



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 3rd April 2025 **at 7.30pm in the Committee Room at Felbridge Village Hall**

Present:

Cllr. Jeremy Clarke (Planning Chairman)
Cllr. Stephen Hall
Cllr. Bridget Huntington (Chairman)
Cllr. Nigel Lea
Cllr. Ian McBryde (Vice Chairman)

In attendance:

County & District Cllr. Lesley Steeds
Mrs. Patricia Slatter, Clerk to Felbridge Parish Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

District Councillors Nicholas White and Nicola O’Riordan, Cllr. Jane Groom, Cllr. Alex Horwood

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

None in addition to those which were previously disclosed

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6th March were approved and signed.

4. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Cllr. Huntington reported that the section of footpath on the Copthorne Road which is impassable in wet weather has still not been cleared despite Surrey Highways responding to say that the works would be completed. **Action:** Cllr. Steeds to follow up.

5. FINANCE

(i) Receipts and Payments for March 2025

(1) Receipts and Payments for March 2025					
Date	To / From	Description	Amount	Current Account	Deposit Account
28 Feb		Brought Forward		23608.27	£5530.40
		Receipts			
13 March	HMRC VTR	VAT Refund	£321.36	321.36	
	Lloyds Bank	Interest Feb/March			9.10
		Total Receipts	£321.36	321.36	9.10
		Sub-Total		23929.63	
		Payments			
7 March	NEST	Pension	£252.89	-252.89	
7 March	Payroll	February Payroll	£1875.11	-1875.11	
7 March	WRH	Bus Shelter Cleaning February	£45.00	-45.00	
7 March	Clerk	Office Expenses	£43.69	-43.69	
28 March	Lloyds Bank	Service Charge	£4.25	-4.25	
31 March	Nick Dance	Hedge Cut Village Green	£264.00	-264.00	
31 March	Payroll	March Payroll	£1875.11	-1875.11	
31 March	Planning Chairman	Mileage and Printing Expenses	£77.85	-77.85	
		Total Payments	£4437.90	-4437.90	
		Bank Account Totals c/f		£19491.73	£5539.50
31 March	Available Funds - Current a/c plus Deposit a/c			£25031.23	
31 March	Allocated Reserves - bus shelter £5K			-£5000.00	
31 March	General Reserve (available funds - including budgeted expenditure - minus Allocated Reserves)			£20031.23	
Current and Deposit Account statements were circulated to councillors on 2 nd April 2025, along with the above record of receipts and payments, for transparency and confirmation of accuracy					

- (ii) **Unity Trust Bank** – New account opening still being progressed. **Action:** Clerk to monitor
- (iii) **CIL Income and Expenditure:** Initial payments from the 24 Rowplatt Lane development to be paid in April. The quote for reinstating the damaged path between the playground and the skateboard ramp and replacing damaged fencing with new compliant multi coloured fencing is £5250+VAT. **Expenditure Approved:** £5250+VAT from the CIL payments due in April to be allocated to the path and fencing works. **Action:** Clerk to place order once CIL funds have been received.
- (iv) **80th Anniversary of VE Day:** **Expenditure approved** of up to £200 for a memorial plaque on a cast iron stand to be placed on Felbridge Village Green.
- (v) **KSS Air Ambulance:** Request for a grant to support the Air Ambulance charity which covers the Felbridge area. **Expenditure approved:** A donation of £300 was approved. **Action:** Clerk to add to BACS run for the May meeting.

6. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- (i) **Highways Grass Verge Cutting:** Second grass cut was made in early April. Surrey Highways passed on their thanks to FPC for their positive feedback on recent grass cuts.

7. COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

Unitary Authority Proposals: Awaiting decision by minister as to whether Surrey will be split into two or three Unitary Authorities but it is expected that the split will be East/West.

Rowplatt Lane: Awaiting update from Surrey Highways on action to be taken to address resident concerns about the road being used as a 'rat run'. Highways confirm that they consider it feasible to consult on proposals for the junction of Rowplatt Lane and Copthorne Road to be placed under a 'point no entry' traffic order. This would mean that traffic could no longer enter Rowplatt Lane from Copthorne Road but Rowplatt Lane would not become one-way. The proposal is wholly in response to road safety concerns including near misses involving children.

8. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr. White

Skateboard Ramp: Cllr. White is pleased that TDC have now completed repairs.

Professional Dog Walkers: Cllr. White advises that professional dog walkers are now required to apply for a licence to use council owned land.

Cllr. O’Riordan

Nothing new to report

9. COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS/UPDATES

Speedwatch: Cllr. Hall reported that the first training session has taken place with another to follow.

TDC Signs: Cllr. Hall noted that TDC have started placing new signs on council owned land in Felbridge.

VE Day 80th Anniversary: Cllr. Hall reported that TDC have planted a tree on Felbridge Village Green at FPC’s request to mark this anniversary. A sign is to be added to record the anniversary.

Overflowing Drain by Star Pub: Following Cllr. Groom’s report, Surrey Highways have visited the premises and had confirmation that repair works will be made.

Overgrown Hedge at The Glebe: Reported by Cllr. McBryde. Highways confirmed that they would speak to the householder who is required to cut the hedge back which is obstructing the footpath but this has not yet been done. **Action:** Cllr. Steeds to follow up with Highways.

New Footpath Signs: Cllr. McBryde reported that new signs have been provided on some local footpaths and that a broken stile has been replaced.

Unitary Authority Update: Cllr. Lea attended the online meeting on 3rd April and found it useful.

Damaged Crawley Down Road Sign: Cllr. Lea had tried to report the damaged sign on Crawley Down Road facing Rowplatt Lane but it comes under Sussex. **Action:** Clerk to email WS Councillor Ian Gibson.

Footpaths: Cllr. Huntington reported that many of the local footpaths have now been cleared. An issue remained near Wiremill Woods which she would report to the Public Rights of Way team at SCC.

10. SURREY HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY/TDC MAINTENANCE REPORTS

Potholes at Furnace Wood: Multiple reports of potholes on the A264 which is due to be resurfaced.

Cllr. Clarke reported that the worst potholes in the layby (Lake View Road) have now been repaired.

Skateboard Ramp: Now repaired and reopened

Gorse Bushes: Removed by FPC contractor

Limes Pond Fence: Now repaired

Drainage Ditch along Crawley Down Road: Has not yet been cleared by TDC

11. PLANNING

(i) Applications in Felbridge

Considered at Planning Meeting on 20th March

2025/97 Collingwood, Rowplatt Lane, Felbridge RH19 2NY

Resolved: Felbridge Parish Council object to this application as it is considered to represent over development of the site. This is characterised by overly filling the width of the plot leaving less than 1m to the boundary which was the minimum TDC would accept for a single storey building. Furthermore, this property does not have off-road parking facilities to support a four-bedroomed dwelling.

2025/180 40 Rowplatt Lane, Felbridge RH19 2NY

Resolved: No Action

2024/1293 Land at 81 Copthorne Road, Felbridge RH19 2PB

Resolved: FPC have no objection to the development of 3 houses within the built up area boundary.

However, we are very concerned about the narrow single lane access from the Copthorne Road with no passing facilities within the red lined property. This is likely to cause entering vehicles to wait on Copthorne Road when another vehicle is exiting the site. We are doubtful that emergency service would be able to use this access. As the site has not been used in the last decade as a fully operational horticultural business we believe there will be an increase in vehicular movements. Roadside refuse collection is also likely to be an issue with 4 houses having to put their bins at the kerbside when only a narrow ownership is available and this is the access.

Applications considered at the meeting:**2025/200 Felbridge & Sunnyside Cricket Club, London Road, Felbridge RH19 2RQ**

Resolved: Felbridge Parish Council support Felbridge & Sunnyside Cricket Club's proposals which will improve the facility; provide a new community space and enhance the Green Belt

2025/313 Land to the rear of 31 & 32 Rowplatt Lane, Felbridge RH19 2PA

Resolved: No Action

2024/1416 Land North of Effingham Road, RH10 3HY

Resolved: While Felbridge Parish Council have no objection to this site being used for this purpose, there are concerns about a lack of information. It was noted that while the Eco Survey states that no evidence of dormice was found, the supporting report has not been provided. At -45% the BNG figure is very high. There is an area within the overall site for BNG delivery but no information on how that area is to be managed and the BNG figure maintained. There are further concerns regarding vehicle movements within the site as the road and access to the individual plots are narrow particularly when considering the size of vehicles using the site.

(ii) Adjoining Planning which may affect Felbridge

Nothing which directly affects Felbridge

(iii) MSDC Development on Felbridge Border

Surrey Highways have responded to FPC's email to Cllr. Steeds raising major concerns at Surrey Highways' failure to ensure that funding for the Star Junction was included as a condition of the Welbeck application for 550 dwellings and a care village with up to 150 dwellings off Imberhorne Lane was approved at the Mid Sussex District Council Planning Meeting on 13th February. Surrey Highways said that they don't have the power to enforce such action but it was noted that the Inspector had stated in his report that both West Sussex and Surrey Highways had to agree all highways works. Surrey Highways could therefore have imposed that condition. **Resolved:** Felbridge Parish Council to submit a response clarifying this condition.

Action: Cllr. Clarke to draft a response to be submitted by the Clerk.

12. CLERK'S REPORT

Temporary Toilet Hire – Price confirmed at the same rate as last year (£25 pw) which is within the allocated budget. Hire scheduled to start 4th April and run through the summer holidays.

Correspondence: Complaints about speeding and parking. Vans parking on the footpath on Rowplatt Lane immediately stopped doing so after notes were placed on the windscreens.

Advertising Breach: Company contacted after failing to remove advertising signs. Same company have previously fixed signs to pallets left on the roadside. Have advised that Felbridge is an Area of Special Control of Advertising and asked for signs to be removed to avoid enforcement action.

13. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

Year End Finance Report

Audit

14. DATES OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL AND PLANNING MEETINGS

The Annual Meeting of Felbridge Parish Council will take place on 1st May immediately followed by the next full Parish Council meeting. A planning meeting is scheduled for Thursday 15th May.

The meeting closed at approximately 2100.

Patricia Slatter

Clerk to Felbridge Parish Council

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