

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 6th June 2013 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, and of the Planning Meeting held on 16th May

Present: Mrs Bridget Huntington (Chairman)
Mr Brian Apps
Mr Jeremy Clarke
Mrs Linda Hainge
Mrs Rosalind White (in attendance)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Mr Ian McBryde, Mrs Joan Harwood, Mr Ken Harwood (District Councillor), and Mr Michael Sydney (County Councillor).

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

Councillor Bridget Huntington chose to leave the planning meeting on 16th May whilst Planning Application TA/2013/609 was being discussed and voted upon in order to avoid any perception of apparent or actual bias arising, given that she is a resident of The Limes. There were no further additions to those previously registered.

3. **APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting and Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd May 2013 and the Planning Meeting held on 18th April were approved and signed.

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

- (i) **APH:** APH are in the process of setting up this service. Once completed APH will provide a link to their website and a phone number. **Resolved:** A press release will then be sent to the EG Courier and the Felbridge email hub group.
- (ii) **Hedges:** Felbridge School has noted FPC's request that the hedge alongside Copthorne Road is cut well back this year.
- (iii) **Connells Board on Village Green:** An email has been sent to the East Grinstead and Copthorne branches of Connells Estate Agents to inform them that in future any boards placed on the village green will be immediately removed.
- (iv) **A-Boards at end of Wiremill Lane and outside Peacock Lodge:** County Councillor Michael Sydney is seeking advice from Surrey Highways regarding the boards along the A22.
- (v) **Bed Centre:** The exterior cladding has been replaced. Advertising consent will be required for any board erected permanently alongside the boundary of this site.

5. **ONGOING ITEMS**

- (i) **Community Consultation:** Public Meetings have been arranged at the Village Hall on Friday, 7th and Saturday, 8th June. These meetings have been advertised via the EG Courier, posters, the village website and the email hub group. Emails were sent to residents who completed the survey and expressed an interest in attending the public meetings. Comments from survey responses relating to the website have been sent to the website team and details of residents requesting information about a garden plot have been forward to this society. FPC will have a stand at the village fair on 22nd June where results from the survey will be displayed.

- (ii) **Hub Project:** The final 2012 rural cut which was started on 2nd April has still not been completed. A meeting with the contractor is being arranged.

6. FINANCE

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

997	B. Wright	Bus shelter cleaning for June 13	£33.60
998	R. White	Clerk's salary for June 13	£222.19
999	HM Revenue & Customs	Income Tax for June 13	£55.40
000	R White	Office Allowance for June and Petty Cash for May	£73.45
001	East Park Riding for the Disabled Group	Donation for new saddle	£100.00
002	Surrey Wildlife Trust	Membership subs wef 01.05.13	£38.00
003	The Felbridge Village Hall	Hire of Committee Room and cupboard April 2013 – March 2014	£219.80
004	Broker Network Ltd	Liability Insurance wef 01.06.13	£734.15

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

(a) **Village Hall Committee:** A request has been received for a donation towards the costs of a new patio at the village hall. **Resolved:** FPC agreed to discuss this application once a decision has been made on an application to the SCC Local Committee.

(b) **Local Works:** A request has been received for financial help with the campaign for a supermarket levy. **Resolved:** FPC agreed not to send a donation.

(c) **FSRA:** A letter has been received requesting a donation towards the costs of pitch maintenance. **Resolved:** FPC agreed that, although they fully support FSRA, due to limited funds they are unable to help on this occasion. FPC recommends that FSRA apply for funding from Queen Elizabeth II Fields in Trust.

- (iii) **EG CVS:** A request has been received for FPC to renew their membership wef 1st April 2013. **Resolved:** It was agreed to renew at a cost of £12.50
GACC: A request has been received for FPC to renew their membership wef 1st May. **Resolved:** It was agreed to renew at a cost of £10.

7. MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL PROPOSED SUBMISSION DISTRICT PLAN

It was agreed to submit the following comments to MSDC, with a copy to TDC:

- (i) **DP10 - Preventing Coalescence**

FPC are concerned that the proposed District Plan does not provide adequate and robust protection of the strategic gap between East Grinstead and Felbridge such that coalescence and loss of separate identity of the Felbridge settlement are prevented.

- (ii) **DP12 - New Homes in the Countryside**

Although DP12 offers the same level of justification for new homes in the countryside (effectively what was the AODR), FPC are concerned that the phrase 'presumption against development of the countryside except in very special circumstances' which used to precede the justifications that had to be met to overcome the 'very special circumstances' is not anywhere in this document.

8. **RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR SITE AT CRAWLEY DOWN GARAGE**

FPC has received a letter and plan from Les Humphrey Associates indicating land at the Crawley Down Garage site for consideration for residential development. **Resolved:** FPC agreed to reply thanking this company for highlighting the current situation.

9. **LETTER TO TDC RE ACCESS ROAD ONTO COPTHORNE ROAD**

FPC has received a copy of a letter sent to TDC from residents of Mulberry Gate who are concerned about the access road at 17 Copthorne Road. **Resolved:** FPC agreed to ask the District Councillor to request that planning application TA/2012/729 goes to the Planning Committee.

10. **COUNCILLORS' FEEDBACK**

- (i) **FPC's Financial Regulations:** These have been reviewed and updated by the RFO and circulated to all councillors.
- (ii) **Polling Day:** Problems were experienced by other hirers of the village hall. The Village Hall Committee will write to TDC about these problems.
- (iii) **Crawley Down Road/Rowplatt Lane Junction:** Clerk to check that road and pavement are reinstated correctly following work by utility company.
- (iv) **Verge surrounding bus shelter in Crawley Down Road:** This grass does not get cut by either WSCC or TDC. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact Steve Hyder, TDC, to ask if the TDC contractor could cut this stretch of grass.
- (v) **Felbridge Country Show:** The Country Show Committee have requested permission to place advertising boards on the village green for 3 weeks prior to the Country Fair on 22nd June and the Skittles Evening on 13th July. **Resolved:** FPC agreed to this request.
- (vi) **Bus Shelter in Copthorne Road:** This was badly damaged by a vehicle over the week-end 1st/2nd June. Clerk to investigate who was responsible for this damage.
- (vii) **Felbridge Horticultural Society:** This society has been erecting posters on the Parish Council noticeboards without permission. **Resolved:** Clerk to send a letter to Chairman to ask them to refrain from putting posters on FPC noticeboards.

11. **SURREY HIGHWAY REPAIRS:**

- (i) **Tree on verge at eastern entrance to Furnace Wood:** Removed in May 2013
- (ii) **A22:** The road surface sunk on the northbound carriageway opposite Felside and Sylvan Wood. Reported 4.6.13. Repaired 7.6.13.
- (iii) **Crawley Down Road:**
Dip in pavement outside St John's Ambulance building, causing lady to fall. Reported 25.4.13 Ref MG00408961. Email sent to Highways Officer 30.5.13.
Drain sunk next to kerb on westbound carriageway, opposite green. Re-reported 25.4.13 - Ref MG00408976. Email sent to Highways Officer 30.5.13.
Surface breaking up on westbound carriageway opposite Village Hall entrance and outside Oaklands. Re-reported 25.4.13 – Ref MG00408984. Repaired when checked on 29.5.13.
- (iv) **Rowplatt Lane:**
Road sinking around drain opposite No.3. Re-reported 4.6.13 Ref MG00367124
Road sinking around drain outside No 53. Re-reported 4.6.13 Ref 273197.

12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning Meeting held on 16th May 2013 attended by Jeremy Clarke, Linda Hainge, Joan Harwood and Bridget Huntington.

Applications Acknowledged 29th April – 3rd May 2013

None in Felbridge

Applications Acknowledged 6th – 10th May 2013

TA/2013/609: Land at The Limes, Felbridge. Erection of detached dwelling.

Resolved: FPC object to this application due to the negative impact it will have upon the principle front windows of Crossways. This is as a result of it being inappropriate due to its bulk and size. It is also taller than the neighbouring property. This proposal does not support the proven need for smaller dwellings in Felbridge as determined by the 2013 community survey. The full height front elevation window is out of keeping.

TA/2012/837: Land adj Chester Lodge, Woodcock Hill, Felbridge. **Resolved:** No Action.

Parish Council Meeting held on 6th June 2013

Applications Acknowledged 13th – 17th May 2013

TA/2013/680: Oast House, Woodcock Hill, Felbridge. Discharge of planning obligation dated 13 September 2002 from application TA/2002/20. **Resolved:** No Action.

TA/2013/612: 34 Crawley Down Road, Felbridge. Erection of part single/part two storey extension to west elevation. Erection of two storey extension to north elevation. Erection of two storey extension to south east elevation. **Resolved:** FPC consider that the size of the proposed property is appropriate for the site but are concerned that the design of the proposed property is out of character with the rest of the surrounding properties in Crawley Down Rd. FPC would like to see a condition placed that no builder's materials or vehicles are to be placed on the grass verges.

Applications Acknowledged 20th – 24th May 2013

TA/2013/604: Churchill Farm, West Park Road, Newchapel. Erection of acoustic barrier around existing motor circuit. **Resolved:** FPC support this application.

Applications Acknowledged 28th – 31st May 2013

None in Felbridge

13. CLERK'S REPORT

- (i) **Land on A22:** Land between The Laurels and Oakview, adjacent to the A22, is due to be auctioned on 17th June. **Resolved:** FPC to ask TDC to formally confirm again that TDC would not pursue a Rural Exception Policy without the full support of FPC.
- (ii) **Felbridge Country Show:** FPC will have a stand and will display the results of the Community Consultation Survey. Clerk to confirm rota to man the stand.
- (iii) **Felbridge Bowling Club:** FPC have sent a letter to support the Bowling Club's application for a grant from the Queen Elizabeth II Fields in Trust.
- (iv) **Superfast Broadband:** SCC's Superfast Team have arranged a seminar in Lingfield on 13th June.
- (v) **FPC Meeting Dates:** The Parish Council Meeting dates now seem to clash with the TDC Planning Policy Committee dates. **Resolved:** When these meetings are on the same dates, it was agreed to ask the County and District Councillors to provide a written report for the FPC meeting.
- (vi) **Vacancy for a Parish Councillor:** This vacancy has been advertised on all noticeboards and the website.
- (vii) **Trees in Village Hall Grounds:** A resident of McIver Close has complained about trees that overhang his property. **Resolved:** Clerk to reply pointing out that the resident can cut back these trees as long as they are not protected by TPO's or can ask TDC to carry out this work.

(viii) **Volunteers Insurance:** Anne Bott, Surrey ALC, has confirmed that volunteers are not generally covered by Public Liability Insurance.

14. **BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETNG** - None

15. **DATES OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL AND PLANNING MEETINGS**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 4th July 2013 at 7.30pm. A Planning Meeting will be held on 20th June.

The meeting closed at approximately 9.55pm.

RW

13th June 2013

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