Felsham Parish Council

Minutes of the MEETING of FELSHAM PARISH COUNCIL held on 15th September 2026 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr Simon Garrod (Chairman), Cllr Ken Sparkes , Cllr Paul Kearney, Cllr Beverley Williams, Cllr Karen Hubbard

In attendance: 1 Member of the Public, Clerk & RFO Miss Isabelle Reece

Apologies: MSDC Cllr Penny Willshere, Cllr Mark Tavernor

2026/042 Chairman's Welcome & to receive apologies for absence Chairman Cllr Simon Garrod welcomed everyone to the meeting and received apologies from MSDC Cllr Nicky Willshere & Cllr Mark Tavernor.

2026/043 Declarations of interest & requests for dispensation – Cllr Sparkes for the Felsham Charity

2026/044 To sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 14th July 2026 as a true record – the Minutes of the meeting of 14th July were considered, **APPROVED**, and signed by Cllr Garrod as a true record

2026/045 Public Forum – Mr Nick Glanville addressed the Council, expressing his interest in the current councillor vacancy. Co-option of Councillor to fill the casual vacancy will be an item on the October Agenda

2026/046 To receive reports from SCC & MSDC Cllrs

a. **SCC Cllr Matt Bentley -** Cllr Bentley's Report to the Parish Council had been circulated prior to the meeting and is available on this website.

b. MSDC Cllr Willshere – Cllr Willshere's Report was received & is available on this website. Since receipt of her report LGR in Suffolk has been halted pending review by Government Ministers: the scheduled District Council Elections will take place in 2027.

2026/047 Financial Matters, Audit & Governance

a. To receive Clerk & RFO's Report **–** The Clerk had circulated a Financial Report; the bank reconciliation was signed by Cllr Sparkes

b. Payment orders totalling £1757.45 were **APPROVED** – Clerk's Pay (August) £282.60, Blackthorn Grass Cutting (3 months) £1038, MSDC Bins £432.60, Bank Charges £4.25 & payment of Clerk's July Salary £282.60 were ratified. Receipt of Blackthorn's invoices has been problematic. **ACTION** – Clerk to pursue

c. To consider any further Audit, Finance & Governance Matters – The Files had been safely delivered to the Internal Auditor; Clerk has not received promised written reports from May APM. **ACTION** – Clerk to pursue with delegates

2026/048 Planning & Conservation

a. To consider Planning Applications received since issue of the Agenda – none received

b. **DC/26/01796** Stone Farm Cottage, Cockfield Road, Felsham, IP30 0HP Erection of independent firewall in loft space - **GRANTED** was **NOTED**; no further Notices had been received since issue of the Agenda

c. The Conservation Officer reported that the tree works at the Church had been completed

d. Any other Planning Matters – councillors agreed that evening Teams Meetings with Housing Providers would be preferential **ACTION** – Clerk to confirm this with Sunila Osborne and councillors to liaise with Ms Osborne;

2026/049 Village Maintenance – Trees & Greens

a. To receive a report from the Tree Officer – nothing reported in absentia

b. To consider matters reported & updates – nothing reported

c. Projects/works update – village sign plinth yet to be completed, including sourcing of materials. **ACTION** – Cllrs Garrod & Kearney to pursue. Correspondence had been received requesting information on the village sign for the 'Village Sign Society' **ACTION** – Cllr Sparkes to reply

d. Community Rangers' Report – nothing to report; grit boxes require further consideration by the council, including sourcing of materials for repairs **ACTION** – Cllrs Garrod & Kearney to pursue; the Village Name sign on the Brettenham Road had been straightened; information from SCC Highways Dept relating to replacing the sign received since the July meeting indicated that the the parish council would need to pay **ACTION** – Clerk to query with SCC Cllr Bentley

2026/050 Highways & Footpaths

a. To receive a report from the Footpath Officer – paths in quite good order, having dried up since the rain, with a few being churned a little for field cultivation

b. To consider any matters reported – vegetation overgrowth reported on footpaths 4 and 6 **ACTION** – Cllr Kearney to pursue

d. Projects/works update – renovation of Churchside footpath project: no update

2026/051 Correspondence – correspondence received early summer regarding a possible 'Nuisance'/licencing issue had been referred to MSDC Cllr Willshere. This would be the only avenue for redress: otherwise it would be considered a 'dispute between neighbours' and therefore not a parish council matter **ACTION** – Clerk to inform residents

2026/052 Matters to be brought to the attention of the council/future agenda items – Co-option of councillor; to consider a donation to Ormiston Families Charity; donation for Citizens' Advice Bureau; the Gulley Pump had visited some locations in Felsham – Cllr Hubbard to contact Cllr Willshere for status update of drains; Cllr Hubbard dealing with 'Thank You' cards for former Cllr Stringer and the SID volunteers; Cllr Sparkes confirmed that vegetation overgrowth in The Orchard had been dealt with and tree stumps at Number 8 had been ground down; possible lighting in Meadow Close

2026/053 To confirm date of next Meeting Schedule – 13th October; advance apologies were received from Cllrs Garrod & Williams

The Meeting was closed by Cllr Garrod at 20.20hrs

Signed_____ Chairman Dated_____