



MINUTES of the MEETING of FEERING PARISH COUNCIL
held at Feering Community Centre on Tuesday 19 March 2024 at 7.30 pm

In attendance: Cllr P Lees (Chair) Cllr P Carlaw Cllr E Mitchell
Cllr N Warwick Cllr K Evans

Also Present: Lisa Collins – Clerk Cllr C Finch (BDC)
Members of the Public: 3

053/2024 Chair's Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

054/2024 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr B McCartney, and Cllr S Taylor and were approved. Proposed by Cllr Mitchell, seconded by Cllr Carlaw

055/2024 Declaration of Interest

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

Cllr Evans declared an interest on item 062/2024(ii) as a member of the Ramblers Association.

056/2024 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Feering Parish Council

After discussion, the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 27 February were **agreed**. Proposed by Cllr Mitchell, seconded by Cllr Carlaw.

057/2024 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.

One member of the public expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor. A further member of the public raised the Crown Estate Community Engagement event. It was raised that the committee for the neighbourhood plan should also scrutinise what Crown bring forward against the Town and Country Planning Act. It was also raised that due to the A12 legal challenge, if they want spades in the ground within 2 years then we need to raise a challenge for the community.

A further issue was raised by the member of the public regarding the increase to the precept and the reasoning behind this. It was discussed that it was due to the investment in the Community Centre.

One member of the public left the meeting at 20.43.

058/2024 Chief Inspector Martin Richards

Discussion was held with Chief Inspector Richards regarding the sale of Feering Police Station and also issues in Feering. CI Richards stated that the Police Station has not been used as an operational station for many years and being on the open market it is not possible to know who may purchase the estate. There was also discussion around the types of crime which are now being experienced and a lot of this has moved from crime

on the street to crime behind closed doors. Feering specifically is experiencing crime behind closed doors and also motor vehicle crimes. There are currently two types of cars being targeted which are Range Rovers and Fords ST range. It was recommended that Faraday boxes are used to protect keys. CI Richards explained that there was concern around using these because of the worry of thieves entering homes to get the keys instead but this is not the case. They would like a constant stream of reporting from residents and the Parish Council of issues within the village via 101 or Crimestoppers. CI Richards also confirmed that there will be more police engagement in the village by the PCSO in coming months.

CI Richards left the meeting at 20.15

059/2024 Report from District / County Councillor

Cllr Thorogood submitted a report before the meeting which was noted.

Braintree District Council ("BDC") – Cllr Thorogood updated on the Minerals plan BDC Local Plan Sub Committee objection.

Essex County Council ("ECC") – Cllr Thorogood gave an update on the Rivenhall IWMF Liaison Committee and the air quality monitoring; Minerals Local plan is still open to comment; EA and Blackwater Aggregates two drop in events in Coggeshall and Kelvedon on 26th March around the Flood alleviation scheme.

Issues were raised with Cllr Finch regarding the state of the Bloor Homes site attenuation basins and the Hemlock issue.

Cllr Finch left the meeting at 20.42

060/2024 Finance

- i *To approve the bank reconciliation as at 29 February 2024 and 2023/24 budget account (circulated before the meeting)*

After discussion the bank reconciliation for February 2024 was **approved**. Proposed by Cllr Mitchell, seconded by Cllr Lees.

- ii *To agree payments for March 2024 (to be circulated prior to the meeting)*

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

- iii *To review and agree the Asset Register for 2023/2024*

Discussion was held around the appreciation / depreciation of the assets. Following the discussion it was **agreed** that the Asset Register for 2023 be approved. Proposed by Cllr Carlaw, seconded by Cllr Evans.

061/2024 Clerks Report

The report had been circulated previously and was noted. Discussion was held around the electrical meter being upgraded. There was also discussion around the vertidrainage of the playing field and it was **agreed** that the work should be undertaken as we have the funds in the budget. It was also raised that the mower insurance is due on 31 March and the increase is £12 on last year.

062/2024 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. No meetings have been held since the last meeting.

- ii *To consider the Essex County Council Replacement Minerals Plan Review 2025-2040*

After discussion it was **agreed** subject to the comments made by Katherine Evans the response should be submitted to Essex County Council. Proposed by Cllr Carlaw, seconded by Cllr Lees.

063/2024 Highways & Transport

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

Nothing to update. Meeting is in the process of being arranged.

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

A legal challenge has been received so this is being delayed.

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

Discussion was held around the green bin collection.

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

SID has been returned and is now back up and running.

064/2024 Committee and Representatives Report

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

- i *FCC Trustees Meeting*

No report received.

- ii *PRoW & Cycleway Committee*

No report received. A meeting is in the process of being arranged.

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

No report received.

- iv *Employment Committee from Cllr P Lees*

Cllr Lees reported to Council that a meeting had been held prior to this meeting where it was **agreed** that a recommendation be made to Council to award the Clerk a performance point with effect from 1 April as the Clerk has substantially met their objectives for the year. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Carlaw.

It was further reported that the job description for the Assistant Clerk role has been **agreed** and recruitment will be undertaken for the role.

Cllr Warwick left the meeting at 21.10 and returned at 21.16.

- v *IWMF Rivenhall Airfield Site Liaison Committee*

Report was circulated before the meeting and noted.

- vi *Greenway North Essex Cycleway – Cllr Evans*

No report received. Next meeting on 28th March.

065/2024 Feering Community Centre CIO

An update was given on the current position as to where the Trustees and Parish Council are with regard to the Parish Council becoming the sole trustee of the charity.

066/2024 Handyman / Grass Cutting Contract

A report was given by Cllr Lees on the discussions which had taken place with Think! regarding the service. It was **agreed** by both parties that the service was not yet at the standard we were expecting but that we are working towards this. It was also discussed that there needed to be better communication. Discussion was also held around whether we could go back to the company and ask for a refund on the fees paid to compensate what has not been done during the year and to push back on the increase in fees.

067/2024 Environmental Working Party

After discussion it was **agreed** to postpone the agenda item.

068/2024 Feering Master Planning

- i *To consider and discuss the Crown Estates master planning event.*

Discussion was held around the Crown Estate event and the follow up session which will be held on Wednesday 20th March.

- ii *Bloor Homes – Attenuation Basin*

The Clerk updated that an email had been received from Braintree District Council enforcement department stating that a report has been prepared by Bloor Homes outlining the issues they have identified with the landscaping. BDC are in the process of comparing this with the approved plans and will be carrying out a site inspection with Bloor and will be in contact again with a further update.

- iii *Bloor Homes – Hemlock Issue*

The clerk updated that an email had been received from Trinity Estates who confirmed that landscapers had attended and that the Hemlock has been treated and removed from the estate. It was discussed that following the pictures received of the Hemlock still on the site from Cllr McCartney that a further email should be sent to Trinity Estate.

069/2024 Annual Assembly / Annual Report

After discussion it was **agreed** that the same format as last year would be worked to and grant recipients would be invited to speak and also have a stall to promote their groups. Discussion was held around the Community Awards and who should receive them.

070/2024 May Fayre

After discussion it was **agreed** that the Parish Council would have a stand at the May Fayre. It was agreed that Cllr's Lees, and the Clerk would be available to help on the stall.

071/2024 Village Green

- i *Update on Village Green transfer*

The clerk provided an update on the position with the Village Green and that we are still waiting for Eastlight's solicitors before the completion can take place.

- ii *Consider improvements to the Village Green once transfer is complete*

It was discussed that something should be put along the edge of the green at the top to prevent driving across the green. It was also discussed that the seat at Long Acres could be moved to the green.

072/2024 D-Day 80

The Clerk informed Council that the Royal British Legion were not intending to commemorate the D-Day 80 and it was **agreed** that as it felt inappropriate to “celebrate” the event, the Parish Council would not take this any further.

073/2024 Items for Next Agenda

- i Update on tree removal.
- ii Annual Report final contributions
- iii Co-option

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 22.03 and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

.....
Pamela Carlaw

16 April 2024