



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

In attendance: Cllr P Lees (Chair) Cllr P Carlaw Cllr S Taylor
 Cllr B McCartney Cllr K Evans

Also Present: Lisa Collins – Clerk Cllr P Thorogood (ECC/BDC) Cllr C Finch (BDC)
Members of the Public: 0

200/2023 Chair's Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

201/2023 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs E Mitchell and N Warwick. It was **resolved** to accept the apologies. Proposed by Cllr Lees seconded by Cllr McCartney

202/2023 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 214/2023(v) as a resident on the Bloor estate.

203/2023 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Feering Parish Council

After discussion, the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 17 October 2023 were **agreed**. Proposed by Cllr Carlaw, seconded by Cllr Evans.

204/2023 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 public in attendance.

205/2023 Finance

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

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

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

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

- iii **To consider and agree the grant applications which have been received for payment in 2024-2025**

After discussion it was **agreed** the following grants should be given for 2024-2025:

- Feering Baby & Toddler Group - £400
- Feering Good Companions – £300
- Feering & Kelvedon Garden Club - £100

- Feering & Kelvedon Local History Museum - £200
- BASICS Essex - £100
- Feering Parish Magazine - £400
- Royal British Legion Donation - £60.

Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr McCartney

iv **To consider and agree Budget and provisional Precept Request for 2024-2025 (previously circulated to Councillors)**

After discussion it was **agreed** that the budget and provisional precept request be accepted with the precept figure being reviewed again at the January meeting. The figure gives a proposed increase of £6.40 for a band D property for the year, which equates to a 12p increase per week. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr McCartney.

It was noted that the discussion around the budget proposals was positive and constructive and an easy task and thanks were given to the Clerk for the preparation of the budget.

206/2023 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 the BDC £2.181m budget gap over the next 4 years and the Council's plan to address the budget gap; Green Bin Garden waste charge – the deadline for the early bird offer ends on 30 November and currently 21,500 homes have signed up out of a potential 68,000.

Cllr Thorogood also brought up the Bloor Homes attenuation basin and the request for Cllr Spray and the Planning Officer to have a site visit. Cllr Thorogood was told that this would have to be taken through Enforcement, which Cllr Thorogood has submitted.

Essex County Council ("ECC") – Cllr Thorogood's report gave an update on the ECC budget consultation which has been launched on how ECC should spend its £2bn budget (deadline is 3 December); the Tilbury to Norfolk pylon Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk County Councils urging National Grid to reconsider its preferred onshore option following findings in a recent review; Essex Minerals Local plan – current taking place. No preferred sites at this stage; A12 widening – final deadline for responses to proposed changes from all interested parties is 27 November. For all other responses deadline is 1 December.

Questions were asked of Cllr Thorogood regarding the drain on Inworth Road which has sunk – is there anything that Essex Highways can do about this? It was also raised that Old Road repairs have been completed and the repair is raised and a potential danger to cyclists. It was also raised that there were lines and reflective signs on Hanover Bridge but they have not yet repaired the dangerous barriers.

Cllr Thorogood and Cllr Finch left the meeting at 19.56

207/2023 Clerks Report

The report had been circulated previously and was noted.

208/2023 Planning Matters

- 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 updated on the following applications: 6 November discussion

meeting - Findon, Worlds End Lane; 13 Feering Hill TPO; The Old School House, Coggeshall Road, TPO; Trevone, Worlds End Lane; 15 Feering Hill, Garden Room; 15 Feering Hill TPO.

20 November discussion meeting – Indaver Rivenhall IWMF – Bailey Bridge application; Land at Rivenhall Airfield – Non-material Amendment 9; Land at Rivenhall Airfield – Non-material Amendment 8; Prested Hall, Prested Hall Chase – Certificate of Lawful Development.

Thanks were noted for the Tree Warden for their extensive responses throughout the year to the tree applications received.

209/2023 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*

After discussion it was **agreed** that this should be deferred to the planning working group to submit a response.

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

Questions were asked as to what was taking place in the field by the A12 at Kelvedon and it was confirmed that it was archaeological findings.

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

Nothing to update.

210/2023 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 the meeting and noted. EALC meeting will be taking place on Thursday 23rd November.

- iv *Employment Committee*

No report received.

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

No report received.

211/2023 Handyman and Grass Cutting Contract

To consider ongoing issues with handyman and grass cutting contract and agree next steps

After discussion it was **agreed** a further urgent meeting needs to be held with Think to discuss the ongoing issues.

212/2023 Environmental Working Party

To consider how best to reinstate and reinvigorate the Environmental Working Party.

After discussion it was **agreed** that Cllr McCartney discuss the working party with the ex-parish councillor responsible for the working party and put out a request for members via social media.

213/2023 Grant Applications

- i *To update on grant applications*

Nothing to update.

214/2023 Feering Master Planning

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

A meeting has been arranged for Friday 24 November with Crown Estates and a meeting with the working group will be set up after that discussion.

- 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*

The clerk informed council that she had sent the newsletter received from Bloor Homes to the planning officer who had informed the clerk that he would likely raise an issue with the enforcement team. However following Cllr Thorogood's email to Cllr Spray and the Planning officer, he was informed that the Parish Council and/or Cllr Thorogood should put in an enforcement application. It was also **agreed** that the Councillors would attend a site visit to the Bloor Estate on Thursday 16 November to view the attenuation basins.

215/2023 Village Green

- i *Update on Village Green transfer*

The Clerk has chased Eastlight and received a response that they were checking with their solicitors as to what the hold up was but nothing further received.

216/2023 Essex Waste Strategy

After discussion it was **agreed** that the response circulated be submitted. Proposed by Cllr Carlaw, seconded by Cllr Evans.

217/2023 Training

After discussion it was **agreed** that Cllr Carlaw should attend the EALC Budget and Precept training and Cllr Lees should attend the Councillor Refresher Course at the EALC. Proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Evans.

218/2023 Climate and Ecology Bill

After discussion it was **agreed** that the Parish Council would not support at this time.

219/2023 Potential Open Space Improvements

After discussion it was **agreed** that a draft response should be prepared by Cllr Evans and the Clerk and then circulated for approval by all Councillors.

220/2023 Resolution to exclude public and press

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

221/2023 Feering Community Centre

- i *To consider and discuss response from Feering Community Centre and to agree next steps*

After discussion it was **agreed** a follow up letter be sent to the FCC Trustees with a meeting to be held on Monday 4 December if relevant information can be provided by that date.

- ii *To discuss and agree the setting up of a committee for Feering Community Centre and to agree the committee members to work with the Community Centre Trustees*

After discussion it was **agreed** to defer this matter.

222/2023 Items for Next Agenda

- i D-Day 80 Celebrations

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 22.24 and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

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Paul Lees

21 November 2023