



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

In attendance: Cllr P Lees (Chair) Cllr K Evans Cllr S Taylor
 Cllr E Mitchell Cllr B McCarthy Cllr N Warwick

Also Present: Lisa Collins – Clerk Cllr C Finch Cllr P Thorogood

Members of the Public: 1

136/2023 Chair's Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

137/2023 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr P Carlaw. It was **resolved** to accept the apologies. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Taylor

138/2023 Declaration of Interest

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

No declarations of interest received.

139/2023 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Feering Parish Council

After discussion, the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 20 June 2023 were **agreed** proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Mitchell.

140/2023 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.

Member of the public raised the issue of Network Rail closing the station ticket offices across the network, including Kelvedon. The MoP asked the Parish Council, District Councillors and County Councillors to lobby against this with Network Rail and the local MP. The Councillors **agreed** that this should be undertaken.

MoP left the meeting at 19.44.

141/2023 Finance

- i *To approve the bank reconciliation as at 30 June 2023 and 2022/23 budget account (circulated before the meeting)*

After discussion the bank reconciliation was **approved**. Proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Mitchell.

- ii *To agree to the Clerk's recommendation for insurance*

After discussion it was **agreed** that the Council would accept the recommendation to continue a 3-year long-term undertaking insurance with BHIB subject to confirmation that the village green will be able to be added to the policy once we take it over. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Taylor.

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

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

142/2023 Report from District / County Councillor

Cllr Thorogood submitted a report before the meeting and this was noted.

Braintree District Council ("BDC") – Cllr Thorogood's report updated on Green Bin Charging and the decision made by BDC to charge for the service. The price will increase over the next 3 years. This is possibly going to be called in by the I&G Group; ECC and BDC joint campaign to reduce food waste going to landfill; Damp and mould problems in social housing; BDC are attempting to block the use by the Home Office to use the site at Wethersfield airfield to house asylum seekers;

Essex County Council ("ECC") – Cllr Thorogood's report gave an update on consultation on national Grid's pylon plans; Rivenhall Airfield waste site application; Wethersfield Airbase –

Questions were asked of Cllr Thorogood regarding the Rivenhall Waste site application and how to make a complaint about it. PAIN have lodged a legal appeal against condition 66 for judicial review. Cllr Thorogood said that he had spoken to ECC about using his locality fund for the air monitoring at the Rivenhall Waste site. ECC's continuing failure to make any road issue in Feering a priority and whether he can do something about the sunken ironworks near the 4site industrial estate. Cllr Taylor raised the affordable homes question which was previously raised. Cllr Thorogood confirmed that there was a response and he would forward this.

143/2023 Clerks Report

The report had been circulated previously and was noted. The clerk updated that the verges on Coggeshall Road had been cut by a resident, however the maintenance team had deliberately left the verges because they had found a multitude of wildlife living within those areas. It was discussed that the comments on Facebook needs to be addressed around the handyman complaints and a thought-out statement should be produced to go on social media, the newsletter and the Parish Magazine. It was asked of Cllr Thorogood as to whether there was a policy document which BDC have which could be shared.

Cllr Warwick left the meeting at 20.34 and returned at 20.35.

144/2023 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 will be ratified at the next face to face meeting. The applications include: The Bungalow - Coggeshall Road, All Saints Church, Copper Beach - Spa Road and Colchester City Centre Masterplan.
- ii After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Carlaw would be asked to join the Planning Working Group.

145/2023 Highways & Transport

- i *VTAG report*
No meeting held.
- ii *A12 to A120 widening - A12 Highways England Statutory Consultation*

Examination for the A12 widening has finished. Feering Parish Council submitted requests including footbridge over Prested Hall Drive, a connection between Inworth Road and Worlds End Lane, and a connection between Inworth Road and Threshelfords

bridge. In discussion with WSP, the Crown Estates' agent, he was positive about installing a footbridge across Domsey Brook from National Highways land onto the Crown Estates land. National Highways did state that they would be reinstating bus stops on the detrunked A12 but it is ECC's decision as to whether buses stop on the route. A full report will be circulated ahead of the next meeting.

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

Local Highways Panels are no longer allowing votes from BDC and representatives at the meeting. Only ECC councillors allowed to vote. ECC are still allowing BALC and BDC to attend the Braintree Highways Panels and put forward requests.

- iv *Councillors to consider response to Unmet Demand Survey – Taxi and Private Hire Services in Braintree District*

After discussion it was **agreed** that a response be drafted and submitted on behalf of the Parish Council.

- v *Village Speeding Issues and Cycle routes for the village*

Nothing to update.

146/2023 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 K Evans*

Report was circulated before the meeting and noted.

Cllr Finch left the meeting at 21.04

- ii *PRoW & Cycleway Committee*

No report received.

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

Report was circulated before to the meeting and noted. Cllr Lees updated on the CIF funds and the fact that EALC are trying to get leftover monies into the Emergency Funds for distribution.

- iv *IWMF Rivenhall Airfield Site Liaison Committee*

No report received.

- v *Bradwell Quarry / Flood Alleviation Scheme from Cllr Evans*

No report received. This to be removed.

147/2023 Community Centre Maintenance

- i *To discuss ongoing Community Centre Maintenance need to be undertaken by the Parish Council and agree any actions to be taken*

It was noted that the rear doors would be installed on 25 July.

- ii *To discuss and agree the setting up of a maintenance committee for Feering Community Centre*

This was raised to be discussed after the AGM.

148/2023 Training

- i *To agree attendance at the EALC Annual General Meeting*

After discussion it was **agreed** that Cllr Pam Carlaw would be asked to attend the meeting.

149/2023 Grant Applications

- i *To update on grant applications*

The clerk informed Council that a grant application had been received.

150/2023 Feering Master Planning

- i *To agree strategy for Crown Estates master planning.*

Cllr Evans requested that she would like to join the Working Group. An initial meeting needs to be arranged with the members of the working group.

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

Nothing to update.

- iii *S106 Monies for Allotments*

Nothing further heard from National Association of Allotments. Clerk to chase. It was **agreed** that we would contact the residents along the edge of the allotments to see if there was any scope to lease some of the land to make more allotments.

- iv *Lady Meadow*

Nothing to update.

- v *Bloor Homes – Attenuation Basin*

After discussion it was **agreed** that we would ask BDC to make contact with Bloor Homes to see if they can get an answer. A site visit to be asked of the planning officer. If there is no satisfactory response, we will submit an enforcement application for this to be dealt with. Environmental health will also be contacted regarding the dead rabbits within the basins. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Evans.

151/2023 Village Green

- i *Update on Village Green transfer*

The clerk informed Council that the transfer document had been signed and returned to the solicitors. We are now waiting on confirmation that the transfer has taken place.

Paul Thorogood left the meeting at 21.29.

- ii *To consider and agree the installation of bollards or hedging along the edge of the village green*

After discussion it was **agreed** to look into the cost of bollards, picket fence and / or established hedging to stop driving across the village. A consultation to be undertaken with the local residents around the area. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Warwick.

152/2023 Policy Review

- i *To consider and agree the updated Co-option Policy*

After discussion it was **agreed** to adopt the updated Co-option Policy. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Mitchell.

- ii *To discuss, agree and adopt the Flag Flying Policy and purchase of any additional flags*

After discussion it was **agreed** to adopt the Flag Flying Policy subject to the amendment discussed. It was also **agreed** to purchase the flags over the next 6 -12 months as noted at paragraph 3.4 of the policy. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Evans.

153/2023 August Meeting

After discussion it was agreed that there would not be a meeting held in August and that the schedule of meetings be updated to remove the date for August. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Taylor. The next meeting will be held on 19 September 2023.

Cllr Warwick left the meeting at 21.52 and returned at 21.53.

154/2023 Resolution to exclude public and press

It was resolved to exclude public and press. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Taylor

155/2023 Employment Committee

i *To temporarily co-opt a councillor onto the Committee*

After discussion it was **agreed** that Cllr Warwick be temporarily co-opted onto the Committee. Proposed by Cllr McCartney, seconded by Cllr Evans

ii *To discuss and agree salary*

After discussion it was **agreed** that following the Employment Committee meeting their recommendation is to increase the salary point this increase should be awarded to the Clerk as soon as possible and backdated to April 2023. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr McCartney.

156/2023 Items for Next Agenda

- i Tree Works quotation
- ii Christmas decorations.
- iii Employment committee decision
- iv FCC Building committee

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 22.00 and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

Paul Lees

19 September 2023