



MINUTES of the MEETING of FEERING PARISH COUNCIL
held at Feering Community Centre on Tuesday 18 April 2023 at 7.30 pm

In attendance: Cllr P Lees (Chair) Cllr C Dobson (Vice-Chair) Cllr L Blackburn arrived 19.35
Arrived at 20.16
Cllr K Evans Cllr H Marks Cllr R Carpenter
Cllr N Warwick Cllr W McCartney
Also Present: Lisa Collins – Clerk Cllr P Thorogood (ECC and BDC)
Members of the Public: 1

069/2023 Chair's Welcome

The Vice-Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting as the Chair was delayed.

070/2023 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

071/2023 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.

072/2023 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Feering Parish Council

After discussion, the minutes of the meeting on 21 March 2023 were **agreed**. Proposed by Cllr Carpenter seconded by Cllr Dobson.

073/2023 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 comments from the member of the public.

074/2023 Finance

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

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

- ii *To consider and agree to an emergency grant for the Feering Baby and Toddler Group*

This item was deferred until the arrival of Cllr Lees. After discussion it was **agreed** that the Parish Council would grant the toddler group a £100 emergency grant to top up a short fall on the room hire at the Community Centre. Discussion will also be held with the Toddler Group about the viability of the future of the group. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr McCartney.

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

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

- iv *To review Direct Debits and Standing Order Payments for coming year*

After discussion, the standing orders and direct debit payments for the 2022/23 financial year were **agreed**. Proposed by Cllr Dobson, seconded by Cllr Marks.

- v *To agree to continued use of Internal Auditor for 2022/23 financial year end*

After discussion it was **agreed** to continue to use the services of Heelis & Lodge for 2022/23 internal audit. Proposed by Cllr Dobson, seconded by Cllr Pullen.

075/2023 Report from District / County Councillor

Cllr Thorogood submitted a written report which was noted. The report noted the following issues:

Braintree District Council ("BDC") – Cllr Thorogood gave an update on the condition of Essex roads and the budget pressures on ECC. ECC have described the situation as "managed decline"; A12 update – it has been agreed by ECC that the Inworth Road, including Hinds Bridge and Gore Pit junction are significant locations where there is uncertainty over the impact of the new junction 24 and should be included in the post-implementation monitoring. Feering Parish Council ("FPC") put forward the junctions of Coggeshall Road (Feering), Station Road/Coggeshall Road and New Lane should also be included but ECC disagreed with these locations being included; Local Highways Panel – Cllr Thorogood updated on a 20 MPH scheme which had been proposed for St Peter's Road in Coggeshall which has been rejected by the LHP. This is very similar to the areas that FPC would like to put forward for the 20s plenty scheme and it may be this results in a similar rejection for FPC.

Essex County Council ("ECC") – A written report was submitted by Cllr Thorogood. Cllr Thorogood gave an update on the condition of Essex roads and the budget pressures on ECC. ECC have described the situation as "managed decline"; A12 update – it has been agreed by ECC that the Inworth Road, including Hinds Bridge and Gore Pit junction are significant locations where there is uncertainty over the impact of the new junction 24 and should be included in the post-implementation monitoring. FPC put forward the junctions of Coggeshall Road (Feering), Station Road/Coggeshall Road and New Lane should also be included but ECC disagreed with these locations being included; Local Highways Panel – Cllr Thorogood updated on a 20 MPH scheme which had been proposed for St Peter's Road in Coggeshall which has been rejected by the LHP. This is very similar to the areas that FPC would like to put forward for the 20s plenty scheme and it may be this results in a similar rejection for FPC.

Questions were asked of Cllr Thorogood regarding the resurfacing of Kelvedon High Street. Cllr Thorogood said that the plan is for March 2024 for the resurfacing programme if ECC agree to the spend. Cllr Dobson asked Cllr Thorogood to bring up the issue of the ECC's Essex Speed Management Strategy 2010 being out of date and not in line with national government policy, as highlighted by the 20s Plenty campaign.

076/2023 Clerks Report

Cllr Lees joined the meeting at 20.16.

The report had been circulated previously and was noted. Discussion was held around why Parish Councillors had decided not to stand for re-election. The Clerk raised that the Essex Playing Fields competition forms had been sent in and that they were being completed.

Cllr Warwick left the meeting at 20.23 and returned at 20.25.

077/2023 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.

078/2023 Highways & Transport

- i VTAG report

No meeting held.

- ii A12 to A120 widening - A12 Highways England Statutory Consultation

No update given. Cllr Evans updated that she would be circulating the answers given for deadline 4 to the questions that we asked at deadline 3.

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

Cllr Carpenter left the meeting at 20.47 and returned at 20.48.

No comments to be made.

- iv Village Speeding Issues and Cycle routes for the village

It was noted that police were holding a speedwatch at the junction of Sherwood Way and Feering Hill.

079/2023 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.

- ii PRoW & Cycleway Committee

No report received.

- 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

No report received.

- vi IWMF Rivenhall Airfield Site Liaison Committee

No report received.

080/2023 Community Centre Maintenance

Cllr Pullen left the meeting at 20.49 and returned at 20.50.

Discussion was held around the fire alarm system and the burglar alarm system. It was agreed that a fire risk assessment needs to be carried out urgently. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Dobson.

The Clerk raised that the doors to the changing rooms are falling apart and need replacing. A handyman is attending the centre to look into replacing them.

081/2023 Annual Assembly

The Clerk updated that Rick Hylton, the Chief Fire Officer at Essex Fire & Rescue Service has confirmed that he would be happy to attend the Annual Assembly and to present the Annual Awards. After discussion it was **agreed** that reusable mugs be purchased and framed certificates for the 8 community members. Proposed by Cllr Lees seconded by Cllr McCartney.

Cllr Thorogood and member of the public left the meeting at 21.07.

082/2023 Annual Report

After discussion it was **agreed** that subject to the final report being received the report should be finalised and produced before the Annual Assembly. Proposed by Cllr Dobson, seconded by Cllr Lees.

083/2023 Grant Applications

- i *To update on grant applications*

Nothing to update.

084/2023 Feering Master Planning

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

Nothing to update.

- ii *S106 Monies for Allotments*

Nothing further heard from National Association of Allotments. Clerk to chase.

- iii *Lady Meadow*

The clerk updated that a report of heavy machinery was on the site removing trees. BDC attended the site and confirmed that it was Willow's being harvested.

085/2023 Village Green

The clerk informed Councillors that the draft Transfer document and report from the solicitors has been received. After discussion it was **agreed** that once the plan has been received and satisfactory the document should be executed to ensure the village green is transferred to the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Dobson, seconded by Cllr Lees.

086/2023 Gigaclear Update

Cllr Pullen attended a meeting with Gigaclear. Scheme has been green-lit and applications have been put in for where equipment needs to be placed. Overhead pylons/telegraph poles will need to be put in. It was **agreed** that Gigaclear would be invited to attend the annual assembly on an information only basis so that residents can ask questions of the service. Proposed by Cllr Dobson, seconded by Cllr Lees.

087/2023 East Anglia Green Pylon Scheme

After discussion it was **agreed** that the parish council will continue to monitor the situation and will stick with the national consultation and publication process.

088/2023 Items for Next Agenda

- i Co-option of Councillors
- ii Setting up of a maintenance committee for Feering Community Centre.

The chair thanked all retiring members of the Council for their hard work over the past years.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 21.39 and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

.....

Paul Lees

23 May 2023