MINUTES of the MEETING of FEERING PARISH COUNCIL
held at Feering Community Centre on Tuesday 21 February 2023 at 7.30 pm

In attendance: Cllr P Lees (Chair), Cllr G Pullen, Cllr L Blackburn, Cllr K Evans, Cllr H Marks, Cllr W McCartney (after co-option), Cllr N Warwick (after co-option)

Also Present: Lisa Collins – Clerk, Cllr P Thorogood (ECC and BDC)
Members of the Public: 0

026/2023 Chairman Welcome

The meeting started at 7.35 pm. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

027/2023 Apologies for Absence

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

028/2023 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.

029/2023 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Feering Parish Council

After discussion, the minutes of the meeting on 17 January 2023 were **agreed**. Proposed by Cllr Pullen seconded by Cllr Blackburn.

030/2023 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.

031/2023 Finance

i *To approve the bank reconciliation as at 31 January 2023 and 2022/23 budget account (circulated before the meeting)*

After discussion the bank reconcilliation was **approved.** Proposed by Cllr Pullen, seconded by Cllr Marks.

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

After discussion it was **agreed** that all February payments be made. Proposed by Cllr Blackburn, seconded by Cllr Pullen. It was further **agreed** during item 042/2023(ii) that the payment for the Covid Funds be transferred to the United Reform Church.

iii *Review and agreement of Asset Register*

After discussion it was **agreed** that the Asset Register be approved. Proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Blackburn.

032/2023 *Co-option of Councillors*

After discussion it was **agreed** to co-opt William McCartney and Nathaniel Warwick to the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Pullen. Cllrs McCartney and Warwick signed the declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting as a Parish Councillor.

033/2023 **Report from District / County Councillor**

This item was deferred until Cllr Thorogood's arrival.

Cllr Thorogood arrived at 20.03 pm and this item was then discussed.

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

Braintree District Council ("BDC") – Budget was approved at 2.5% increase; BDC will be discontinuing with the bin collection calendar to save money; BDC will be spending £200,000 to consult on charging for the Green Bin collection; the Millennium Slip roads at Braintree have now been shelved as funding is not available so BDC have agreed to give every house hold a £25 discount on their council tax; Deals of Kelvedon – has received an objection from Essex Highways stating that the current plans are not acceptable.

Essex County Council ("ECC") – Rivenhall Incinerator – Appeal will be heard between 2-12 May; Highways Maintenance Budget – an extra £9m has been announced but still does not reach the figures needed to maintain the carriageways in Essex; budget for footways, PRoW and street lighting will only around 50% of the required amount; Scraping the Essex Rangers service.

Questions were asked of Cllr Thorogood regarding sustainable parking by the Green Party as this was encouraging car use. Cllr Lees asked whether there is any quality control over the repairs which has been undertaken on the Inworth Road. It was also raised that the lights in roads around the village have been replaced with LED lights. Residents have been complaining that the lights are no longer going off overnight.

Cllr Thorogood left the meeting at 20.50.

034/2023 **Clerks Report**

The report had been circulated previously and was noted. Further information was shared regarding the request for banners to be fixed to the railings for businesses using the community centre, and the local elections process taking place in May.

035/2023 **Planning Matters**

i 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.

ii To consider and agree response to the consultation on the reforms to the National Planning Framework Policy

Discussion was held around the consultation. It was **agreed** that Councillors would submit any comments to the Clerk on the consultation by 28 February 2023. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Evans.

iii To consider and agree response to the BDC revised Enforcement Policy Consultation

Initial

After discussion it was **agreed** that the Clerk would clarify with BDC whether we are required to comment on this consultation and once clarified a survey would be sent to all Councillors for comment.

036/2023 Highways & Transport

i VTAG report

No meeting held.

ii A12 to A120 widening - A12 Highways England Statutory Consultation

The Deadline 2 submission by FPC was circulated before the meeting. There is an issue specific hearing taking place which deals specifically with Junction 24 and the Easthorpe Road Closure, the Parish Council should be represented. Discussion was also held around the Local Impact Report. Essex Highways appear to be opposing a large amount of National Highways proposals.

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

It was **agreed** that the Clerk would ask for the sign on the corner of Coggeshall Road/London Road junction be removed.

iv Village Speeding Issues and Cycle routes for the village

Nothing to update.

037/2023 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

No report was received before the meeting.

Discussion was also held around the report from Cllr Evans regarding the plumbing and building matters for the Community Centre. Cllr Evans informed the Clerk that this should have been put under the grant applications as it relates to the Enovert Grant. The report has not been discussed with the FCC however it does relate to the FCC as well as FPC. It was discussed that a surveyor should come in to do a survey of the loft plumbing and electrical cables and proposals for the removal of the showers.

ii PRoW & Cycleway Committee

Update circulated before the meeting.

iii Playing Field Management Working Party from Cllr P Lees

No report received.

iv Feering Environmental Working Party from Cllr C Dobson

No report received.

v Braintree Association of Local Councils / Essex Association of Local Councils from Cllr P Lees

Report was circulated before the meeting.

vi IWMF Rivenhall Airfield Site Liaison Committee

No report received.

038/2023 Annual Assembly

After discussion it was **agreed** that the date of the Annual Assembly be moved to 15 May 2023. Proposed by Cllr Pullen, seconded by Cllr Lees.

039/2023 Annual Report

After discussion it was **agreed** that the annual report would be prepared and sent out by the end of May. All reports must be sent to the clerk by Friday 7 April 2023 ahead of the April meeting for approval. Proposed Cllr Pullen, seconded by Cllr Lees

040/2023 Grant Applications

i *To update on grant applications*

Cllr Evans updated on the ECC Climate Action Challenge Grant which has now spent all the money. Discussion was held around the CIF monies as it was informed that £130,000 has been returned to Essex County Council. Cllr Evans also informed that ECC have purchased a Thermal Imaging Camera, and this will be loaned to the Parish Council to produce heat maps of the village.

The Clerk informed that an application has been submitted for the King's Coronation funds via The National Lottery. We are awaiting the outcome.

041/2023 20s Plenty Scheme

i *Update on the 20s Plenty Scheme*

Following the motion agreed at last month's meeting, the letter was sent to Essex County Council supporting the 20s plenty scheme. Cllr Scott's office has responded confirming that officers are currently working through the place and movement strategy and the speed management strategy to complement this and are not able to say whether they can support this approach yet, but our request is noted.

042/2023 Cost of Living Crisis

i Update on Community Living Room

We are still having regular attendees at the Community Living Room and the Duke of Edinburgh scheme cake baker is producing a positive response.

ii Update on Covid Funds

We have now received a response to our email regarding distribution of the funds. All donors are happy for us to contribute towards the URC's costs and split the costs we hold between Feering and Kelvedon. It was **agreed** that the funds should be paid in the payment run.

043/2023 Feering Master Planning

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

Nothing to update. Discussion was held around the provision being moved on the London Road site.

ii *S106 Monies for Allotments*

After discussion it was **agreed** that this item be deferred to the next meeting. The National Allotment Association has been contacted and our email has been forwarded to the regional representative for comment.

iii **Lady Meadow**

After discussion, it was retrospectively **agreed** that the asset of community value be submitted. Proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Blackburn. It was also discussed that the Parish Council would like to contact the vendor and express an interest in the land and that an asset of community value has been submitted by the Parish Council. It was also discussed that the Clerk had contacted the District Valuer at the Valuation Office Agency to find out what the process is for getting the land valued. Proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr McCartney.

044/2023 Village Green

Nothing to report

045/2023 May Fayre

After discussion it was **agreed** that the Parish Council would run a stall on behalf of the Feering Community Centre. It was proposed that Cllr Lees, Marks, Pullen and McCartney would rota across the afternoon to man the stall.

046/2023 Policy Review

i Grant Awarding Policy

After discussion it was **agreed** that, subject to the amendment to be made, this policy be approved. Proposed by Cllr Pullen, seconded by Cllr Lees.

ii Environmental Policy

After discussion it was **agreed** to defer this item to the next meeting.

iii Financial Regulations

After discussion the amendments to the Financial Regulations were noted and it was **agreed** that the Financial Regulations be adopted. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Blackburn.

iv Standing Orders

After discussion the amendments to the Standing Orders were noted and it was **agreed** that the Standing Orders be adopted. Proposed Cllr Lees, Seconded by Cllr Pullen.

047/2023 Essex Highways P3 Service Level Agreement

After discussion it was **agreed** that the Service Level Agreement should be signed for the 2023-2024 financial year. Proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Marks.

048/2023 Items for Next Agenda

i Annual Assembly – Format and Community Awards.

ii Environmental Policy Review

iii Gigaclear update

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 21.59 and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed .... 21 March 2023

Paul Lees

Initial