



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 6th March 2025 **at 7.30pm in the Committee Room at Felbridge Village Hall**

Present:

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

In attendance:

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

District Councillor Nicholas White

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 February were approved and signed.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr. Huntington has again had to raise the issue over the section of footpath on the Copthorne Road which has become impassable due to mud and the breakdown of the grass verge. Despite an email from Surrey Highways referring to their footpath maintenance success, FPC have been waiting for this footpath to be cleared for more than a year. **Action:** Cllr. Steeds has asked for an explanation and will follow up.

5. FINANCE

(i) Receipts and Payments for February 2025

Date	To / From	Description	Amount	Current Account	Deposit Account
31 Jan		Brought Forward		25969.38	£ 5530.40
		Receipts		0.00	0.00
		Payments			
7 Feb	NEST	Pension	£252.89	-252.89	
7 Feb	Payroll	January Payroll	£1875.11	-1875.11	
7 Feb	HugoFox	Annual Website Hosting	£143.86	-143.86	
7 Feb	Clerk	Annual ICO Registration	£40.00	-40.00	
7 Feb	WRH	Bus Shelter Cleaning Jan	£45.00	-45.00	
7 Feb	Lloyds Bank	Service Charge	£4.25	-4.25	
		Total Payments	£2361.11	-2361.11	
		Bank Account Totals c/f		£23608.27	£5530.40
31 Jan	Available Funds - Current a/c plus Deposit a/c			£29138.67	
31 Dec	Allocated Reserves - bus shelter £5K			-£5000.00	
31 Dec	General Reserve (available funds - including budgeted expenditure - minus Allocated Reserves)			£24138.67	
Current Account statement was circulated to councillors on 3 rd March 2025, along with the above record of receipts and payments, for transparency and confirmation of accuracy					

(ii) **Unity Trust Bank** – New account opening is being progressed. **Action:** Clerk to monitor

(iii) **CIL Income and Expenditure:** Funding from the Rowplatt Lane development is due to be received in April and October. **Resolved:** It was agreed to set aside funds to reinstate the damaged path between the playground and the skateboard ramp and replace damaged fence panels and to set aside funds towards traffic calming on Rowplatt Lane should that be required. **Action:** Clerk to get quote for playground area fencing and path works.

iv) **Tandridge District Council proposals regarding community assets:** May be delayed until decisions made regarding the move to Unity Authorities.

6. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

(i) **Highways Grass Verge Cutting:** First grass cut was made in early March. **Action:** Clerk to email Highways to confirm that the works were completed on time and to a good standard.

(ii) **Hedge between Village Green and School: Expenditure Approved:** Councillors approved expenditure at the Planning Meeting held on 20th February for up to £300 to allow for a full cut of the hedge after which Felbridge School will take responsibility for ongoing maintenance. **Action:** Clerk to arrange for cut and liaise with Felbridge School.

7. COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

Unitary Authority Proposals: Cllr. Steeds reported that central government have confirmed Surrey among the first areas for local government reorganisation. This means the current two tier system, where services are split between Surrey County Council and district and borough councils like Tandridge, will be replaced with unitary councils which handle all local services. Surrey County Council are proposing two Unitary Authorities - probably East and West - with 500,000 + residents. District and Borough Councils are proposing three Unitary Authorities with 400,000 residents. The population of Surrey is approximately 1.2 million. The Minister will look at the evidence and make the decision.

Rowplatt Lane: Cllr. Steeds has been liaising with Surrey Highways in response to resident concerns regarding the road being used as a 'rat run' with vehicles speeding along the road to avoid queues on the Copthorne Road. Highways confirm that they consider it feasible 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 a one way street. This would be subject to public engagement and consultation. The scheme would be subject to a design feasibility study to ascertain if there are any safety implications which could arise due to its implementation.

Crawley Down Road: Double Yellow Lines: Surrey Highways are to consult on placing double yellow lines on a 50m section of Crawley Down Road facing Mortain Road. It was noted that the six parking spaces just inside Mortain Road are meant for use by Felbridge School. FPC will respond to the consultation once received. **Action:** Clerk to share information with Felbridge School.

Gatwick: Noise levels must be addressed before the additional runway can be brought into use. The dates for the next steps are 24th April and 29th October.

8. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr. White

Unitary Authority: Regarding Surrey County Council's proposal to create Unitary Authorities, Cllr White reported that the Government's plans for devolution would/will put more responsibilities on Parish Councils as District Councillors will be apologised.

TDC Maintenance: Cllr. White is pleased to note that TDC have responded positively to requests for most ongoing issues in Felbridge to be addressed. While the Skateboard Ramp is yet to be resolved, the gorse is being removed; the fence at the Limes Pond has been repaired and the playground signs are being progressed.

Gatwick: Concerns remain but at least Gatwick have to make some fairly radical changes in order to get approval.

Cllr. O'Riordan

Housing: Attended Housing meeting at which discussions took place on what action should be taken during the period before the Unitary Authority proposals were submitted and approved.

9. **COUNCILLORS' REPORTS/UPDATES**

Speedwatch: Cllr. Hall reported that six volunteers have now been trained and that a camera has been supplied. Sessions are scheduled to start within weeks.

VE Day 80th Anniversary: Cllr. Hall asked for this important anniversary to be recorded in Felbridge.

Resolved: It was agreed to investigate planting a tree next to the memorial bench on Felbridge Village Green. **Action:** Clerk to liaise with TDC Tree Officer.

Drain by Star Pub: Cllr. Groom has submitted a report to Surrey Highways since the drain on the footpath alongside the Star Pub is again overflowing with debris being washed on to the footpath.

Vehicle Activated Sign, Crawley Down Road: The replacement VAS has now been installed.

Fallen Tree on Crawley Down Road: A damaged tree reported by Cllr. Horwood to Surrey Highways has been cut back and removed.

Overgrown Hedge at The Glebe: Reported by Cllr. McBryde. Highways confirm that they will liaise with the householder who is required to cut the hedge back to allow access to the footpath and keep the hedge maintained.

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

Copthorne Road Footpath: Two reports were submitted to SCC regarding the mud on the pavement outside Toads Croak House which included a reference to a resident who had slipped and fallen. Both reports were closed with no further information shared. **Action:** Cllr. Steeds to raise with Surrey Highways

Overgrown Hedges on Copthorne Road: All hedges appear to have been cut back and the hedge which was completely blocking the pavement has been removed and replaced by a fence

Potholes at Furnace Wood Layby: Multiple reports have been submitted and some repairs made

Skateboard Ramp: Still no response from TDC regarding the long delayed works to repair the damage originally scheduled for July 2024.

Gorse Bushes: TDC confirmed in late February these will be removed

Limes Pond Fence: Now repaired

Replacement Signs: TDC advise that these are being progressed

11. PLANNING

(i) Applications in Felbridge

Considered at Planning Meeting on 20th February

2025/10 The Laurels, Herons Lea, Copthorne RH10 3HE

New side dormer, extension to side dormers (3) and hip to gable conversion to rear first floor extension.

Resolved: Felbridge Parish Council are concerned about potential overlooking of the neighbouring property from the new dormer window. We have no other comments

2024/1255 Wildwood, Herons Lea, Copthorne RH10 3HE

Enclose existing external kitchen with flat roof

Resolved: No Action

Applications considered at the meeting:

2025/161 66 Copthorne Road, Felbridge, RH19 2NU

Erection of a hip-to-gable roof extension, rear roof box extension, installation of x 3 rooflights on the front roof slope and one window on flank side east elevation. (Certificate of lawfulness for proposed use or development)

Resolved: No Action

2025/132 Long Acres Caravan and Camping Park, Newchapel Road, Surrey RH7 6HE

The siting of timber structures. (Certificate of Lawfulness for Existing Use or Development)

Resolved: Felbridge Parish Council note that the existing plan provided does not match the exact orientation of buildings as shown on Google Earth and as shown in the applicant's previous application submitted in 2022 which does match Google Earth. Councillors are also concerned that the previous application 2020/357 was for seasonal use and yet these are permanent structures within the Green Belt, which is potentially a change of use. We accept that the siting of the structures is not materially different in reality to their 'existing plan' but it does raise the question as to why the plan submitted doesn't match Google Earth's positioning of the structures. Felbridge Parish Council does not question that these structures have been in use for four consecutive years prior to 1st March 2024.

2025/123 Long Acres Caravan and Camping Park, Newchapel Road, Surrey RH7 6HE

Retrospective planning application for the siting of timber structures

Resolved: Felbridge Parish Council consider these additional structures to be unacceptable development within the Green Belt as they were built in a location which was intended to be an open field for part of every year as the previous application 2020/357 was only for seasonal use of this land.

(ii) Adjoining Planning which may affect Felbridge

Nothing which directly affects Felbridge

(iii) MSDC Development on Felbridge Border

The Welbeck application for 550 dwellings and a care village with up to 150 dwellings off Imberthorne Lane was approved at the Mid Sussex District Council Planning Meeting on 13th February. FPC Planning Chairman, Jeremy Clarke spoke against the application. Felbridge Parish Council emailed Surrey Highways two weeks before the meeting to highlight that the Officer's report indicated that they were not seeking to secure the necessary improvements at the Felbridge junction but were instead conditioning a financial contribution to the corridor project instead. Surrey Highways were asked to attend the committee meeting to re-state the requirement for the proposed junction improvements 'to make it acceptable in highway terms'. Surrey Highways failed to attend the meeting. **Resolved:** It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Cllr. Steeds formally requesting that she raise concerns regarding Surrey Highways' handling of this application. Felbridge Parish Council believe that Surrey Highways have fundamentally failed the residents of Felbridge with respect to this development. **Action:** Clerk to progress.

12. CLERK'S REPORT

Overgrown Hedges on Copthorne Road: Have now been cut back to allow access to the footpath.

Skateboard Ramp Repairs: TDC have been asked to provide a statement explaining the reasons for the ongoing delay in repairing the ramp.

Standing Orders: Have been updated to note the delegation of authority to the Clerk to respond to planning applications where considered necessary.

Copthorne Road Speed Limit: Cllr. Ian Gibson asked whether Felbridge Parish Council would support a reduction in the speed limit from the county boundary to Dove's Barn as Worth Parish Council were considering requesting a speed reduction on the West Sussex section of the road. **Agreed:** Councillors felt that the Surrey section of road was not sufficiently urban to justify a speed limit reduction and would prefer that Surrey Highways allocate limited funds to resurfacing that area of road instead.

Correspondence: Complaint about mud on Rowplatt Lane from development; complaints about speeding and parking on Rowplatt Lane; thanks for letter of support to Felbridge Cricket Club

14. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

Annual Village Meeting
Temporary Toilet Hire
Year End Finance Report

15. DATES OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL AND PLANNING MEETINGS

The next full Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday 3rd April. A planning meeting is scheduled for Thursday 20th March.

The meeting closed at approximately 2105.

Patricia Slatter
Clerk to Felbridge Parish Council
www.felbridge-pc.org.uk