



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

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

Also Present: Lisa Collins – Clerk Cllr P Thorogood (ECC/BDC)
Members of the Public: 2

178/2023 Chair's Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

179/2023 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr E Mitchell. It was **resolved** to accept the apologies. Proposed by Cllr Lees seconded by Cllr Taylor

180/2023 Declaration of Interest

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

Cllr McCartney declared an interest in item 191/2023(v) as a resident on the Bloor estate.
Cllr Taylor declared an interest in item 191/2023(iii) as a potential plot holder.

181/2023 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Feering Parish Council

After discussion, the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 19 September 2023 were **agreed**. Proposed by Cllr Carlaw, seconded by Cllr Taylor.

182/2023 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.

The members of the public ("MOP") raised the issue of the landscaping and the issues on the Bloor Estates as the landscaping has not been completed as per the planning approval and a verbal conversation with Bloor at the time of purchase. The attenuation basin is constantly full of weeds and there is another issue of Hemlock wide spread throughout the site which is dangerous and there is also ragwort present particularly in the attenuation basins and around the children's play area. The site is an eyesore and is a rubbish collection point and there are a number of dead rabbits. It was discussed that the Council should approach BDC to speak at the next BDC Planning Meeting about this issue. The members of public expressed their thanks for the assistance that the Parish Council have given so far and will continue to give. Members of public left at 20.01

183/2023 Finance

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

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

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

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

184/2023 Report from District / County Councillor

Cllr Thorogood submitted a report before the meeting and this was noted. Cllr Thorogood had also been at the Essex County Council Full meeting during the day on 17 October and gave a verbal update on this meeting.

Braintree District Council ("BDC") – Cllr Thorogood's report updated on the 600 homes planning application on Coggeshall Road, that National Highways had submitted a further holding objection until 30 November 2023.

Essex County Council ("ECC") – Cllr Thorogood's report gave an update on the Rivenhall Airfield Incinerator regarding a planning application for refurbishment of Woodhouse Farm and moat; the incinerator is 4 weeks behind schedule, a new bailey bridge over the River Blackwater at Bradwell; application to ECC for cranes to be brought to site via Kelvedon and possibly Cressing and Silver End; industrial scale green houses on site – 160 acres; Draft Waste Strategy indicates ECC wishes to switch black bin waste from landfill to incineration; A120 from Braintree to A12 has slipped from 2025-30 to 2030 and beyond; Coggeshall, Kelvedon and Feering flood alleviation scheme has been renamed Blackwater Flood Alleviation Scheme and plans have still not been submitted; A submission has been made to Member Enquiries to chase up the repair of the barriers on Hanover Bridge; Cllr Thorogood is applying for traffic calming measures on London Road, ie a chicane and/or speed camera to slow traffic through the LHP; an application for "Beware, concealed entrance" sign near the cemetery has been submitted. Cllr Thorogood asked Cllr McKinley of ECC about Councillor Grants and how they should be spent as the previous years grant had not been spent.

Questions were asked of Cllr Thorogood to speak to the BDC planning department regarding the Bloor Estate and also try to get a senior planner and the chair of the planning committee to have a site visit and enforce the Bloor Planning permissions. Discussion was held around the possibility of a chicane in Kelvedon London Road.

Cllr Thorogood left the meeting at 20.37

185/2023 Clerks Report

The report had been circulated previously and was noted. The Clerk also raised a response from TCV Essex regarding the Ragwort on Taylors Field and that the plant is a valuable plant and a great source of food for insects. The plant is only dangerous to livestock if in a field which is mown for hay / winter fodder. It was therefore **agreed** to leave the plant on Taylors Field to encourage biodiversity. It was **agreed** to ask the FCC for the results of the hot water temperature to ensure that it is heating up. It was **proposed** that the Clerk could arrange for the maps to be scanned and a cost of £150 can be spent. Proposed by Cllr McCartney and seconded by Cllr Lees.

186/2023 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. Cllr Evans submitted a report before the meeting and this was noted.
- ii *To agree an additional planning representative to be added to the Working Party*

After discussion it was **agreed** that this would be discussed at a later date when there are more councillors on the Parish Council.

187/2023 Highways & Transport

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

Nothing to update

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

A report was circulated prior to the meeting to confirm that the report has been sent to the Secretary of State to decide within 3 months.

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

Councillors discussed the Essex Highways User Survey response. The response to be submitted subject to amendments.

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

Nothing to update.

188/2023 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. Discussion was held around the Trustees meeting and the issues raised by the Parish Council with the running of the centre. The councillors welcomed the positive response from the Trustees and their plan to draft a strategic strategy which will be discussed when the FPC and FCC meeting has been arranged in the near future.

- ii *PRoW & Cycleway Committee*

No report received.

Cllr Warwick left the meeting at 21.08 and returned at 21.11.

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

BALC meeting to be held on 18 October. Discussion was held around the EALC AGM held on 21 September 2023.

- iv *Employment Committee*

Report was circulated before the meeting and noted.

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

Report was circulated before the meeting and noted. It was **agreed** that Cllr Carlaw would become the additional representative. Proposed by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Lees

- vi *Greenway North Essex Project*

Report was circulated before the meeting and noted.

189/2023 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 in the Oak Room and the Ref's changing room would be installed on Friday 27 October. They are also going to ensure that there is a screeding to make the ramp the correct angle for entrance into the door.

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

This will be discussed with the FCC.

190/2023 Grant Applications

- i *To update on grant applications*

Nothing to update.

191/2023 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 to update.

- iv *Lady Meadow*

Nothing to update.

- v *Bloor Homes – Attenuation Basin*

This was discussed during the public participation session. The clerk continues to chase BDC with regard to this issue. The Planning Officer is yet to receive a response and is checking with the solicitor as to whether a response has been received and will look to escalate this issue internally if no response received. The Clerk will look into obtain a place at the next planning meeting for the Parish Council to discuss this issue.

192/2023 Village Green

- i *Update on Village Green transfer*

Our solicitors have confirmed that their counterpart is holding a signed copy of the transfer but is waiting on consent from the council and lender in relation to two restrictions. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would contact Eastlight to see whether they can speed this up.

193/2023 Tree replacements for Playing Field

After discussion it was **agreed** that the trees on the playing field which have died should be replaced like for like. It was also discussed that a watering strategy needs to be developed and a watering container be purchased. It was further discussed that a watering pipe be installed. It was therefore **agreed** that a quotation for the costs should be obtained and then brought back to the meeting. It was also discussed to obtain information on a replacement tree for the poplar tree which is to be removed.

194/2023 Essex Waste Strategy

After discussion it was **agreed** a response would be drafted and circulated to Councillors for approval.

195/2023 Training

After discussion it was **agreed** that the clerk should attend the Refresher Course at the EALC on 30 November. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr McCartney.

196/2023 Feasibility of Community Land Trust

After discussion it was **agreed** to speak to the RCCE's local housing officer regarding the setting up of this and ask them to come along and speak to us to discuss a strategy, possibly at the January Parish Council meeting.

197/2023 Climate and Ecology Bill

After discussion it was **agreed** that the Parish Council would defer this to the next meeting so as to be able to review this further.

198/2023 Christmas decorations

After discussion it was **agreed** that the Parish Council would continue to decorate the trees on the village green and purchase some more lights for Feering Hill and would look to incorporate a budget for future purchases into next year's precept. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Evans.

199/2023 Items for Next Agenda

- i Climate and Ecology Bill
- ii Precept and budget process

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 22.17 and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

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Paul Lees

21 November 2023