



MINUTES of the MEETING of FEERING PARISH COUNCIL
held at Feering Community Centre on Tuesday 19 September 2023 at 7.30 pm

In attendance: Cllr P Lees (Chair) Cllr P Carlaw Cllr S Taylor
 Cllr E Mitchell Cllr K Evans arrived at 19.31 Cllr N Warwick arrived 19.31

Also Present: Lisa Collins – Clerk Cllr C Finch Cllr P Thorogood
Members of the Public: 2

157/2023 Chair's Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

158/2023 Apologies for Absence

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

159/2023 Declaration of Interest

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

No declarations of interest received.

160/2023 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Feering Parish Council

After discussion, the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 18 July 2023 were **agreed** subject to the amendments submitted previously. Proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Mitchell.

161/2023 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.

A member of the public ("MOP") raised the trees on the playing field. Two are deceased. Could the Parish Council replace the trees with like for like. Emphasis needs to be taken off the volunteers to keep them alive and ask the handyman to water. Be put in November / December. Bridge meadows hay cut has been undertaken and needs now needs the cut to be taken away. MOP still has saplings for replacement along Taylors where the hedgerow has been planted. Also raised lighting issues for the Parish and the problem with LED lights. Parish Council lights can be dimmed through the PC contractor but ECC do not use these. New LEDs put in by ECC are very bright and are shining into properties and causing issues for sleeping. It was discussed that a conversation could be held with our lighting contractor to discuss the options and a review of requirements. First MOP left at 19.47.

A second MOP introduced herself as the new Feering Community Centre Chair. They wanted to have a fruitful relationship between the FPC and FCC.

162/2023 Finance

- i *To retrospectively agree payments for August 2023 due to no meeting being held during August (circulated with agenda)*

After discussion it was agreed that the payments made in August be **agreed**. Proposed by Cllr Carlaw, seconded by Cllr Mitchell

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

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

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

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

- iv *To receive update on the External Audit for the Accounts for 2022/2023*

It was noted by Council that that there had been a comment made by the External Auditors relating to the Asset Register due to the solar panels having not been included in the register before the year end.

- v *To consider request from Kelvedon & Feering Scout Group for Fun Day sponsorship*

After discussion it was **agreed** that the Parish Council would not be able to help on this occasion to the Fun Day due to the fact that they have previously had a grant and this is outside of the Parish Council grant donation cycle. However we are happy to help publicise the event.

- vi *To agree payments for September 2023 (to be circulated prior to the meeting)*

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

163/2023 Report from District / County Councillor

Cllr Thorogood joined the meeting at 21.02 and this item agenda was returned to upon his arrival. Cllr Warwick left the meeting at 21.08 and returned at 21.13

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

Braintree District Council ("BDC") – Cllr Thorogood's report updated, and Cllr Finch gave a further update on the I&G Group motion for a balanced budget; green bin charge is still going ahead. The cost of the service is only £12 per bin at the moment so unsure why there is such a large charge.

Essex County Council ("ECC") – Cllr Thorogood's report gave an update on the RAAC issue at Honywood School, National Highways planned maintenance between Marks Farm and Braintree between October and January 2024; Speed Management Strategy; consultation on the new Waste Strategy and the pothole nominations for the Member-led scheme.

Questions were asked of Cllr Finch regarding the scanner on the paid green bin service and a shared service for residents who only use the bin occasionally. BDC are informing vulnerable people are being told to share bins which is expected by BDC. Cllr Carlaw asked whether BDC would be monitoring the amount of black bin waste which they are receiving now and what the change will be once the subscription service comes into force. Cllr Taylor asked whether there will be any provision at recycling sites for extra green waste.

Cllr Thorogood asked about Potholes to be considered, it was discussed that Greenways and Sherwood Way should be nominated for consideration. Questions were raised about the barriers on Hanover Bridge which ECC have deemed not as important as other issues and also about the surfaces of the roads.

164/2023 Clerks Report

The report had been circulated previously and was noted.

165/2023 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: Rivenhall Waste Management DCO, Deals of Kelvedon, National Grid pylons consultation, Old Vicarage Feering Hill and Amberley and Colchester County Council Climate Change SPD.

166/2023 Highways & Transport

- i *VTAG report . To consider Council's position regarding the VTAG Group*

Last meeting held in November 2022. After discussion it was **agreed** that the group should continue at least until the decision of the A12 DCO.

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

No update on this matter.

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

Nothing to update.

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

Discussion was held around the speeding issues in the village particularly when the A12 has been closed overnight. Cllr Carlaw raised the issue of a cycle route between Feering and Tiptree. There is also a BDC consultation on cycleways at the moment. Cllr Lees raised the cycleway alongside the A12 which has a large amount of growth growing from the pavement.

167/2023 Committee and Representatives Report

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

- i *FCC Trustees Meeting*

Report was circulated before the meeting and noted.

- 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.

- iv *Employment Committee*

Report was circulated before the meeting and noted. The Clerk asked to attend the SLCC VAT course as part of her objectives. This was **agreed**. Proposed Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Warwick.

- v *IWMF Rivenhall Airfield Site Liaison Committee and consideration of an additional representative at the Committee Meetings*

No report received. Cllrs Evans, Carlaw and Mitchell attended the Indaver open day which was very informative. It was **agreed** to defer the additional representative to the next meeting.

- vi *Helping Communities Deliver Net-zero: Housing and Energy Conference – Cllr P Carlaw*

Report was circulated before the meeting and noted. Discussion was held around community land trusts.

168/2023 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 new rear doors had been installed and make a huge difference to the appearance of the centre.

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

This will be discussed with the FCC.

- iii *To consider and agree quote for new doors at rear of the building.*

After discussion it was **agreed** to accept the quote for the new doors on the Oak Room and the Refs changing room. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Warwick

169/2023 Grant Applications

- i *To update on grant applications*

The clerk informed Council that a further grant application has been received.

170/2023 Feering Master Planning

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

A meeting to be arranged as soon as possible.

- 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.

- iv *Lady Meadow*

Nothing to update.

- v *Bloor Homes – Attenuation Basin*

The clerk has chased BDC on several occasions with regard to this issue. BDC have not yet heard anything back from Bloor with regard to the amount of houses occupied as there is a clause in the S106 Agreement which requires the open spaces to be completed. BDC are chasing.

171/2023 Village Green

- i *Update on Village Green transfer*

Nothing to update

172/2023 Tree Works

After discussion it was **agreed** that the crown raising should be undertaken. Proposed by Cllr Mitchell, seconded by Cllr Lees. It was further **agreed** that the Poplar tree should be felled and a replacement tree planted in another area. Proposed by Cllr Lees and seconded by Cllr Warwick. It was also discussed the removal of the tree should be communicated with the community so that the community understand the reasoning behind this and informing that a replacement tree will be planted.

Cllr Finch left at 21.14

173/2023 Car Park Line Marking

After discussion it was **agreed** to progress with Quote 1 for the line markings to be carried out in the car park. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Taylor.

174/2023 Training

After discussion it was **agreed** that in principle the Councillors would be happy to attend the joint training.

175/2023 Photocopier Contract

After discussion it was **agreed** to accept the Clerk's recommendation and continue the contract with Ricoh for a further 5 years. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Carlaw.

176/2023 Youth Forum

After discussion it was **agreed** that the Parish Council would be prepared to hold the monies in reserve for future youth facilities or activities and a discussion to be held around the reserves. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Mitchell.

177/2023 Items for Next Agenda

- i Additional Planning representative
- ii Trees to be replaced on the playing field.
- iii Feasibility of Community Land Trust
- iv Essex Waste Strategy
- v Christmas Decorations

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 21.40 and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

Paul Lees

17 October 2023