Felsham Parish Council

Minutes of the MEETING of FELSHAM PARISH COUNCIL held on 14th July 2026 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr Ken Sparkes (Deputy – Chairman), Cllr Paul Kearney, Cllr Mark Tavernor, Cllr Beverley Williams Cllr Karen Hubbard

In attendance: SCC Cllr Matt Bentley, Clerk & RFO Miss Isabelle Reece

Apologies: Cllr Simon Garrod (Chairman)

2026/029 Chairman's Welcome & to receive apologies for absence Deputy – Chairman Cllr Sparkes welcomed everyone to the meeting and received apologies from Cllr Simon Garrod.

2026/030 Declarations of interest & requests for dispensation – Cllr Sparkes for the Felsham Charity

2026/031 To sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 9th June 2026 as a true record – the Minutes of the meeting of 9th June 2026 were considered, **APPROVED**, and signed by Cllr Sparkes as a true record

2026/032 Public Forum – there were no members of the Public in attendance

2026/033 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. He added that he had been contacted by a resident about an overgrown footpath: (Cllr Kearney later confirmed that the path in question had been strimmed that week); the Clerk alerted him to the need to replace the damaged *Felsham* sign on the Brettenham Road **ACTION** – Cllr Kearney will send photograph direct to Cllr Bentley and copy in the Clerk.

b. MSDC Cllr Willshere – Cllr Willshere's Report was received & is available on this website.

2026/034 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 Tavernor

b. Payment orders totalling £337.10 were **APPROVED** – Clerk's Salary (June) £282.60, CAS £54.50 (website & domain name)

c. To consider any further Audit, Finance & Governance Matters – the Clerk had received confirmation from Babergh District Council that no election would be called for the Casual Vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Cllr Stringer; the Council is now permitted to elect by Co-option; one expression of interest had been received. The Clerk had sent this person a copy of the latest Good Councillor's Guide to peruse, and suggested a good look through past minutes on the website. She had also suggested attendance at this parish council meeting, but he had not been available.

2026/035 Planning & Conservation

a. To consider **DC/26/02851** - Land At Lower Green Farm, Felsham – Tree works: **NO COMMENT**; No further Planning Applications had been received since issue of the Agenda

b. Notices **DC/26/02550** The Grange, Cockfield Road, Felsham, IP30 0QW (Discharge condition 7); **DC/22/06185** - (Great Crested Newt Precautionary Method Statement); **DC/26/02207** The Old Rectory, Church Road, Felsham, IP30 0P: Tree works – **NO OBJECTION** were noted**;** no further Notices had been received since issue of the Agenda

c. The Conservation Officer had nothing to report

d. Any other Planning Matters – The JLP Scoping Consultation had been circulated – the lack of and need for a local bus service and the state of footpath activity were discussed at length, but no action decided vis a vis the JPL Scoping Consultation. Cllr Bentley offered to supply information about the bidding process for local bus service funding. The Clerk had reiterated councillors' lack of availability during usual daytime working hours to Community Housing officers **ACTION** – Clerk to pursue

2026/036 Village Maintenance – Trees & Greens

a. To receive a report from the Tree Officer – nothing to report

b. To consider matters reported & updates – The 'Wild Flower Cut' was brought forward one month because of weather conditions.

c. Projects/works update – Cllr Hubbard reported that the Village Rangers had cleared and weeded around the village pump and Lower Green Wheel; they had washed all the village road signs and repeaters and intend to contact Suffolk Highways regarding the state of some of the road signs; having effected minor repairs to one, they had painted grit bins. (More extensive repairs will be necessary at a later date). Council expressed great admiration and gratitude for the quantity and quality of all the work. Council **AGREED** permission for flowers to be planted at the pump on Lower Green.

2026/037 Highways & Footpaths

a. To receive a report from the Footpath Officer – many paths now overgrown after the rain. Local landowners will be able to cut some after the harvest is in.

b. To consider any matters reported – nothing reported

c. Roadside signs policy – Cllr Hubbard had investigated the event recently advertised via roadside signs and advised the relevant organisation of the Parish Council's policy. The signs had been removed.

d. Projects/works update – A portion of footpath previously flagged as potentially hazardous was discussed again: conversations with the landowner confirmed that the path is clear of obstruction, the landowner's obligations fulfilled and walkers are urged to apply common sense and caution in using all footpaths when conditions make paths more precarious. The Parish Council is satisfied that no further work is required. The installation of the Village Sign Plinth will be completed during the summer; Cllr Kearney will develop a project proposal for the Church to Community Stores Footpath renovation during the summer break.

2026/038 To consider priorities for the coming year – This had been adequately covered in the June meeting: Clerk yet to complete update of spreadsheet

2026/039 Correspondence - To consider any correspondence tabled – The was none other than an update on the National Terror Threat

2026/040 Matters to be brought to the attention of the council/future agenda items – Gratitude was expressed to Cllr Jason Springer, whose resignation had been made public at the previous meeting. Cllr Sparkes proposed a vote of thanks to to former Cllr Springer's considerable contribution to the parish council's work during his short time in office. Cllr Hubbard also expressed further gratitude to the volunteers who had previously looked after the Felsham SIDs. **ACTION** – Cllr Hubbard to organise a card. Clerk to send email. Cllr Tavernor gave apologies for the September meeting.

2026/041 To confirm date of next Meeting Schedule – 15th September

The Meeting was closed by Cllr Sparkes at 20.17hrs

Signed_____ Chairman Dated_____