



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 online on 1st October 2020 at 7.30 pm

As permitted by the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 No.392, the meeting of Felbridge Parish Council which took place on 1st October at 7.30pm was held online.

Present:

Cllr. Jeremy Clarke
Cllr. Jo King
Cllr. Ian McBryde (Vice Chairman)
Mrs. Patricia Slatter (in attendance)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Chapman, Cllr. Harwood, Cllr. Huntington and Cllr. Steeds (County Councillor/Interim District Councillor). The meeting was chaired by Vice Chairman Cllr. McBryde. **Approved:** Apologies were accepted from Councillor Joan Harwood until face to face meetings could resume. Cllr. Harwood and the Clerk will liaise regularly.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

No additions to those already registered.

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 3rd September 2020 were approved and signed.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT Nothing new to report

5. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

(i) **Grass Cutting:** A final cut will be scheduled for late October/early November depending on weather. Two areas outside the Felbridge boundary were included in the SCC contract. **Action:** Clerk to seek approval from relevant Parish Councils for these areas to be added to future cutting schedules. Awaiting final update to contract from SCC. **Action:** Clerk to follow up.

(ii) **Off Road Footpath Clearance:** Clerk has circulated a list of footpaths which have been cleared by the Rights of Way team at SCC. **Action:** Councillors to report any other areas which require attention on the SCC website.

(iii) **Pavement Clearance:** Clearance of footpaths alongside roads on the A22, A264 and Crawley Down Road is scheduled for October. Overgrown vegetation will be cut back at ground level overhanging vegetation to leave a height clearance of 2m. **Action:** Clerk to monitor.

(iv) **Verges at Ward Farm:** The proposal to set aside part of these verges for wild flower seeding will be progressed once the agreement for grass cutting and verge maintenance has been agreed with SCC. **Action:** Clerk to monitor.

(v) **Bus Shelter:** One of the damaged laminate panels has now fallen from the frame – possibly by someone leaning back against it. Fitter replaced this panel rather than the roadside panel since it posed a safety risk. **Approved:** Councillors agreed that the remaining empty roadside panel should be re-glazed and approved the expenditure. **Action:** Clerk to organise.

6. **FINANCE**

(i) **Receipts and Payments for September 2020**

A draft Finance Report for September has been circulated to councillors. Due to delays with the bank processing BACS payments a joint report for September and October will be produced.

(ii) **Second Quarter Financial Review**

Expenditure for the half year is in line with budget and this is forecast to continue to year end.

(iii) **SCC Grass Cutting Contract**

Funding from Surrey Highways towards grass cutting in Felbridge will be transferred once SCC provide the final contract for signature. Costs for the year to date have been met from reserves.

(iv) **Proposal for Outdoor Table Tennis Table**

A resident has asked if Felbridge Parish Council would consider adding an outdoor table tennis table to the leisure facilities in the Village Hall grounds. **Agreed:** Councillors agreed in principle. **Action:** Clerk to look at options available and to provide full costing (including a concrete base) for expenditure to be approved.

7. **COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE:**

Councillor Steeds sent a report through the Clerk.

(i) Imberhorne Lane CRC Access: Residents had reported being turned away from this CRC despite an agreement being in place between WSCC and SCC to allow access to residents from Felbridge and other nearby Surrey villages. Councillor Steeds visited the site and spoke to staff. WSCC were also asked to correct misleading signs at the CRC and update their website.

(ii) Surrey Highways closed Crawley Down Road on 15th September to carry out works to a footpath with no advance warning to residents, Village Hall users or the Felbridge Primary School. Surrey Highways agreed to re-open the by 2.30pm to avoid further disruption.

(iii) Speeding within 50mph Zones. Following complaints from residents at Wembury Park, Councillor Steeds raised this issue with Surrey Highways who have confirmed that the problem will be discussed at the next Speed Management meeting in December.

8. **COUNCILLORS' REPORTS/UPDATES**

Councillor Harwood submitted a report through the Clerk.

(i) Dog Waste Bin Stubpond Lane: Councillor Harwood reported that the dog bin appeared to have been hit by a vehicle. It has been reported to TDC. Scouts Litter Pick: Hedgecourt Scouts had borrowed equipment from Cllr. Harwood and conducted two litter picks around Hedgecourt Lake in mid-September.

(ii) Skateboard Ramp: Councillor Clarke had been asked when the equipment would be available for use again. The Clerk reported that there had been a delay in TDC's contractor completing the work but it had now been repaired.

(iii) Pop Up Cycle Lane: Councillor King reported deep concerns about the safety of the new Pop Up Cycle Lane which has been installed from the Star Junction towards East Grinstead. The bollards had reduced the size of the cycle lane; leaves and rubbish were accumulating along the kerbside since it could no longer be cleared and in the section near Windmill Lane in particular, the lane was too narrow for larger vehicles to safely pass. She considered it to be dangerous to both cyclists and drivers. **Agreed:** All councillors shared these concerns and agreed to raise them with WSCC. **Action:** Clerk to send feedback to WSCC Highways.

9. **SURREY HIGHWAYS:**

Signs have been placed at each end of Rowplatt Lane advising residents that SCC plan a change to parking regulations at both junctions. The intention is for double yellow lines to be placed from each junction coming back 15m. It is an offence to park within 15m of a junction and the lines are to prevent vehicles causing an obstruction by blocking sight lines. At the request of residents, the double yellow lines on the west side of the junction with Copthorne Road would extend to the entrance to Rowplatt Close.

10. **PLANNING**

(i) **Applications in Felbridge**

Applications considered at the Planning Meeting held online on 17th September and attended by Councillors Chapman, Clarke, Huntington, King and McBryde

TA/2020/1449 Stubpond Fisheries, Stubpond Lane, Newchapel, RH7 6HU Reconfiguring existing fishing ponds to enhance the site for angling and wildlife.

Resolved: No Action

TA/2020/1524 Oakhurst, Effingham Road, Copthorne, RH10 3HY Erection of single storey rear extension and conversion of garage to habitable accommodation.

Resolved: No Action

TA/2020/1417 Fir Tree Cottage, Domewood, Copthorne, RH10 3HD Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of two storey 3-bed eco dwelling with basement and detached garage.

Resolved: While the modern architecture in this proposal is welcomed, Felbridge Parish Council are concerned about such a significant volume increase in the Green Belt. Further concerns relate to the east views from the balcony and windows which overlook a very close neighbouring property.

Applications considered at the full Parish Council meeting:

TA/2020/1582 Pinecroft, 144 Copthorne Road, Felbridge RH19 2PD Demolition of existing garage, erection of single storey side and rear extensions

Resolved: No Action

TA/2020/1450/TPO Lovell Oaks, 120 Copthorne Road, Felbridge RH19 2NU Felling of one oak tree, branch reduction and raised canopy for three oak trees.

Resolved: Felbridge Parish Council are concerned about the loss of trees and whether the removal could exacerbate the problem. The property was built with the trees in position so the foundations should have been designed accordingly. The NHBC report is inconclusive. The proposal to underpin appears to be designed to prevent damage from trees so once those works have been completed they will presumably protect the property from trees.

(ii) **Applications Received by Neighbouring Authorities**

Gibbshaven Farm, Furnace Farm Road, Furnace Wood, RH19 2PU Conversion of listed barn and granary buildings to create a residential dwelling

(iii) **Planning Enforcement: 17 Copthorne Road**

Advertising Sign: The developers of this site have submitted an appeal against the refusal of their application to retain the advertising sign. **Action:** Clerk to monitor

11. **CONSULTATIONS**

(i) **MSDC Site Allocations DPD Consultation**

Felbridge Parish Council's detailed response to the MSDC Site Allocations DPD has been submitted; uploaded to the FPC website and shared with Tandridge District Council and East Grinstead Town Council. **Resolved:** Vice-Chairman Councillor Ian McBryde put on record the appreciation of councillors and residents for the huge amount of work Councillor Jeremy Clarke had put into this project and the recognition that his knowledge and experience in this field were highly valuable.

(ii) **Open Spaces Review, Tandridge District Council**

Tandridge District Council's review of Open Space (leisure, sports and play facilities) began on 28th September and residents are invited to comment. There will be further consultation with parish councils before implementation. **Action:** Clerk to monitor

(iii) Government Reform of the Planning System

Councillor Chapman attended a Zoom conference on this subject organised by Tandridge District Council and will report back to November meeting. **Action:** Chairman to prepare report

(iv) Local Government Reorganisation

This proposal has been put on hold. The expected government Green Paper was not submitted

(v) Copthorne Neighbourhood Plan

Councillors will review the plan and discuss at the November meeting at which time it will be decided whether there are any elements which directly affect Felbridge. **Action:** Clerk to include on agenda for November meeting.

12. RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

Advice from the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks is for meetings to continue to be held remotely. **Resolved:** The next full meeting of Felbridge Parish Council will take place online and a decision will be taken then regarding the December meeting.

13. CLERK'S REPORT

(i) Correspondence from Residents:

Correspondence received from residents included:

- Complaint about a road sign which has been left on the Copthorne Road verge. This is a diversion sign and will not be removed until all M23 works have been completed.
- Complaint about speeding vehicles particularly late night or early morning, some of which make excessive noise.
- Concerns raised about potential works to trees. Tree Officer has investigated.

(ii) East Grinstead Museum: East Grinstead Museum have asked for councillors and residents to submit stories and memories from 2020 for a future exhibition.

(iii) Remembrance Service: Clerk has ordered wreath to be laid by the Chairman on behalf of Felbridge Parish Council. Rev. Mark Francis will confirm how this year's Remembrance Service can take place. **Action:** Clerk to monitor

14. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

Parish Councillor Vacancy

15. DATES OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL AND PLANNING MEETINGS

The next full Parish Council meeting will take place online on Thursday 5th November at 7.30pm. A planning meeting is scheduled for Thursday 15th October.

The meeting closed at approximately 2100.

Patricia Slatter

Clerk to Felbridge Parish Council

