



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 online on 4th March 2021 at 7.30 pm

As permitted by the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 No.392, the meeting of Felbridge Parish Council which took place on 4th March at 7.30pm was held online.

Present:

Cllr. Ian McBryde (Vice Chairman)
Cllr. Bridget Huntington
County Councillor Lesley Steeds
Mrs. Patricia Slatter (in attendance)
One member of the public attended

Cllr. Jeremy Clarke
Cllr. Jo King

Harry Baker-Smith asked to address councillors in the public time at the start of the meeting. He introduced himself as the Conservative candidate for the casual vacancy of District Councillor for the Felbridge Ward at Tandridge District Council.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Joan Harwood and Councillor Georgina Chapman.
Councillor Alex Horwood did not attend

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

No additions to those already registered.

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 4th February were approved and signed.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Claire Coutinho MP has been invited to attend a meeting of Felbridge Parish Council. The invitation has been acknowledged. **Action:** Clerk to monitor.

5. FINANCE

(i) Receipts and Payments for February 2021

Date	To / From	Description	Amount	Current Account	Deposit Account
1 Feb		Brought Forward		£20275.43	£25035.55
		Receipts		0.00	
		Sub-Total		£20275.43	
		Payments			
4 Feb	Wright	Bus Shelter Cleaning	£45.00	-£45.00	
4 Feb	Clerk	Payroll January	£1032.11	-£1032.11	
4 Feb	Clerk	Office Expenses	£111.55	-£111.55	
4 Feb	HMRC	Tax & National Insurance January	£373.46	-£373.46	
9 Feb	NEST	Pension Contribution	£204.99	-£204.99	
		Sub-Total	£1767.11	-£1767.11	
		Transfers	Nil		
		Carried Forward		£18508.32	£25,035.55
		Less Unbanked Transactions		0.00	
		Bank Balances including unbanked transactions		£18508.32	£25,035.55
28 Feb	Available Funds - Current a/c plus Deposit a/c			£43543.87	
28 Feb	Allocated Reserves (traffic calming £2k, bus shelter £6k, playground £15k, skateboard ramp £2k, grass cutting £1k)			-£26000.00	
28 Feb	General Reserve (Available Funds minus Allocated Reserves)			£17543.87	
Current Account Bank statement was circulated to councillors on 3 rd March 2021 along with the above record of receipts and payments for transparency and confirmation of accuracy					

(ii) **Proposal for Outdoor Table Tennis Table**

Resolved: Councillors approved expenditure of up to £3K for an outdoor table tennis table with concrete base to be added to the existing play and leisure facilities in the Felbridge Village Hall grounds. **Action:** Clerk to organise in liaison with Tandridge District Council.

(iii) **Banking: Current Account**

The Clerk provided a report on options for moving the existing current account. **Resolved** Councillors approved the proposal to move to Unity Trust Bank which provides a specialist service to Town and Parish Councils. **Action:** Clerk to progress opening new account while retaining existing account in the short term.

(iv) **Internal Audit:** It was expected that the year end audit would again take place digitally.

6. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

(i) **Grass Cutting:** Awaiting funding for financial year 2019-2020 from Surrey County Council. First cut has been scheduled for late March 2021. **Action:** Clerk to liaise with contractor.

(ii) **Pavement Clearance:** The pavements from the Star Junction through to Mill Lane on the A264 and from Stone Cottage to the Limes Pond on the A22 had been scraped clear of mud and debris. A number of other areas where overgrown vegetation was restricting pavements were suggested.

Action: Councillors to report these areas to the Clerk so the contractor can be asked to clear.

Action: Clerk to manage

7. COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCIL UPDATE:

County: Councillor Steeds reported that she considered the recent early closure of West Park Road to be unacceptable. The reason given was that the road surface was so poor it was considered dangerous. The road has now been repaired but the road is now closed for long term road works.

District: There are ongoing problems in the Planning Department and new staff are being recruited. TDC are actively recruiting for a permanent Chief Executive.

8. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS/UPDATES

- (i) Damaged Road Signs: Cllr. Clarke reported his safety concerns regarding two road signs. One outside St. John's Church fell on to the footpath on 28th December and both poles were found to be rusted through at the base. A second, at the entrance to Felbridge on the A264 marking Surrey as an Olympic location, has one missing pole and is hanging at a 30% angle. There is no footpath at this location but the sign is alongside the carriageway. Cllr. Clarke had raised the issue of road sign safety with Surrey Highways before and was told that signs were inspected every three months and any defects would be picked up then. However, after submitting an FOI request, he received confirmation that none of the signs in Felbridge have been inspected for two years. Cllr. Clarke is now raising his concerns regarding the failure of the process leading to rusted signs causing a safety hazard. **Action:** Clerk to email Cllr. Steeds. **Action:** Cllr. Steeds to raise with Surrey Highways
- (ii) Road Works Sign on Copthorne Road. While acknowledging that both the sign and the verge belong to Highways, the sign is not being used so a request has been submitted asking for it to be removed before grass cuts start. **Action:** Clerk to follow up with Kier/Highways England.
- (iii) Overgrown Hedges: Cllr. Huntington reported that hedges along the A22 near the Glebe and the bus stop by Kwik Fit were overgrown. **Action:** Clerk to follow up
- (iv) Fairtrade Banner: Cllr. King reported that St. John's Church have put a banner promoting Fairtrade Fortnight on the church wall which constituted an advertising sign. **Action:** Clerk to ask for banner to be removed.
- (v) Damaged Manhole Cover: A22 near Whittington College. Cllr. King has reported to Openreach.
- (vi) Village Green Damage: Cllr. King reported that contractors bringing services to the 15-39 Crawley Down Road development had caused damage to the Village Green alongside the footpath. **Action:** Clerk to investigate
- (vii) Refuse Collections Cllr. King reported issues with recent collections. Delays appeared worse in some areas with residents experiencing repeated missed collections. **Action:** Clerk to monitor.

9. SURREY HIGHWAYS:

- (i) Road Surface on A264 near Furnace Wood Layby. Ongoing issues with flooding and potholes. The source of the flooding has been identified and Surrey Highways are working with Southern Water to solve the problem. Pavement has been cleared. **Action:** Clerk to monitor
- (ii) Horizons Project: Surrey Highways had said the resurfacing the A264 was being put forward for inclusion in their Horizons Project but it is not shown in the list of locations on their website. **Action:** Cllr. Steeds to follow up.

10. PLANNING

(i) Applications in Felbridge

Applications considered at the Planning Meeting on 18th February attended by Cllr. Chapman, Cllr. Clarke, Cllr. Huntington, Cllr. King, Cllr. McBryde and Cllr. Horwood

TA/2020/2229 Chestnuts, Herons Close, Copthorne, Surrey, RH10 3HF Erection of Garage

Resolved: No Action

TA/2021/120 Chester Lodge, Woodcock Hill, Felbridge, Surrey, RH19 2RD Retrospective application for retention of replacement isolation stable building, ramped access up to level of isolation block from car park and grassed bank replaced with 3.6m wide sloped track

Resolved: Felbridge Parish Council do not approve of retrospective planning applications in the Green Belt as they may have already irreversibly caused harm to the Green Belt by not first determining whether this might happen by going through the appropriate planning process. We do not have any objection to the replacement of the stable with a similarly sized unit for the intended purposes as we do support this site for use as an equine vets. Felbridge Parish Council object to the use of MOT1 material for the ramp. Whilst being permeable, this is not a 'Green Belt friendly' surface. It would therefore fail to conserve and enhance landscape character of the Green Belt. We would prefer to see permeable pavements being installed with a suitable infill soil. This technology is the cellular replacement to Grasscrete and is suitable for HGVs and will maintain the landscape of the Green Belt.

Applications considered at the full Parish Council meeting:
TA/2021/204 146 Copthorne Road, Felbridge, RH19 2PD

Erection of single storey side and rear extensions

Resolved: Felbridge Parish Council are concerned that this building may have already been extended. The proposed additions are quite large in area and would double the building's floor area.

TA/2020/2272 Long Acres Caravan and Camping Park, Newchapel Road, RH7 6LE

Change of use of former stable yard to commercial forestry

Resolved: While Felbridge Parish Council would be unhappy with that area within the Green Belt being used for commercial enterprise, it is considered that forestry activity sits well within the Green Belt as an agricultural activity. It is requested that any permission granted restricts the use to agricultural. Felbridge Parish Council are concerned about an increase in vehicle users, shared use of the bridleway and increased use. It is noted that the 1995 application only refers to drivers crossing the bridleway (needing signage) rather than drivers using the bridleway.

TA/2021/245 Partney Oak, Domewood, RH10 3HD Single storey rear extension

Resolved: No Action

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

None which directly affect Felbridge. It was noted that an application had been submitted to convert offices in East Grinstead into 121 dwellings.

(iii) **Appeals**

TA/2020/1291 Copthorne Stud, Effingham Road, Copthorne, RH10 3HY Erection of 9 Flats
 Felbridge Parish Council submitted a detailed objection to this application when first submitted.

11. CONSULTATIONS

(i) **MSDC DPD Site Allocations – Crawley Down Road**

Proposal to include a site to either side of the Gullege Bridleway as suitable for 200 houses.

The MSDC portal is being monitored for information on any questions which the Inspector might put to MSDC. There is a duty to disclose any such information to the public.

12. MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL DEVELOPMENTS IN FELBRIDGE

Correspondence relating to MSDC's failure to allocate any infrastructure funding from these developments to meet the additional demand on Felbridge play and leisure facilities has been uploaded to the website <http://www.felbridge-pc.org.uk/community/felbridge-parish-council-10116/msdc-developments/> **Action:** Chairman to write to the Leader of MSDC to raise this issue and send a link to the webpage.

13. CLERK'S REPORT

(i) **Administration:**

Awaiting advice from national body (NALC) regarding the resumption of public meetings

Clerk is testing new TDC Planning Portal which is scheduled to go live in April

Clerk is meeting representative from the Planning Advisory Service who is reviewing TDC's planning operations and systems. **Action:** Clerk to report back

(ii) **New Refuse Contract:**

Biffa have been awarded a new contract to collect refuse, recycling, food waste and green waste. Some addresses may have different pick up days or may have food waste collected separately. From late April, waste will continue to be collected on bank holidays (excluding Christmas/New Year). Bulk waste collection costs will increase and the discount for those on benefits will be reduced.

(iii) **District Councillor Election:** Two residents have now requested an election for the Felbridge ward. **Action:** Clerk to ask Democratic Services to add Felbridge to their website site of elections.

(iv) **15-39 Crawley Down Road – Vanderbilt Homes**

Works to create access road are being done before Felbridge School returns on 8th March.

(v) **Community Library:** The Felbridge School book exchange is now open.

14. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

Nothing new to add.

15. DATES OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL AND PLANNING MEETINGS

The next full Parish Council meeting will take place online on Thursday 1st April 2021. A planning meeting is scheduled for Thursday 18th March.

The meeting closed at approximately 2055.

Patricia Slatter
Clerk to Felbridge Parish Council

