



MINUTES of the MEETING of FEERING PARISH COUNCIL
held at Feering Community Centre on Tuesday 17 September 2024 at 7.30 pm

In attendance: Cllr P Lees (Chair) Cllr N Warwick Cllr K Evans
Cllr E Mitchell Cllr B Palmer Cllr S Taylor
Cllr J Spencer (after co-option)

Also Present: Cathy Stewart – Assistant Clerk
Members of the Public:

168/2024 Chair's Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

169/2024 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence have been received from Cllr P Carlaw due to attending at BDC Planning Forum. Apologies were not required as this was council business. Apologies also noted for Lisa Collins, Clerk due to sick leave Proposed by Cllr P Lees, seconded by Cllr E Mitchell

170/2024 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

171/2024 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Feering Parish Council

After discussion, the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 16 July 2024 were **agreed**. Proposed by Cllr E Mitchell, seconded by Cllr B Palmer.

172/2024 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.

No questions from the members of the public.

173/2024 Finance

- i *To approve the bank reconciliation as at 31 July 2024 and 2024/25 budget account (circulated before the meeting)*

After discussion the bank reconciliation for July 2024 was **approved** as shown in updated version. Proposed by Cllr E Mitchell, seconded by Cllr K Evans.

- ii *To approve the bank reconciliation as at 31 August 2024 and 2024/25 budget account (circulated before the meeting)*

After discussion the bank reconciliation for August 2024 was **approved**. Proposed by Cllr E Mitchell, seconded by Cllr K Evans

- iii *To retrospectively agree payments made in August 2024 (circulated with agenda)*

After discussion it was **agreed** that all August payments were made. Proposed by Cllr K Evans seconded by Cllr B Palmer

- iv *To agree payments for September 2024 (to be circulated prior to the meeting)*

After discussion it was **agreed** that all September payments be made. Proposed by Cllr E Mitchell , seconded by Cllr K Evans.

- v *To receive update on the External Audit of Accounts for 2023/2024*

Council noted the comments made by the external auditor. The Clerk sent her apologies for this oversight and confirmed that the issue has been rectified within the accounting software.

174/2024 Co-option of Councillors

After discussion it was **agreed** to co-opt Joanna Spencer to the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr P Lees seconded by Cllr B Palmer. Cllr Spencer signed the declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting as a Parish Councillor.

175/2024 Report from District / County Councillor

Cllr Paul Thorogood submitted a report before the meeting. Cllr Thorogood did not attend the meeting and the report was noted as follows:

Braintree District Council ("BDC") Update

Essex County Council ("ECC") Update – Cllr P Lees to check with Cllr P Thorogood regarding the timeline for securing funding for Feering highways..

176/2024 Clerks Report

The report had been circulated previously and was noted.

Cllr P Lees and The Clerk had met with THINK, who acknowledged that previous maintenance had not been satisfactory. However, there is now a change in operatives with a new system in place to include bi-monthly meetings and progress is being actively monitored.

177/2024 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. Meetings have been held on 17 July, 5 August and 2 September.

At the 17 July meeting the following applications were discussed: National Grid Statutory Consultation; 24/01308/COUPA – Popp's Cottage, Little Tey Road; 24/01358/FUL – Cockerells Farm, Skye Green Road; 24/01281/FUL – Langley Cottage, Langley Green Road; 24/00979/FUL – Coggeshall Hall Farm Yard, Coggeshall Road, Kelvedon; 24/01370/TPOCON – 15 Feering Hill, Feering; Braintree District Council Local Plan Review 2041; 24/01414/FUL – Intel House, Threshelfords Business Park, Inworth Road; and 24/01449/HH – 36 Feering Hill.

At the 5 August meeting the following applications were discussed: Braintree District Council Local Plan Review 2041; 24/01350/DAC – Great Domsey Public Footpath Crossing, London Road; 24/01524/ELD – Prested Hall, Prested Hall Chase; 24/01606/HH – 56 Sherwood Way; 24/01635/SCR – Land at Feeringbury Farm, Coggeshall Road; 24/01510/VAR – Land North of Colchester Road, Coggeshall.

At the 2 September meeting the following applications were discussed: 24/01697/ADV – Filling Station, London Road; 24/01766/TPO – 15 Feering Hill; Braintree Local Plan Statement of Community Involvement; 24/01774/FUL – Threshelfords Business Park, Inworth Road, Feering

178/2024 Highways & Transport

- i *VTAG report . To consider Council's position regarding the VTAG Group*
No report received. No meeting held.
- ii *A12 to A120 widening - A12 Highways England Statutory Consultation*
It has been confirmed that the A12 widening judicial review has been dismissed.
- iii *Councillors to discuss any issues to report regarding Transport / Refuse to BDC and/or ECC*
No further update
- iv *Essex Transport Strategy Public Consultation*
After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Carlaw would draft a response to the public consultation before the deadline of 22 September. Proposed by Cllr S Taylor, seconded by Cllr P Lees.
- v *Village Speeding Issues and Cycle routes for the village*
Nothing to update.

179/2024 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.
- ii *Braintree Association of Local Councils / Essex Association of Local Councils from Cllr P Lees*
No report received. EALC AGM 26-09-2024
- iii *Employment Committee from Cllr P Lees*
Agenda item at the end in Camera
- iv *IWMF Rivenhall Airfield Site Liaison Committee – Cllr Carlaw*
Report circulated before the meeting and noted. The council extends thanks to Cllr Carlaw for all the work she has done on this.
- v *Greenway North Essex Cycleway – Cllr Evans*
No report received, no meeting held.

180/2024 Play Equipment Maintenance

After discussion it was **agreed** that the Assistant Clerk's recommendation be accepted Option B was Proposed by Cllr B Palmer, seconded by Cllr E Mitchell It was noted that Cllr K Evans objected. A meeting of the Playground Committee will be convened to discuss long-term strategy and policy. It was also agreed to proceed with repairs to the MUGA The proposal was made by Cllr. P Lees and seconded by Cllr S Taylor

181/2024 Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy – Public Consultation

After discussion it was **agreed** that Cllr Carlaw would lead the response on the public consultation in conjunction with the Assistant Clerk. Proposed by Cllr S Taylor, seconded by Cllr K Evans

182/2024 Ragwort

After discussion it was **agreed** that as there is a low risk of the Ragwort that no action should be taken. This would be reviewed six monthly to monitor the risk and we would be responsive to local land owners concerns.

183/2024 Bridge Meadow Wildflower Meadow

After discussion it was **resolved** that the expenditure for work on Bridge Meadow to carry out top-up sowing if BDC Community Gardens and Open Spaces Grant application is unsuccessful should be agreed that the Clerk would investigate cost of getting a consultant in re naturalisation for recommendations of best way forward. Proposed by Cllr P Lees, seconded by Cllr S Taylor

184/2024 Grant Applications

i Update on Grant Applications

Cllr Evans confirmed that the grant for the ceiling replacement in the hall has been received and the work carried out and spent. The grant from ECC Cllr Thorogood for the replacement of the fire door on the Oak Room has been confirmed and will be paid once the invoice for the door has been made.

ii To retrospectively agree the Funding Agreement from Enover which was signed ahead of the meeting

After discussion it was **resolved** that Councillors had agreed to sign the agreement prior to the meeting due to timings to ensure that the project is carried out. Proposed by Cllr Cllr P Lees , seconded by Cllr S Taylor

185/2024 Handyman / Grass Cutting Contract

This has been discussed under the Clerk's report.

186/2024 Feering Master Planning

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

The Crown Estate Master Planning event had been held on 14 September. Discussion was held around the event, that had been positive and well attended with a large amount of feedback to process

ii To update on meeting with Crown Estates re Master Planning

Cllr Lees gave an update on the meeting held on 15 August with Crown Estates.

iii To update on members forum meeting with BDC re master planning

Cllr Evans and Cllr Palmer gave an update on the members forum meeting held at BDC on 6 August.

iv Bloor Homes – Attenuation Basin

Nothing to update.

v Bloor Homes – Hemlock Issue

Nothing to update.

187/2024 Tree Works

After discussion it was agreed that the work on the 3 x Malus (crab apple trees) be undertaken with the proviso that local residents were kept informed by letter, website and Facebook. The replacement trees will be discussed at the next meeting.

188/2024 Meeting Schedule

After discussion it was **agreed** that the October meeting be changed to 22 October due to staff absences. Proposed by Cllr P Lees, seconded by Cllr S Taylor.

189/2024 Resolution to exclude public and press

After discussion it was **resolved** to exclude public and press. Proposed by Cllr P Lees seconded by Cllr J Spencer.

190/2024 Employee Matters

After discussion a motion was moved that that Assistant Clerk be temporarily promoted to acting clerk during the Clerk's absence including delegated powers and that all additional hours for the Assistant Clerk are approved as acting Clerk, an increase of two points above her substantive rate. It was **agreed** to accept the proposal made by Cllr Lees regarding the cover of the Clerk and approval of overtime hours for the Assistant Clerk. Proposed by Paul Lees, seconded by E Mitchell

191/2024 Items for Next Agenda

- i Replacement trees for Taylors
- ii Electricity Installation Condition Report – Work to be undertaken
- iii Consultant Feedback on re wilding
- iv Playground Committee to convene and report

192/2024 Close of Meeting

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 22:04 and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

22 October 2024

Paul Lees