



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 7th March 2024 **at 7.30pm in Felbridge Village Hall**

Present:

Cllr. Jeremy Clarke (Planning Chairman)

Cllr. Stephen Hall

Cllr. Bridget Huntington (Chairman)

Cllr. Jane Groom

Cllr. Alex Horwood

Cllr. Ian McBryde (Vice-Chairman)

Mrs. Patricia Slatter (in attendance)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from County Cllr. Steeds and District Cllr. Moore

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 1st February were approved and signed.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Playground Upgrade The project is on hold while TDC prepare the necessary legal agreements relating to funding. Once this has been addressed, an order can be placed. **Action:** Clerk and Chairman to monitor and report back.

Footpath and Verge on Copthorne Road Cllr. Huntington has reported that the path is inaccessible and a drain appears to be blocked leading to regular flooding and damage to the verge.

A264 Potholes near Furnace Wood Reported again and noted that the Surrey Highways map showed that multiple reports have already been made relating to the road surface at this location.

5. FINANCE

(i) Receipts and Payments for February 2024

| Date | To / From | Description | Amount | Current Account | Deposit Account |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 31 Jan | | Brought Forward | | £24694.92 | £25197.45 |
| | | Receipts | | | |
| 19 Feb | HMRC VAT | VAT Refund 2023-24 | 973.60 | 973.60 | |
| | | Total | 25648.52 | 25668.52 | |
| | | Payments | | | |
| 1 Feb | HMRC | Tax and NI January | £546.54 | -546.54 | |
| 1 Feb | Clerk | Payroll January | £1268.74 | -1268.74 | |
| 1 Feb | Clerk | Office Expenses | £63.79 | -63.79 | |
| 1 Feb | Felbridge Village Hall | S137 Donation towards replacement tables/chairs | £250.00 | -250.00 | |
| 1 Feb | WR Hazeltine | Bus Shelter Cleaning Jan | £45.00 | -45.00 | |
| 9 Feb | NEST | Pension Contribution Jan | 245.26 | -245.26 | |
| | | Sub-Total | £2419.33 | -£2419.33 | |
| | | Transfers | Nil | | |
| | | Carried Forward | | £23249.19 | |
| | | Bank Balances | | £23249.19 | £25197.45 |
| 29 Feb | Available Funds - Current a/c plus Deposit a/c | | | £48446.64 | |
| 29 Feb | Allocated Reserves - traffic calming £2K, bus shelter £6K, playground £15K, skateboard ramp £2k) <i>includes restricted use CIL revenue</i> | | | -£25000.00 | |
| 29 Feb | General Reserve (available funds - including budgeted expenditure - minus Allocated Reserves) | | | £23446.64 | |
| Current Account statement was circulated to councillors on 6 March 2024, along with the above record of receipts and payments, for transparency and confirmation of accuracy | | | | | |

(ii) **VAT Refund Claim** has been received

(iii) **Internal Audit:** Date has been set in May for the internal audit which will enable the AGAR to be signed off at the June meeting and documentation to be prepared for the external audit.

6. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

(i) **Grass Cutting:** Surrey Highways have confirmed that they will retain responsibility for grass verge cuts. Meeting arranged between Clerk and Highways to discuss options for Felbridge. **Agreed:** While acknowledging that for 2024-25 it will be necessary for Felbridge verges to be cut by the Highways contractor, councillors would prefer that another contract is agreed which would allow FPC to manage Felbridge grass cutting as has been the case for the past four years. **Action:** Clerk to report back.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr. Steeds has helped set up a meeting between the Clerk and Surrey Highways to look at options for grass cutting in Felbridge following the end of the current contract between SCC and FPC.

She continues to liaise with FPC, SCC and TDC regarding the Highways implications associated with the proposed Barratt Homes development off Crawley Down Road and attends regular meetings

Cllr. Steeds has chased the Community Gang resource to carry out works on pavements, hedges, etc as previously agreed.

Continues to liaise with Surrey Highways regarding the potholes on the A264 by Furnace Wood requesting full resurfacing instead of repeated repairs.

Cllr. Steeds is on the Surrey County Council sub-committee looking at the effect of Gatwick expansion on smaller villages, particularly relating to traffic, and has highlighted the issues specific to Felbridge.

8. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

None received.

9. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS/UPDATES

Planning Enforcement: Cllr. Clarke reported that MSDC provided Parish Councils with a list of outstanding enforcement matters and suggested that TDC could be asked to provide the same information.

Action: Clerk to submit a request.

Coronation Planter: Cllr. Huntingdon has cleared the planter and will add more compost before further planting.

10. SURREY HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY/TDC

Surrey Highways

Potholes on the A264: Works were taking place on 7th March which appeared to be temporary filling rather than the resurfacing which is needed in the area between Doves Barn and Furnace Wood area.

TDC

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

SCC Rights of Way

Nothing new to report

11. PLANNING

(i) **Applications in Felbridge**

2024/121 Rustings, Domewood, Copthorne, RH10 3HD

Resolved: No Action

2024/103 The Barn, Pixewood, Rowplatt Lane, Felbridge RH19 2PA

Resolved: Felbridge Parish Council object to this application for a new detached structure within the Green Belt within what was Pixiewood Farm. Pixiewood Farm was developed with a built volume far greater than the pre-existing volume and as a result permitted development rights were removed to avoid a proliferation of additional structures that would be detrimental to the openness of the Green Belt. We therefore see that this proposal would have a negative affect on the Green Belt. It is noted that there are no volume calculations provided so it is impossible to evaluate how this proposal would equate to the Green Belt policy.

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

Nothing which might directly affect Felbridge

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

Proposed Barratt Homes Development off Crawley Down Road – TDC Meeting

Cllr. Clarke met with a senior planning officer from TDC to discuss the impact of the development on Felbridge residents. Cllr. Clarke went through the data going back to 2015 showing that the Star Junction was operating well above capacity at that time and that 1240 dwellings have been completed in East Grinstead since that study with no Highways improvements delivered. While the current corridor project is looking at this junction, the timeline for its report is after this proposed development will be occupied. It was noted that SCC are only able to consider if there is a severe impact on the Star Junction and that this test is very difficult to prove. However, TDC Legal advice to the Planning Policy Committee on 16th November 2023 stated that all applications around the A264/A22 corridor MUST mitigate their traffic impacts until such time as the Corridor Study has completed and it is known whether a solution exists and will be funded. This need to mitigate the transport impact also echoes the DPD Inspector's statements about mitigation needs to be considered in detail at the Planning Stage rather than being resolved as part of the Site Allocation. Surrey Highways have confirmed in their formal response that the application has not mitigated its traffic impacts. It was also noted that Surrey Highways have said that as the Gullege Bridleway is unlit and regularly floods, it would not meet their requirements for a sustainable transport route. The officer confirmed that as a significant development this application will be considered by the TDC Planning Committee. This would be in April at the earliest.

(iv) **24 Rowplatt Lane Development:** A Construction Management Plan has now been submitted by the new developer suggesting that works will soon commence.

12. CLERK'S REPORT

Tandridge District Council Information:

Precept for 2024-25 set at 2.99%

The TDC Local Plan has been found to be unsound by the Planning Inspector

Chief Executive has requested feedback on the TDC Corporate Plan

The Household Support Fund is still open for applications

.Gov Email/Website Clerk is preparing a report for on options for consideration by councillors at the April meeting. The aim is for the existing website address to change to a .gov.uk suffix and for new Councillor and Clerk email addresses to be linked to the new website address. **Action:** Clerk to progress.

TDC Election/Felbridge Annual Village Meeting, Thursday 18th April, 6.00pm-8.00pm

Key content within this public meeting will be the effect of the recent Boundary Commission for England changes on the upcoming TDC elections. Felbridge will now be part of a three ward group along with Dormansland. The three newly elected councillors will represent both villages irrespective of where they live and will be invited to attend FPC meetings and work with FPC to support Felbridge residents. The option of creating a flyer to raise awareness of the meeting, the current Parish Councillor vacancy and to share local information was discussed. **Action:** Clerk to add to the agenda for the Planning Meeting on 21st March for approval.

Parish Councillor Vacancy

TDC Democratic Services confirm that the existing vacancy can be filled by co-option. The vacancy has been advertised and can be promoted alongside the meeting on 18th April.

King's Portrait

Now ordered and will be placed in the Committee Room once received.

13. CONSULTATIONS

(i) **Surrey Rights of Way**

Agreed: Councillors approved a draft prepared by Cllr. McBryde. **Action:** Cllr McBryde to submit response on behalf of Felbridge Parish Council.

(ii) **Tandridge District Council Corporate Plan**

Agreed: Felbridge Parish Council supports the commitments put forward in the TDC Corporate Plan. **Action:** Clerk to respond.

14. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

None

15. DATES OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL AND PLANNING MEETINGS

The next full Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday 4th April. A Planning Meeting is scheduled for 18th April.

The meeting closed at approximately 2035.

Patricia Slatter

Clerk to Felbridge Parish Council

www.felbridge-pc.org.uk

Registered Office: Felbridge Village Hall, Crawley Down Road, Felbridge, RH19 2NT

www.felbridge-pc.org.uk | Chairman: Bridget Huntington | Parish Clerk: Patricia Slatter | clerkfpc@aol.com