



**MINUTES of the MEETING of FEERING ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
held at Feering Community Centre on Monday 13 May 2024 at 8.00 pm**

In attendance: Cllr P Lees (Chair) Cllr P Carlaw (Vice-Chair) Cllr K Evans
Cllr E Mitchell Cllr S Taylor Cllr B Palmer

Also Present: Lisa Collins – Clerk Cathy Stewart – Assistant Clerk Adam Birchweaver, Energy & Low Carbon Project Officer, Essex County Council

Cllr Paul Thorogood Cllr Camilla Finch Braintree
District and County District Councillor
Councillor

1. Welcome and Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 15 May 2023

Cllr Lees welcomed everyone for the meeting of the 131st Annual Assembly including our guest speaker, Adam Birchweaver.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 15 May 2023 were agreed and signed. Proposed by Mark Leslie, seconded by Cllr Paul Thorogood.

Cllr Lees introduced Adam Birchweaver to the Annual Assembly.

2. Guest Speaker, Adam Birchweaver, Energy and Low Carbon Project Officer, Essex County Council

Adam Birchweaver gave a presentation around the Community Energy Project being run through Essex County Council and how the community can save money on their energy bills and create a strategy for Feering which could include a community share.

3. Annual Community Award Presentations

The Community Awards were presented by Revd Simon Garwood. These awards reflect on the contribution by members of the community make, behind the scenes and under the radar, but without their contribution many events would not run or support our community. Awards were presented to following recipients:

Paula Blennarhassett over many years has organised many elements of some of the biggest events in the Parish and has also maintained our book exchange on the Village Green in the telephone box.

Mark Leslie has contributed over many years with various events and organisations, including the Royal British Legion, the rail users' group and May Fayre.

Kathy Lees has contributed to the Community Living Room, the FCC Trustees, the May Fayre.

Wendy Mitchell who has also contributed to the Community Living Room and also assisted a number of residents within the village who have needed help.

Cllr Katherine Evans for her continued work as the chair of the May Fayre committee and her tireless work to ensure that the May Fayre continues and also her unwavering work with the local Public Rights of Way and Ramblers.

Oliver and Henry Pipe for their contribution to the local environment. Oliver asked for a litter picker for his birthday and have been avid litter pickers around the Long Acre area and local beaches. They also both are very affected by the environment, love David Attenborough and are always making things to help birds and hedgehogs.

Hazel Edridge for her continued work within the community horizon and has worked tirelessly within so many community roles including the village green which is maintained by Hazel and also with the distribution of the village magazine.

4. Chairman's Report and Presentation – Cllr Paul Lees

A copy of the report was given to all residents attending. Cllr Lees highlighted that we had Covid and then Cost of Living issues over the past years and how the Community Living Room is helping with those. Thanks was given to the Kelvedon & Feering Cricket club for their support with allowing the Parish Council to use their facilities, and also the FCC for the use of the community centre. Three new councillors have joined but we are still short of the required number. Crown Estates and the Neighbourhood Plan, feedback with the Crown Estate and their Community Panels so that we can get the best out of the development we can and to get the best facilities that we need. The raise in precept to safeguard the Community Centre, including the choices which were explored for the centre and the reason behind the speed with which the decision needed to be made and the hope that the centre will be a better place and will break even within 18 months. Climate Change and the issues that the Parish Council are facing, the possibility of a community energy project and discussions over the issues of speeding including with the local Chief Inspector of Braintree Police.

5. Questions from the Public regarding the Chairman's Report

A resident asked how the community centre would get to break even during the next 18 months, including the recruitment of the second clerk to assist with the running of the Community Centre. It was discussed that the community centre staff has been reduced due to retirement, the centre will also need to have a better presence on social media and website and that we are looking to implement an online booking system. We need to generate an awareness of people knowing that the centre is here. It is also being looked at that the centre needs to be redecorated to make it more attractive. We also need to ensure that the rates are market rates and can be compared with other facilities.

6. Update on District and County Issues – Cllr Paul Thorogood

Cllr Thorogood gave an update on the National Grid Consultation regarding the pylon scheme and the 18 June deadline. Minerals Plan for the county which finished on 9 April. No planned quarries in Feering although A47 is at the Monks Farm/Kings Seeds area in Kelvedon. Sewage spills in the River Blackwater. Braintree District Council have put out a call for sites for the Local Plan up to 2041. A12 widening legal challenge. The A12 is currently on hold until the legal challenge has been heard. Rivenhall IWMF the groundwork has been done and the incinerator is starting to take place and due to be finished by September 2025 and operational by May 2026. Essex CC has not yet signed up to send waste yet, but it appears it will be soon. Therefore residents should recycle as much as possible. The liaison group are looking to get air quality monitoring to be independently set up for the incinerator.

Questions from the Public regarding Cllr Thorogood update

No questions from the public.

7. Presentations from Feering Parish Council Grant recipients:

- Feering Baby & Toddler Group – Kate Yeboah-Jones

Kate gave an update on the group and the benefit of the grant to the group and the items purchased using the money from the Parish Council.

- Essex & Herts Air Ambulance – Roger Smith

Roger gave an update on the work of the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance and the Parish Council's contribution towards the amazing work of the Air Ambulance. He also gave background to the start of the Air Ambulance.

- Feering & Kelvedon Garden Club – Annie Northfield

Annie gave an update on the Garden club and the benefit of the grant to the group. Also the date for the Annual Show held at the Community Centre on 31 August 2024

- Feering Good Companions – Val Goulding

Val Goulding gave an update about the Good Companions and the promotion of the well-being of those residents of Feering. Members are welcome over the age of 60. The group provides older residents who often live alone with companionship, and friendship that Good Companions offers. The grant from the Parish Council goes towards ensuring members are able to get to the club by providing a local bus service through Braintree District Council and that the club continues to run and they can have speakers at the meetings.

- Feering Falcon's Youth Football Club

Derek Scott gave an update on the grant given to Feering Falcons. They run from fledglings from 3-4 and then (U5s) to u18s and train at Elm Farm. The grant was used towards banners and signs and balls for the youths. They have also received further funding to enable them to purchase wheeled goals.

8. Public Question Time

A question was raised by a member of the public regarding the maintenance company.

Cllr Taylor answered the resident's question in detail regarding the maintenance company confirming that the Parish Council are not happy with the service. The company are trying to improve and there has been an improvement but given that we have declared a climate emergency the growing is happening very fast during the current climate. We are unable to cut hedges due to the bird nesting season. We have also had "no mow May" and the grass then has to be cut in stages. Cllr Taylor reiterated that if residents do see something then please contact the Clerk and inform us as we are not always around.

9. Close

Cllr Lees thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting was closed at 21.46

Signed

Paul Lees

21 May 2024