



**MINUTES of the MEETING of FEERING PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held at Feering Community Centre on Tuesday 16 April 2024 at 7.30 pm**

**In attendance:** Cllr P Carlaw (Chair)                      Cllr E Mitchell                      Cllr K Evans  
                         Cllr S Taylor                      Cllr B Palmer (after co-option)

**Also Present:** Lisa Collins – Clerk                      Cllr P Thorogood(BDC)  
Members of the Public: 1

**074/2024 Chair's Welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**075/2024 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr P Lees, Cllr B McCartney and Cllr N Warwick and were approved. Proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Mitchell. Cllr Carlaw sent best wishes to Cllr Warwick for a speedy and uneventful recovery on behalf of the Parish Council and District Councillor.

**076/2024 Declaration of Interest**

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

No declarations of interest were declared

**077/2024 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Feering Parish Council**

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

**078/2024 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.

A member of the public was introduced as the temporary Assistant Clerk for the Parish Council and was welcomed.

**079/2024 Finance**

- i *To approve the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2024 and 2023/24 budget account (circulated before the meeting)*

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

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

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

#### 080/2024 Co-option of Councillors

After discussion it was **agreed** to co-opt Bob Palmer to the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Carlaw seconded by Cllr Evans. Cllr Palmer signed the declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting as a Parish Councillor.

#### 081/2024 Report from District / County Councillor

Cllr Thorogood gave an update as follows:

Braintree District Council ("BDC") – BDC are reviewing their local plan and have issued a call for sites;

Essex County Council ("ECC") – ECC Quarry consultation ended last week. Response stated that the policy and RAG system showed a lot of inconsistencies; National Grid launched their consultation on the Pylons; Local Highways Panels are changing the way they operate to decide big costing items which will be run by chairman's panel. This should speed up the process for the LHP on the smaller items; New scheme for Members Highways Initiative where schemes are put forward for repair every 6 weeks.

A question was raised with Cllr Thorogood regarding where he stood on the Coggeshall Flood Alleviation Scheme, he confirmed he was against the scheme as it does not work.

#### 082/2024 Clerks Report

The report had been circulated previously and was noted. Discussion was held around the Clerk attending the training session. Proposed by Cllr Carlaw, seconded by Cllr Palmer. Essex Village of the year was agreed to look into. Discussion was held around the fire door. It was agreed that the amount stated in the Clerk's report should be the maximum amount that is spent and the Clerk was authorised to spend this subject to any further quote Cllr Thorogood confirmed that he would look at giving a grant towards this. Proposed Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Evans.

#### 083/2024 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. A meeting was held on 27 March 2024 and the following applications were discussed: 24/00514/VAR – Land North of Colchester Road, Coggeshall; 24/00452/HH – 4 Hall Farm Close, Feering; 24/00145/TPOCON – End Cottage, The Street; APP/Z1510/C/24/3338938 – 4 Tey Grove, Elm Lane; 24/00607/HH – Litres, Rye Mill Lane and Steeple Bumpstead Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 Consultation.

#### 084/2024 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*  
Cllr Thorogood stated that the challenge is an Environmental issue but no information on who has challenged is available.
- 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*  
Nothing to update.

## 085/2024 Committee and Representatives Report

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

### i *PRoW & Cycleway Working Group*

No report received. Cllr Evans circulated an email before the meeting with the notes from the meeting. Working group keen to not lose the link road from London Road to Inworth Road. Possibility of having a circular route from Rye Mill Lane to Kelvedon with a bridge across the River Blackwater. Discussion was also held around the non-vehicular route across Domsey Chase as there is a scheme between Worlds End Lane and Inworth Road. Feering Bridleway 2 from Skye Green towards Surrex is completely unpassable which Cllr Evans has reported. Permissive pathway on Bridleway 2 and Coggeshall Road land has been sold so until a new permission is received this should be removed from the Parish Council website.

### ii *Braintree Association of Local Councils / Essex Association of Local Councils from Cllr P Lees*

No report received.

### iii *Employment Committee from Cllr P Lees*

Report was circulated before the meeting. After discussion it was **agreed** to accept the recommendations relating to the salary pay scale for the Clerk and Assistant Clerk. Proposed by Cllr Carlaw, seconded by Cllr Mitchell.

### iv *IWMF Rivenhall Airfield Site Liaison Committee – Cllr Carlaw*

No report received.

### v *Greenway North Essex Cycleway – Cllr Evans*

No report received. Cllr Evans updated on the meeting on 28 March. Planning permission has not yet been received from Earls Colne Business Park to Tilkey Road so fund raising cannot be undertaken until the permission is approved.

## 086/2024 Employee Handbook

After discussion it was **agreed** that the Employee Handbook be adopted and should be given to new members of staff and also used for existing members of staff including those employed by the FCC subject to some changes to the Clerk approving their own annual leave and sickness, also the definition of “we” and HR Committee being changed to Employment Committee. Any further comments will be emailed to the Clerk by 22 April. Proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Mitchell.

## 087/2024 Feering Community Centre CIO

The Clerk confirmed that the transfer to the Parish Council as Sole trustee had taken place with effect from 12 March 2024. Both the administrator and treasurer have resigned and left the FCC with effect from 12 April.

## 088/2024 Handyman / Grass Cutting Contract

A draft email has been prepared to Think! but not yet sent regarding the service and the price increase.

## 089/2024 Environmental Working Party

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

#### 090/2024 Feering Master Planning

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

The clerk confirmed that a community panel meeting has been arranged and will be held at the Community Centre on 24 April 2024. The feedback event took place at Feering Church which included some nice visuals. Clerk to ask for copies of the slides.

- ii *Bloor Homes – Attenuation Basin*

Nothing to update.

- iii *Bloor Homes – Hemlock Issue*

Nothing to update.

#### 091/2024 Annual Assembly / Annual Report

The Clerk confirmed that emails had been sent to all grant recipients to ask whether they would like to attend the annual assembly but minimal response has been received yet. Clerk to chase.

Five names have been submitted for the annual awards and after discussion it was **agreed** that all five should receive a community award. Proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Palmer.

Discussion was held around the Annual report submissions and the final reports to be received.

Cllr Thorogood left the meeting at 21.02.

#### 092/2024 Village Green

- i *Update on Village Green transfer*

Nothing to update.

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

Nothing further to consider until the transfer has completed.

#### 093/2024 Tree Works

The Clerk confirmed that the tree crown lift work seems to have been undertaken, although no confirmation was given by the tree surgeon. The Clerk has asked for an update on the removal of the tree.

#### 094/2024 Items for Next Agenda

- i Annual Assembly feedback
- ii Meeting with BDC re master planning.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 21.22 and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

21 May 2024

Paul Lees