

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 4th October 2018 at 7.30pm in Felbridge Village Hall.

Present:

Mr. Jeremy Clarke (Chairman)
Mr. Ian McBryde (Vice Chairman)
Mrs. Bridget Huntington
Mrs. Patricia Slatter (in attendance)

Mrs. Joan Harwood
Mrs. Linda Hainge
Mr. Alan Woodroffe

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Ms. Georgina Chapman, District Councillor Ken Harwood and County Councillor Lesley Steeds
2. **DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS**
There were no additions to those already disclosed.
3. **APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6th September 2018 were approved and signed.
4. **ONGOING ITEMS**
Community Consultation:
 - (i) **Leisure and Health Actions:**
 - a) **Temporary Toilet:** Will remain on the patio at the back of the Village Hall and until the end of October half term.
 - b) **Drinking Fountain:** The Village Hall Committee have again declined to provide access to the existing water supply. **Action:** Clerk to monitor grants which are currently available in London and Mid Sussex for organisations providing drinking fountains/water filling stations to reduce plastic waste.
 - (ii) **Grass Cutting:**

Councillors agreed the wording of a formal complaint to the Local Authority Ombudsman regarding Surrey Highway's failure to manage or enforce the grass cutting contract which includes Felbridge. There are also serious concerns regarding the financial management of the contract. SCC's decided to continue to pay their contractor in full despite repeated reports from councillors that the works were not being delivered. Other parish councils in the area have also made formal complaints. County Councillor Lesley Steeds fully supports Felbridge Parish Council's decision. **Action:** Clerk to make formal complaint to Ombudsman and copy in MP, SCC Chief Executive, Surrey Highways officers and management and Tandridge District Council (who contribute to the cost)

5. **CIL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE:**

Revenue: Still awaiting confirmation from TDC on the details of the CIL payment due on Pixie Wood Farm. **Action:** Clerk to monitor

Recorded Expenditure: The annual CIL return records expenditure on clearing footpaths and cutting back overgrown hedges on the Copthorne Road, Crawley Down Roads and A22 London Road and replacing bollards on the Crawley Down Road.

Suggested Future Expenditure

- (i) **All Weather Path** from the Copthorne Road through the woods to the rear of the Village Hall with new lamp post. Estimated cost for the powered post from Skanska is £4-£5K.
- (ii) **New Playground Equipment** – including accessible swings and swing boats.

6. **FINANCE**

- (i) Receipts and Payments for September 2018

Date	To / From	Description	Amount	Current Account
31-Aug		Brought Forward		£11,410.61
		Receipts		
31-Aug	SCC	Refund for CDR-North "Welcome to Felbridge" White Gate	£1,269.35	
05-Sep	TDC	Precept - 2nd 50% for 2018-2019	£8,400.00	
06-Sep	Residents	Donation - Parish Booklets	£6.00	
29-Sep	SCC	SCC 50% of A22 pavement clearing	£1,250.00	
		Sub-Total	£10,925.35	£10,925.35
		Payments		
06-Sep	Clerk	Payroll	£584.80	
06-Sep	Clerk	Office Expenses (prev. month)	£188.02	
06-Sep	Cleaner	Bus Shelter Cleaning	£38.00	
06-Sep	Hire-A-Loo	Temporary Toilet Hire	£78.94	
06-Sep	Hire-A-Loo	Temporary Toilet Hire	£106.39	
06-Sep	HMRC	PAYE - Jul-Sep	£409.80	
20-Sep	Royal British Legion	Silent Soldier Silhouettes (x2)	£200.00	
		Sub-Total	£1,605.95	-£1,605.95
30-Sep		Carried Forward		£20,730.01
30-Sep		Deposit Account Balance		£20,017.18
30-Sep		Reserves (Traffic calming, bus shelter, playground resurfacing)		-£15,000.00
30-Sep		Available Funds (excluding reserves)		£25,747.19

- (ii) **Section 137 Payments:** None were received for this period.
- (iii) **Online Banking:** RFO is still working with the bank to set up the online banking account.

7. COUNCILLORS' FEEDBACK

- (i) **Linda Hainge Resignation:** Jeremy Clarke announced that after twenty years as a Parish Councillor, Linda Hainge had decided to retire on 31st December 2018. She has offered to continue to support and provide assistance to the Parish Council.
- (ii) **Gate by Birch Grove:** Three quotes have now been received. Jeremy Clarke recommended having the gates engraved for security. **Action:** Jeremy Clarke to report back with final costs and recommendations.
- (iii) **World War One Commemoration:** Contractor to lay concrete base and sandstone flagstones on the Village Green on to which the WW1 Commemorative bench will be fixed. Works to be completed by late October. **Action:** Clerk to monitor
- (iv) **Bollard:** Bridget Huntington had reported that a bollard had been knocked down near to the Village Hall entrance. Contractor has been asked to repair.
- (v) **Bench in Village Hall Grounds:** Linda Hainge reported that the grass around the bench near the playground had worn away and the area became muddy regularly. Clerk has asked contractor to look at options and make a recommendation. **Action:** Clerk to monitor.
- (vi) **Phone Box on Copthorne Road:** Bridget Huntington asked if there was any updated from BT on removing the phone box facing the Village Green. Clerk has contacted BT three times in the two years since they said it would be removed. **Action:** Clerk to contact BT again.
- (vii) **Verge outside Ebor Lodge:** Bridget Huntington reported that the verge outside Ebor Lodge is overgrown and doesn't appear to have been cut at all this year by SCC's contractor. **Action:** Clerk to add to list of issues with contractor.
- (viii) **Chestnut Tree near Warren Close:** Joan Harwood reported bark was falling off one of the trees near to Warren Close. **Action:** Clerk to ask Tree Officer to check during next visit.
- (ix) **Annual Parish Council Calendar:** Ian McBryde suggested creating an annual calendar into which key dates including deadlines for development communications could be recorded. **Action:** Ian McBryde to investigate and report back.
- (x) **Peacock Inn:** Ian McBryde has contacted the owners of the Peacock Inn to ask what their plans are for the site. **Action:** Ian McBryde to monitor.
- (xi) **Vehicle Activated Sign on the A22:** Georgina Chapman reported that the hedges outside the Equine Vets had become overgrown and were blocking the Vehicle Activated Sign. **Action:** Clerk to write to owner and request that hedges are cut back.

8. SURREY HIGHWAYS:

- (i) **Highways Meeting with MP Sam Gymiah:** Jeremy Clarke is awaiting a date for his requested meeting with MP Sam Gymiah.
- (ii) **Mill Lane Resurfacing Works:** SCC's contractor was scheduled to repair/resurface in mid-June but not work has taken place **Action:** Lesley Steeds to follow up.

9. PLANNING

Applications Considered at the Planning Meeting on 20th September attended by Jeremy Clarke, Bridget Huntington, Joan Harwood and Ian McBryde.

TA/2018/1458 Edenbrook, Wiremill Lane, Felbridge, RH7 6HJ Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of a new 4 bedroom, one and a half storey dwelling.

Resolved: Felbridge Parish Council support this application and consider that it will not be detrimental to the Green Belt. We support the environmental sustainability of this proposal.

TA/2018/1431 Felmere, Copthorne Road, Felbridge, RH19 2QG Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings; removal of builders' yard and erection of new dwelling with detached garage.

Resolved: No new comments

TA/2017/2651 Ebor Lodge, London Road, Felbridge, RH19 2QS Demolition of existing dwelling. Erection of 3 detached dwellings with garages (Amended Plans)

Resolved: Felbridge Parish Council considered the alterations to the roof line and elevations but our previous strong objections to this proposal remain unchanged.

Applications Considered at the Parish Council Meeting

TA/2018/1883 11A Crawley Down Road, Felbridge RH19 2NT Demolition of 11A and erection of 32 dwellings, with associated infrastructure, parking and landscaping. (Mid Sussex Application)

Resolved: Felbridge Parish Council very strongly object to this proposal.

This proposal is contrary to policies EG2 and EG2a as well as DP12, these policies are particularly important since the recent allocation of Imberhorne Farm for housing as the land subject to this proposal is part of the thin strip of open green space between Imberhorne Farm and Felbridge Village. If this proposal proceeds along with the proposals for Imberhorne Farm there will be no open countryside between East Grinstead and Felbridge causing the settlements to merge contrary to the above adopted policies. There was no transport assessment submitted when the proposal was last considered in 2014 and since then Surrey Highways has stated that the congestion at the A22/A264 junction at Felbridge 'is now severe'. There is no subsequent transport assessment to demonstrate that this proposal and the significant committed housing in the immediate area will not have a detrimental impact upon this junction (or the A22/Imberhorne Lane junction). Traffic surveys in 2016 showed maximum queue lengths at the Felbridge junction of 54 cars using single day surveys. Tandridge District Council recently commissioned a three-day survey that showed queue lengths now exceed 200 vehicles every day for significant periods. Queue lengths in excess of 27 cars are present for more than 7 hours per day proving that traffic congestion has demonstrably deteriorated since this site was last considered and yet the applicant provides no transport statement to support the approval of this latest submission.

This proposal offers no mitigation for the impact that it will have upon the Felbridge junction, whilst it is accepted that it will not generate a large number of vehicular movements, these will have a measurable impact upon a junction that is already being recorded as well beyond 100% saturation and mitigation should be provided in accordance with paragraph 109 of the NPPF. If this proposal goes to Committee for approval, we request that the above comments are recorded in full within the Officer's report and not summarised or placed in the Appendix.

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

None which directly impact Felbridge.

10. **CLERK'S REPORT**

(i) **Parking/Speeding on Rowplatt Lane:** A resident had expressed concerns regarding speeding vehicles on the Lane and suggesting that traffic calming measures should be considered. Councillors responded that Surrey County Council had previously conducted a safety survey and while acknowledging the issue had decided that the priority was low. The majority of residents had been opposed to speed bumps. Access could not be restricted since the road is a public highway. Parking was also discussed and again it was acknowledged that this has been an issue for many years particularly since both the road and footpath are comparatively narrow. **Action:** Clerk to raise the Issue to be raised with the County Councillor since responsibility lies with Surrey County Council.

(ii) **Damaged Footpath Outside 4a Rowplatt Lane:** Reported again to Surrey Highways since has now been damaged since June. Highways Officer reported that dropped kerbs are to be constructed and the footpath will be resurfaced at the same time. **Action:** Clerk to monitor.

(iii) **Damage to Village Hall Grounds** Vandals had damaged vegetation and pushed over the temporary toilet in the village hall grounds at the end of August. Surrey Police have now identified those involved and are continuing with their investigations.

(iv) **Advertising Signs at Restaurant on A22:** TDC Enforcement Officer has confirmed that a restaurant on the A22 Woodcock Hill has failed to react to a letter asking them to remove large banner style adverts for which planning permission was not granted. Further action was now being taken. **Action:** Clerk to monitor.

(v) **Felbridge Showground – Sight Line Problems:** Felbridge Showground had asked if they could cut back vegetation overhanging the footpath/verge which was blocking sight lines for vehicles existing their access road. The Clerk advised that if there was a safety issue the vegetation could be cut back where necessary. **Action:** Clerk to report to TDC.

(vi) **Discover Gatwick Session:** Alan Woodroffe is to attend the next Discover Gatwick session on behalf of Felbridge Parish Council.

11. **CONSULTATIONS**

(i) **Tandridge District Council Local Plan - Garden Village Consultation:** No further updates.

12. **BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Budgets for the financial year 2019/2020.

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

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 1st November at 7.30pm. A planning Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 18th October.

The meeting closed at approximately 21.15.

Patricia Slatter
Clerk to Felbridge Parish Council

