carpark is included in the FSRA lease and the gate should be left open between dawn and dusk. CCTV has been suggested to monitor the carpark. FSRA will discuss with TDC. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to Chris Voller to confirm the opening times for the gate.

- (ix) **Planning Application TA/2014/1685:** Clerk sent an email to Piers Mason, TDC Planning, to ask why this application for a dwelling on the county boundary in Furnace Wood was decided under delegated action by TDC without consultation with FPC. Piers Mason has confirmed that the 2005 Planning Protocol with MSDC was not revised to include the 200m increase to the distance for cross-border consultation. As part of current discussions between TDC and MSDC, a protocol for cooperation on development management matters will be discussed.
- (x) **Annual Parish Meeting:** Sam Corbin from East Grinstead First Responders has agreed to speak at FPC's Annual Parish Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> April.
- (xi) **Beef & Faggot Trust:** Joan Harwood attended a meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> December to agree the distribution of the £800 fund to local elderly residents.
- (xii) **Poppies on Village Green:** FPC thanked Derek Hainge for removing the poppies which are now stored in FPC's cupboard at the village hall.
- (xiii) **Heavy Goods vehicles along Rowplatt Lane:** Linden Homes have agreed to inform their site management of complaints and will ask them to make drivers aware of FPC's letter and suggest they try to use alternative routes wherever possible.
- (xiv) **Tree Stump on verge along Crawley Down Road:** The base growth has been removed by TDC.
- (xv) **Dog waste bin:** The damaged bin opposite Hedgecourt Lake has been replaced.

## 5. **ONGOING ITEMS**

- (i) **Community Consultation:**  
Transport/Environment and Green Issues: –  
 Actions completed:-
  - a. Gullege Bridleway – David Archer will investigate opening a bank account for this group before applying for any grants.
  - b. Cycle Routes – Michael Sydney is arranging for Lesley Harding to speak to Tandridge District Parish Councils in late February about cycling strategy – one representative from each parish will be invited.Leisure and Health Actions:-
  - a. Footpaths – Footpath 367 – SCC have removed 2 trees from this footpath near junction with Mill Lane. Footpath 263 from Garthfields Farm towards Chartham Park – Gate will be repaired in better weather and will be left ajar in meantime. Leaning fence has been propped up. SCC Countryside Access Officer will write to owner of Garthfield Barn to instruct them to restore the path to its previous condition.
  - b. Outdoor Gym – TDC are arranging for gym equipment to be installed in the village hall grounds. Funding has come from a grant from Surrey's Adult Social Care Budgets – Personalisation, Prevention and Partnership (PPP) Grant.
- (ii) **Hub Project:** Clerk has reported to Hub Management Team that the rural contractor knocks down any signs along the verge with their machine and the signs are left cut into pieces. From November 2014 Jeannie Crosby, Burstow PC Clerk, is the main contact, with Fay Elwood, Lingfield Clerk, as the second contact. Clerk has asked if the verge alongside the boundary of Wards Farm could be added to the rural cut. During 2014, Felbridge received 4 rural cuts and 8 urban cuts. During November/December there was an extra rural and urban cut.

## 6. FINANCE

- (i) **Cheques:** Issue of the following cheques was approved by the council under Standing Orders and the cheques were signed:

108	B. Wright	Bus shelter cleaning for Dec 14	£35.00
109	B. Wright	Bus shelter cleaning for Jan 15	£35.00
110	R. White	Clerk's salary for Dec 14	£232.61
111	HM Revenue & Customs	Income Tax for Dec 14	£58.00
112	R. White	Clerk's salary for Jan 15	£232.61
113	HM Revenue & Customs	Income Tax for Jan 15	£58.00
114	R White	Office Allowance for Dec 14/Jan 15 + Petty Cash Nov	£112.60
115	East Grinstead Community First Responders – Donation		£100.00
116	Foxhole Farm	Grit bin on Woodcock Hill	£280.80

- (ii) **Section 137 Payments:**

**Request for grant from Victim Support:** Clerk has asked for evidence of help given to Felbridge residents. FPC will reconsider a grant when reply received.

- (ii) **New Salary Scales for Clerks for 2014/15:** FPC agreed that the Clerk's salary should increase to £9.90 per hour (£3564 pa) with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015, plus a one off payment of £100 (pro rata £19.78).

## 7. MSDC PLANNING POLICY UPDATE – DISTRICT PLAN 2014-2031: CONSULTATION DRAFT

All councillors to read the draft plan and circulate their comments. Consultation closes on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

## 8. LETTER FROM SURREY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Commissioner is suggesting a 24% increase in the Surrey Police Council Tax Precept, which would be put to the public vote at a referendum in May 2015. **Resolved:** Ian to draft a reply of behalf of FPC confirming that FPC would not welcome such a huge increase.

## 9. COUNCILLORS' FEEDBACK

- (i) **Rodent Problem at Village Hall:** Joan to report to TDC.
- (ii) **Drainage Ditch in front of Village Hall:** This is full of leaves. **Resolved:** Linda agreed to inspect the ditch and if necessary ask TDC to clear it.
- (iii) **Chevrons on roundabout at Mormon Temple:** It was suggested that these should be lowered to aid visibility. **Resolved:** Clerk to send email to Michael.
- (iv) **Parish Council Elections in May:** FPC agreed that these elections should be well advertised and local residents encouraged to stand as parish councillors. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact SALC for posters etc.

## 10. SURREY HIGHWAY REPAIRS:

- (i) **The Star Junction:** Michael Sydney has been corresponding with Surrey MP Sam Gyimah to arrange a meeting with Mid Sussex MP to discuss this junction.
- (ii) **Surrey Highways Strategy for Tandridge:** As there is currently no formal representation by District Councillors on the TDC Local Committee, Michael Sydney has arranged a meeting with District Councillors to discuss this strategy. **Resolved:** Councillors to review this document (circulated in the December bag) and circulate their comments which will be summarised and sent to SCC.

- (iii) **A264 Copthorne Road:** Two new potholes have appeared near to Furnace Wood. **Resolved:** Clerk to report to SCC.
- (iv) **Trees removed from verge along Copthorne Road:** Jeremy has checked the planning application. Two trees to the east of the existing entrance were to be removed to make the entrance and SCC agreed to the removal of the tree to the west of the entrance to meet the requirements of the sight line.

Mr Ken Harwood left the meeting.

## 11. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Planning Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November** attended by David Archer, Joan Harwood, Linda Hainge, Bridget Huntington and Jeremy Clarke.

### **Applications Acknowledged 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014**

**TA/2014/1694:** Hobbs Industrial Estate, Newchapel. Erection of storage building, associated office building, access and parking. **Resolved:** No Action

### **Applications Acknowledged 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

**TA/2014/1794:** Land to the south of Crawley Down Road, Felbridge. Erection of 5 dwellings with associated garages, parking, access and landscaping (Outline). **Resolved:** FPC strongly objects to this outline application with the following comments. This development is within the MSDC Area of Development Restraint and was previously identified by the inspector as being unsustainable. It lies within the 7km buffer zone for Ashdown Forest and will therefore contribute to the accumulative impact upon the Forest. The density of the proposal is inappropriate for this area where the housing density on the south of Crawley Down Road is already low and as you leave the Village you are heading in to much lower densities, the density on the north side of Crawley Down Road in the vicinity of this site is already significantly lower as it is in the designated Green Belt area. The dwellings are overcrowding the width of the site which is the reason that the garage for Plot 1 is required to be in front of the building line. The height of the dwellings is overcrowding to the street scene which is predominantly lower roof ridges at this point on the south side of Crawley Down Road. The screening shown on the plans (within the Surrey part of the plot) will not screen the houses as it is only light scrub and even today with all the trees in the Sussex part of the site, it is possible to clearly see deep into the plot beyond the proposed houses. The application makes a number of observations regarding local amenities within Felbridge, but there are no footpaths from the proposed site to allow safe pedestrian access to these, therefore it is highly likely that this development will increase the number of car journeys. FPC are worried about the impact of further traffic upon the pollution levels and the congestion on Crawley Down Road. FPC do not support any additional road accesses onto Crawley Down Road as this is already a busy road and this will have a small but incremental negative impact upon the Star Junction (A22/A264) which has already been demonstrated by MSDC to be beyond its capacity. FPC are also worried about the significant proposed clearance of the trees from this site including all the mature Acacia trees along the eastern boundary which provide a distinct visual amenity and have given the name to the adjacent timber-framed (late 18<sup>th</sup> century) cottage.

### **Applications Acknowledged 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

**TA/2014/1838 and 14/03966/OUT:** Land to the South of Crawley Down Road, Felbridge. Outline application with all matters reserved bar access and layout, for the erection of 5 detached and semi-detached dwellings with associated parking, garaging, access and landscaping. (Adjoining Authority) **Resolved:** Same as TA/2014/1794.

### **Parish Council Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

### **Applications Acknowledged 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> November 2014**

None in Felbridge

### **Applications Acknowledged 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

**TA/2014/1262:** Felbridge Showground, 72A Copthorne Road, Felbridge. Demolition of existing buildings. Erection of stables, tack room and feed room and formation of sand

school. **Resolved:** FPC have no objection to the position of the sand school. However to minimise the impact on neighbouring residential properties, FPC would strongly recommend the construction of a green obscuring vegetative barrier immediately south of the sand school and stables. This would also provide a green corridor to encourage wildlife to travel through.

Mr Ken Harwood rejoined the meeting

## 12. **CLERK'S REPORT**

- (i) **Estate Agent Boards:** Clerk sent an email to Garnham H Bewley to inform them that no boards should be placed on Surrey Highways verges or the village green without permission from FPC. This agency agreed to speak to the school and ensure all boards were removed after the Christmas fair.
- (ii) **TDC Local Committee:** A meeting will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> December at Oxted.
- (iii) **SALC/NALC Subscriptions:** FPC's subscription for 2015/16 will be £601.68.
- (iv) **Felbridge Bowling Club:** The Club has been successful with their bid for a £600 grant for a new storage shed from Councillor Sydney's Members' Fund.
- (v) **Surrey Local Transport Review:** Councillors were encouraged to complete this questionnaire prior to 14<sup>th</sup> January. It is available online via [surreycc.gov.uk/transportreview](http://surreycc.gov.uk/transportreview).
- (vi) **SCC Localism Opportunity:** SCC has launched its new Localism Scheme and have circulated details.
- (vii) **Election Costs:** TDC have confirmed that the cost to FPC of an election in May 2015 is likely to be around £1700, and £110 if the election is uncontested.
- (viii) **FPC's Standing Orders:** Councillors were reminded that FPC's Standing Orders were amended in September 2014 (Page 6, item 3k) to take account of the new protocol on recording and filming of council meetings.

## 13. **BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING**

None.

## 14. **DATES OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL AND PLANNING MEETINGS**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at 7.30pm. Planning Meetings will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2014 and 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

The meeting closed at approximately 9.25pm.

RW

23<sup>rd</sup> December 2014

Copies sent to:- all Parish Councillors, District Councillor, County Councillor, EG Courier and Observer, Felbridge School, Surrey Police, Felbridge School Governors.