



MINUTES of the MEETING of FEERING PARISH COUNCIL
held at Feering Community Centre on Tuesday 17 January 2023 at 7.30 pm

In attendance: Cllr P Lees (Chair) Cllr C Dobson Cllr G Pullen

Cllr L Blackburn Cllr K Evans

Also Present: Lisa Collins – Clerk Cllr P Thorogood (ECC and BDC)

Members of the Public: 0

001/2023 Chairman Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr Lees stated that this was the first meeting with the Neighbourhood Plan in force and to give thanks to the Committee for their hard work and resilience. The first test of the plan will be the sale of Lady Meadows which is protected within the Neighbourhood Plan.

002/2023 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Marks and Cllr Carpenter. It was **resolved** to accept the apologies. Proposed Cllr Lees seconded Cllr Pullen.

003/2023 Declaration of Interest

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the agenda.

No declaration of interests was received.

004/2023 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Feering Parish Council

After discussion, the minutes of the meeting on 13 December 2022 were **agreed**. Proposed by Cllr Dobson seconded by Cllr Pullen.

005/2023 Public Participation Session

The Chairman will invite questions and observations from members of the public present. A maximum time of 15 minutes will be allowed.

No members of the public present.

006/2023 Finance

- i *To approve the bank reconciliation as at 31 December 2022 and 2022/23 budget account (circulated before the meeting)*

After discussion the bank reconciliation was **approved**. Proposed by Cllr Blackburn, seconded by Cllr Pullen

- ii *To agree payments for January 2023 due (to be circulated prior to the meeting)*

After discussion it was **agreed** that all January payments be made. Proposed by Cllr Pullen, seconded by Cllr Dobson.

- iii *To consider and agree the grant applications for 2023-2024*

After discussion the following grants were **approved** for 2023-2024

- History museum - £200
- Feering Good Companion - £250

- Feering and Kelvedon Garden Club - £100
- Kelvedon & Feering Rugby Club - £300
- Feering Toddler Group - £400
- Feering Falcons Youth Football team - £100
- Essex & Herts Air Ambulance - £100
- Royal British Legion - £60

Proposed by Cllr Pullen, seconded by Cllr Blackburn

After discussion it was **agreed** that the grant from the United Reform Church could not be approved as the Parish Council does not have powers to give grants to religious premises. However there is still funding from the Covid support group which will be used for this purpose, subject to confirmation from the donors. Proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Pullen.

- iv *To consider and agree the budget and precept request for 2023-2024 and agree the Chairman to sign the precept request*

After discussion it was **agreed** that the budget and precept be **accepted**, and the Chairman should sign the precept request in the sum of £75,086 which equates to a 99p raise on a band D property for the year. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Dobson.

007/2023 Report from District / County Councillor

Cllr Thorogood arrived at 8.10 pm.

Cllr Thorogood submitted a written report which was noted. He updated on the following issues:

Braintree District Council ("BDC") – BDC Budget, the proposed £45 green bin charge and the 33% cut in Parish Council grants; Planning members forum; London Road appeal – Cllr Thorogood attended the hearing and he said that the BDC Heritage consultant had never attended the area and the planning inspector visited the site as part of his visit; Parker Strategic Land extension of Holding Objection.

Essex County Council ("ECC") – Rivenhall Incinerator – the appeal against Condition 66 has been delayed until May; Budget setting – the assets are in "managed decline"; A120 route – no further news; A12 – Ongoing discussions between National Highways and ECC over concerns on the impact of new junctions on local roads and detrunking of existing sections; Coggeshall quarry / flood alleviation scheme – update on the liaison group meeting.

Questions were asked of Cllr Thorogood regarding the ECC budget on maintaining assets. Cllr Thorogood said that he would be discussing this at the meeting in February. Cllr Dobson asked whether it was an issue of not enough staff, not enough materials or just not spending the money? The Council queried this statement and asked Cllr Thorogood to ask the questions at the budget meeting as to whether ECC has the £77m required for maintenance and if they have it what are they doing with the money and if not then why is their budget not set properly?

Cllr Dobson also asked whether the next BDC full Council Agenda will be proposing the charge for the green bin collection which will come into effect 2024-25.

Cllr Evans asked whether the Parish council could be included in the Flood Alleviation scheme meetings. Whilst we are not affected by the quarry we could be impacted by the

flood alleviation. Cllr Thorogood stated that he would check the make-up of the committee with BDC.

Cllr Dobson asked that it be minuted that the Council felt that the BDC meeting they attended on 3 January was extremely unprofessional, unhelpful and discourteous to those attending and they are forgetting that they should be serving the public.

Cllr Thorogood left the meeting at 20.51.

008/2023 Clerks Report

The report had been circulated previously and was noted. Updates were given on the Community Living Room sessions for February, the Levelling Up White Paper and the pre-planning applications with Crown Estates following a response from Gary Sung.

009/2023 Planning Matters

Cllr Evans informed the Council of the Deal of Kelvedon application which was discussed at the last planning working group discussion. The Parish Council had objected and all decisions have been made by Delegated Authority by the clerk in conjunction with discussions with the Planning Working Group and these would be ratified at the next face to face meeting.

010/2023 Highways & Transport

i VTAG report

No meeting held.

ii A12 to A120 widening - A12 Highways England Statutory Consultation

Cllr Evans attended the A12 Preliminary Hearing on 12 January 2023. Cllr Evans raised the issue at the meeting the deadline date which is the bank holiday for the Coronation of King Charles and also the issue of Purdah which BDC said they would look into. The open floor hearings were also held which Cllr Evans attended and she raised issues which had previously been raised in our introductory statement. There were lots of comments during the session about the changes to the traffic figures which National Highways keep making.

iii Councillors to discuss any issues to report regarding Transport / Refuse to BDC and/or ECC

Cllr Lees raised an observation that the amenity vehicle was very well used. There were approximately 10 green bins disposed of at the Rye Mill Lane site. It was acknowledged that the Amenity Vehicle staff were very helpful and thanks was given.

iv Village Speeding Issues and Cycle routes for the village

The new speedwatch gun has been received and the volunteers were out last week. A new member has joined the group and training is in the process of being arranged. Thanks was given to the group for their hard work they are undertaking.

011/2023 Committee and Representatives Report

To receive a report, consider and agree any actions arising from the report on the following:

i FCC Trustees Meeting from Cllr L Blackburn

Report was circulated before the meeting and noted. Cllr Evans updated that the fire safety legislation has been updated and an updated fire risk assessment needs to be undertaken. Cllr Lees stated that a discussion needs to be held between FPC Playing Field

Committee and Feering Community Centre regarding the removal of the showers from the changing rooms.

- ii Neighbourhood Plan Committee from Cllr L Blackburn

Report was circulated prior to the meeting and noted. Discussion was held about giving thanks to those not on the Parish Council at the Annual Assembly

- iii PRow & Cycleway Committee

No report received. Cllr Evans forwarded the minutes of the last meeting prior to the meeting.

- iv Playing Field Management Working Party from Cllr P Lees

No report received.

- v Feering Environmental Working Party from Cllr C Dobson

Report was circulated prior to the meeting and noted.

- vi Braintree Association of Local Councils / Essex Association of Local Councils from Cllr P Lees

No report received. BALC meeting on 18 January and EALC on 19 January.

- vii IWMF Rivenhall Airfield Site Liaison Committee

No report received.

012/2023 Playing Field – Vertidrainage

After discussion it was **agreed** that the proposal put forward by Simon Gibbs should be accepted and that Robert Buchanan should be asked to carry out the Vertidrainage of the two playing fields at a cost of £660. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Dobson.

013/2023 Grant Applications

- i *To update on grant applications*

Cllr Evans updated that, at the Energy Café, they had two volunteers agree to use the infrared cameras. The grant application for the Hall repairs should be drafted shortly.

The Clerk has given an update to Enover Trust regarding the insulation project.

014/2023 20s Plenty Scheme

- i *Update on the 20s Plenty Scheme*

No update on the 20s Plenty Scheme within the village yet.

- ii *To agree the motion that Feering Parish Council supports the 20s Plenty for Essex Campaign. That the Parish Council calls on Essex County Council to implement 20 mph in Feering and that Feering Parish Council will write to Essex County Council to request 20 mph speed limits on streets throughout the county where people work, live, shop, play or learn with 30 mph as the exception on those roads, where full consideration of the needs of vulnerable road users allows a higher limit.*

After discussion it was **agreed** to support the motion for the 20s Plenty for Essex Campaign. It was also **agreed** that the Parish Council would write to Essex County Council calling for ECC to implement the 20 mph in Feering and streets throughout the county. Proposed by Cllr Dobson seconded by Cllr Pullen.

015/2023 Cost of Living Crisis

- i Update on Community Living Room

We had a good response to the Energy Café which was held on 11 January with around 14 people turning up. Thanks was given to Cllr Evans for organising the volunteer. The volunteer is returning again to help residents further. A further event has been organised with a resident of the village to help with CV writing and interview techniques on 1 and 8 February 2023. It was discussed that a bus could be looked into for residents.

ii Update on Covid Funds

We are still waiting for a response from one donor and we can then make a decision on how the funds should be used. This has been chased.

016/2023 Feering Master Planning

i *To update on the Kelvedon and Feering Health care provision*

Nothing to update.

ii *£106 Monies for Allotments*

After discussion it was **agreed** that this item be deferred to the next meeting. It was discussed that we should contact the National Allotment Association to see if they could come along and give us some advice.

017/2023 Village Green

The solicitors have again chased Eastlight's solicitors but have not yet received a response. The Clerk has also chased their contact at Eastlight to see if they can speed up the process.

018/2023 Open Spaces Action Plan

After discussion it was proposed that the Open Spaces Action plan be **agreed** as drafted and submitted to Braintree District Council. Proposed by Cllr Dobson, seconded by Cllr Pullen.

019/2023 King Charles III Coronation

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would notify the community that they will be supporting street parties throughout the community as we did for the Queen's Jubilee and residents to contact the Clerk to apply for the support. It was also **agreed** that a Coronation special Community Living Room would be held on 8 May 2023. It was also **agreed** that we would ask Feering School if the children could design a flag which could be made for the Coronation. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Blackburn.

020/2023 Policy Review

i Grant Awarding Policy

After discussion it was **agreed** that this policy be deferred to the next meeting.

ii Environmental Policy

After discussion it was **agreed** that this policy be deferred to the next meeting.

021/2023 Meeting Schedule for 2023

After discussion it was **agreed** that the Meeting Schedule for 2023 be approved subject to one amendment. Proposed by Cllr Lees.

10.30 pm - It was proposed that standing orders be suspended for the meeting to continue.. Proposed Dobson, seconded Cllr Lees.

022/2023 Air Quality Monitoring Scheme – Rivenhall IWMF

The Clerk informed Council that she had spoken to CPRE Essex who confirmed that they did not think that PAIN should undertake the air quality monitoring and that they were

going to speak to PAIN and have further discussions within CPRE and keep the Clerk updated.

023/2023 Resolution to exclude public and press

After discussion it was agreed that members of the public and press be excluded under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meeting) Act 1960 due to the sensitive and confidential nature of the business to be discussed. Proposed by Cllr Dobson, seconded by Cllr Lees.

024/2023 Emergency Planning

After discussion it was **agreed** that the plan be amended and submitted to Braintree District Council. Proposed by Cllr Pullen, seconded by Cllr Lees.

025/2023 Items for Next Agenda

- i Review of Financial Regulations and Standing Orders
- ii Asset Register
- iii Co-option of Councillor
- iv Annual Assembly
- v Annual Report
- vi S106 allotments monies.
- vii Policy reviews

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 22.43 and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

Paul Lees

21 February 2023