



FELBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Felbridge Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd May 2024 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room at Felbridge Village Hall

Present:

Cllr. Jeremy Clarke (Planning Chairman)
Cllr. Stephen Hall
Cllr. Bridget Huntington (Chairman)
Mrs. Patricia Slatter (in attendance)

Cllr. Jane Groom
Cllr. Alex Horwood
Cllr. Nigel Lea

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

County Councillor Steeds, District Councillor Moore and Cllr. McBryde

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 4th April were approved and signed.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Playground Upgrade A agreement between TDC and FPC has now been received and the order can be placed once TDC provide a Purchase Order number. A start date is to be confirmed but it is expected to be in August. The project is expected to take two to three weeks to complete. **Action:** Clerk and Chairman to report back.

Youth Shelter Councillors agreed to a suggestion that the shelter was repainted. **Action:** Clerk to get quotes and report back.

Footpath and Verge on Copthorne Road Part of the hedge near the drain have been cut back. Cllr. Steeds has arranged for the drain to be cleared and Highways have confirmed to the Clerk that this will be done within weeks. The drain has been added to the regular schedule so will now be cleared twice a year.

5. FINANCE

(i) Receipts and Payments for April 2024

Date	To / From	Description	Amount	Current Account	Deposit Account
31 Mar		Brought Forward	£19874.91	£19874.91	£25359.30
		Receipts			
12 Apr	TDC	Precept 1	£15000.00	£15000.00	
26 Apr	TDC	CIL Interest Payment	54.31	54.31	
		Total	£34929.22	34929.22	
		Payments			
3 Apr	HMRC	Tax and NI March	£546.54	-546.54	
3 Apr	SLCC	Annual Subscription	£188.00	-188.00	
3 Apr	SALC	Annual Subscription	£788.86	-788.86	
3 Apr	WR Hazeltine	Bus Shelter Cleaning Mar	£45.00	-45.00	
9 Apr	NEST	Pension Contribution Mar	£245.26	-245.26	
			£1813.66	-1813.66	
		Sub-Total		£33115.56	
		Transfers	Nil		
		Carried Forward		£33115.56	£25359.30
		Bank Balances		£33115.56	£25359.30
30 Apr	Available Funds - Current a/c plus Deposit a/c			£58474.86	
30 Apr	Allocated Reserves - traffic calming £2K, bus shelter £6K, playground £15K, skateboard ramp £2k) includes restricted use CIL revenue			-£25000.00	
30 Apr	General Reserve (available funds - including budgeted expenditure - minus Allocated Reserves)			£33474.86	
Current Account statement was circulated to councillors on 1 st May 2024, along with the above record of receipts and payments, for transparency and confirmation of accuracy					

(ii) **Year End Financial Report:** The report previously circulated was noted. Costs for the financial year 2023-24 remained within budget.

(iii) **Expenditure Approval – Temporary Toilet Hire** End May-September 2024. Councillors approved the cost of £25 per week to run through to September/October. **Action:** Clerk to order.

(iv) **Insurance 2024-25 Approved:** Councillors agreed to remain with Zurich since there had only been a minimal increase in costs for renewal. **Action:** Clerk to organise

(v) **CIL Annual Return:** Completed, submitted and uploaded to website

6. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

(i) **Grass Cutting:** The first Urban cut by the Surrey Highways contractor took place at the end of April but the Rural cut has still not taken place. The Clerk has reported these and is awaiting a response. **Action:** Clerk to report back.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Tree Overhanging Footpath Cllr. Steeds responded to a query from a resident regarding trees alongside the Highway near the junction of Crawley Down Road and Warren Close. The response was “We have carried out a site visit and we have requested for 1 tree which is located at the junction of Crawley Down Road and Warren Close to be lifted to allow passage of the footpath and carriageway, we have also put this tree on our annual epicormic programme which will have the lower growth (epicormic growth) up to 3.5m removed yearly. All the other trees along this stretch were assessed as not meeting intervention at this time.. We expect the lifting of the crown to be carried out Before the end of July and the epicormic work package will be issued at the end of July with the expectation of it being completed before the end of October”

Highways Cllr. Steeds met the Highways officer who has been dealing with the MSDC development impact on roads while visiting SCC while visiting SCC and asked that their response was more robust.

Gatwick North Runway Project: It has been agreed that visits will be made by inspectors during the examination period to the areas which it was suggested would be particularly impacted by expansion either from an environmental perspective or due to increased traffic congestion. Locations include Hedgecourt Lake, Mill House fields and the Mormon Temple along with the Star Junction, A22 and A264 in Felbridge.

8. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr. Moore has reported two issues to Surrey Highways and has again met with an applicant at a property on Wire Mill Lane regarding Planning.

9. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS/UPDATES

Annual Village Meeting: Cllr. Horwood said that he had been impressed with the meeting and felt it had gone particularly well. The attendance was between 60 and 70 which is a good response.

Tree debris on Grass Verge/Village Green: Cllr. Hall asked for an update on the tree branches and debris which are still on the grass verge on Crawley Down Road and on the Village Green. The Clerk has reported this several times but there are serious staff shortages at TDC has led to a backlog of reports awaiting response. **Action:** Clerk to monitor.

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.

Star Inn – Damaged Drain: Quick response to the report of damaged drain affecting the footpath alongside the Star Inn on Copthorne Road. Now repaired.

TDC

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

Open Drain in Village Hall Grounds: TDC have made safe the damaged drain.

Mill Lane: TDC have swept the road near the junction with Copthorne Road and removed a built up of debris and also swept the footpath near Toads Croak house where there have been drainage issues.

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

2024/342 The Homestead, Copthorne Road, Felbridge, RH19 2QQ

Resolved: Felbridge Parish Council consider that insufficient evidence has been provided to support this application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for Existing Use. While documents such as tenancy agreements, statements from tenants, receipts or bank statements have been provided in previous similar situations, none have been submitted to support this application.

2024/364 Rickstones, Lake View Road, Felbridge, RH19 2QF

Resolved: No Action

2024/411 24 Rowplatt Lane and land to the rear of 24-30 Rowplatt Lane, Felbridge, RH19 2PA

Resolved: Felbridge Parish Council object to a number of the alterations which it is felt are very significant and to the detriment of the development. In particular, the raising of the roof over the garages such that the built form now fills in the previously open feature between the detached buildings. This significantly reduces the visibility of the Green Belt beyond for the residents in 24-30 Rowplatt Lane. Councillors are concerned about the unification of materials through the removal of the partial tile hanging as this generates a consistent more urban appearance. In general, the development now looks more like an urban terrace than a rural development at the edge of the Green Belt. This is particularly emphasised in the CGI rendering within the application. The building up of the roof creates significant increases, massing and bulk of the development again at the boundary of the Green Belt and is inconsistent with a rural development.

(ii) **Adjoining Planning which may affect Felbridge**

Nothing which directly affects Felbridge

(iii) **MSDC Development on Felbridge Border**

Welbeck Development, Imberhorne Lane: Cllr. Clarke took part in a further telecon meeting on 19th April with two senior officers from Surrey Highways. Regarding the Welbeck Development off Imberhorne Lane, Cllr Clarke has asked for clarification on whether they are 'satisfied that the development would mitigate its transport impact'. Their current response is *"It is acknowledged that the network is constrained and the proposals are not able to fully meet the Allocation Policy"*. This will be followed up by FPC later in the process when the Developer's Transport Consultant has responded to SCC's consultation response. James Lehane has agreed to take the concerns regarding school allocation impacting the local area and causing further car journeys to a strategy meeting next week which Highways and Education attend. It was confirmed that MSDC will not assign TDC as a statutory consultee which was expected.

Antler development at 11a Crawley Down Road The Surrey Highways officers will act on the failure of the developer to deliver the kerb build-out at their site before occupation. They see this as a key highway safety issue and are not happy that it has been 'forgotten'.

12. CLERK'S REPORT

Correspondence: Issues regarding advertising signs were addressed along with concerns from a resident regarding a local development.

TDC Gatwick Meeting: Cllr. Clarke agreed to represent FPC at a meeting organised by TDC regarding Gatwick expansion and the impact on local villages. Invitations were also issued to Dormansland, Lingfield, Burstow, Horne, Crowhurst and Godstone. **Action:** Cllr. Clarke to report back to the June meeting.

.Gov.uk Domain: New domain has been registered (felbridge-pc.gov.uk). The transfer process will be progressed when time allows.

13. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

Annual Audit Forms to be presented to council, approved and signed by Chairman and Clerk/RFO

14. DATES OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL AND PLANNING MEETINGS

The next full Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday 6th June. A Planning Meeting is scheduled for 16th May.

The meeting closed at approximately 2100.

Patricia Slatter

Clerk to Felbridge Parish Council

www.felbridge-pc.org.uk

