



MINUTES of the MEETING of FEERING PARISH COUNCIL
held at Feering Community Centre on Tuesday 22 October 2024 at 7.30 pm

In attendance: Cllr P Lees (Chair) Cllr P Carlaw Cllr K Evans
Cllr N Warwick Cllr B Palmer Cllr S Taylor
Cllr J Spencer

Also Present: Lisa Collins –Clerk Cllr C Finch (BDC Councillor)
Members of the Public: 0

193/2024 Chair's Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

194/2024 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Ed Mitchell. It was **resolved** to accept the apologies.
Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Warwick

195/2024 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

196/2024 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Feering Parish Council

After discussion, the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 17 September 2024 were **agreed**. Proposed by Cllr Palmer, seconded by Cllr Evans.

197/2024 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.

198/2024 Finance

- i *To approve the bank reconciliation as at 30 September 2024 and 2024/25 budget account (circulated before the meeting)*

After discussion the bank reconciliation and budget account for September 2024 was **approved**. Proposed by Cllr Palmer, seconded by Cllr Carlaw.

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

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

199/2024 Report from District / County Councillor

Cllr Paul Thorogood submitted a report before the meeting. Cllr Thorogood gave apologies for not attending the meeting and the report was noted as follows:

Braintree District Council ("BDC") Update – Local Plan Review: a revised timetable for the LPR has been approved following the announcement of the governments proposed planning reform which gives local authorities until December 2026 to submit a new plan;

Cllr Finch gave an update on Crown Estates: Crown have revised some elements of the masterplan to reflect feedback from the independent Design Review Panel. A further meeting to be held on 28 October; London Road development – concerns raised by local councillors and residents including the siting of the Health Centre and care, visual impact on existing properties, highways issues including need for crossing on London Road. A meeting with BDW Homes was held on 22 October and the consensus was that the Health Centre and Care Home will not be moving. Detailed plans to be submitted later this year. Highways have said that there is no need for a crossing on London Road. BDW will put one if agreement from Highways is received. Medical centre has to be up and running before first occupancy. Care home will be 50th occupancy. Parking for each house is per bedroom with a 25% visitors parking and parking for the health centre and care home unsure whether this will be for the staff as well. Cllr Evans asked whether there were any dates for when the building / first occupancy will be up and running.

Essex County Council ("ECC") Update – Highways – Budget for road maintenance is in line for a £25m boost to fund resurfacing on key roads as well as roadside vegetation, a 25% decrease in funding for footpath maintenance. Footpaths in Sherwood Way and Rye Mill Lane have been nominated to be resurfaced; Waste Incinerator – Waste to energy is now the dirtiest form of electricity product in the UK. Recycling rates are also shown to go down in areas where there are waste incinerators. Cllr Thorogood to continue to press ECC to reverse its decision to send all of the county's black bin waste to Rivenhall as well as pressing BDC to adequately monitor the ambient air quality in communities near the incinerator; Legal challenge to A12 widening Boreham to Marks Tey has been dismissed by Court of Appeal, however new government has announced a review of transport infrastructure.

Discussion was held around the incinerator and the report which was published at the weekend regarding waste incinerators.

It was raised that that the Parish Council should ask Crown Estate for a further update meeting.

200/2024 Clerks Report

The report had been circulated previously and was noted. The Clerk also informed Council that the rate of the Nationwide Business Savers account would be reducing from 2.25% to 2.05% from 1 November and that a request has been received from Feering Falcons for a meeting to discuss their needs due to the loss of Elm Farm. A meeting will be set up with the Playing Field Working Group.

201/2024 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 October 2024.

At the meeting the following applications were discussed: 24/02045/TPO – 8 Kings Gardens; 24/02058/HH – Thistley House, Coggeshall Road; 24/01932/FUL – Pumping Station 178m W of Worlds End Lane; Earls Colne Neighbourhood – Regulation 16 Public Consultation; Footpath 18 Feering – informal consultation; Finchingfield and Wethersfield Joint Neighbourhood Plan – Regulation 14 pre-plan submission and public consultation.

The next meeting to be held on 4 November at 10 am when BDW homes will be attending and all councillors are invited to join.

Cllr Lees left the meeting at 20.16 and returned at 20.17.

202/2024 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*
Nothing to report. Waiting to find out whether the new Government will approve the funding in the budget.
- iii *Councillors to discuss any issues to report regarding Transport / Refuse to BDC and/or ECC*
Cllr Evans has emailed transport regarding the bus stops as only 3 of 6 have the timetable on them. Waiting for a response.
- iv *Village Speeding Issues and Cycle routes for the village*
Nothing to update.

203/2024 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.
- iii *Employment Committee from Cllr P Lees*
No report received.
- iv *IWMF Rivenhall Airfield Site Liaison Committee – Cllr Carlaw*
No report received.
- v *Greenway North Essex Cycleway – Cllr Evans*
No report received.
- vi A report was circulated from Cllr Spencer regarding the Hatfield Peverel Outdoor Gym meeting with Kompan. Discussion was held around the equipment.
Cllr Finch left the meeting at 20.29.

204/2024 Committee / Working Group Membership

After discussion it was **agreed** that Cllr Spencer be appointed to the Playing Field Management Working Party and the External Communications Working Party. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Taylor.

205/2024 Feering Community Centre – Electricity Installation Condition Report

After discussion it was **agreed** that as the electrics form part of the fabric of the building the Parish Council should pay for the remedial works which need to be carried out to ensure the building remains in a safe position. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Taylor.

206/2024 Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy – Public Consultation

After discussion it was **agreed** that Cllr Carlaw would send an email in response to the consultation to the Clerk for submission.

207/2024 Bridge Meadow Wildflower Meadow

This has not yet been actioned but will be done shortly.

208/2024 Braintree District Council – Potential Open Space Improvements

After discussion it was **agreed** that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

209/2024 Christmas / Winter Themed Lamppost Flags and Christmas Decorations

After discussion it was **agreed** to speak to the school to see whether they would be interested in producing some banners for lamppost. If they do not have time to do this we will ask them to do this for next year.

210/2024 20s Plenty for Essex

After discussion it was **agreed** that having previously supported this initiative and sending an email to the Essex County Council Member we did not need to write again to support this initiative. However, discussion was then held around whether this should be supported in any event as a member of the Council did not agree with this initiative on the main routes through Feering.

Cllr Evans proposed that the Council should not write again to Essex County Council to further support the initiative. Cllr Lees further proposed that there should be a 20s plenty initiative on minor roads and outside the schools where there are currently 30 mph but not on the main through roads of the village.

Discussion was held around where the 20 should apply on various roads and that roads that are currently 30 mph with the exception of Feering Hill and London Road should be decreased to 20mph and whether this is something which residents of Feering would want.

Following the discussion the proposal by Cllr Lees was voted upon and **agreed**. Seconded by Cllr Carlaw.

211/2024 Grant Applications

i Update on Grant Applications

It was confirmed that the grant funding for the Oak Room door has been received from Essex County Council and thanks were noted to Cllr Thorogood for assisting with this grant. It was also confirmed that the batteries have now been installed and the funding for the Enover Grant will be requested shortly.

212/2024 Handyman / Grass Cutting Contract

This has been discussed under the Clerk's report.

213/2024 Feering Master Planning

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

Next event is on 30 October.

ii To update on meeting with Crown Estates re Master Planning

Meeting to be requested.

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

This item to be removed.

iv Bloor Homes – Attenuation Basin

Nothing to update.

- v Bloor Homes – Hemlock Issue

Nothing to update.

214/2024 Tree Works

After discussion it was **agreed** to discuss this with the Tree Warden and the residents of Taylors what they would like to see planted which are appropriate for the area.

215/2024 Items for Next Agenda

- i Braintree District Council Potential Open Space Improvements.
- ii Consultant Feedback on re wilding
- iii Precept
- iv Contact LHP for discussion around Frame Farm Bend speed reduction
- v Crown Estate Meeting
- vi Blackwater River Audit update – Cllr Carlaw report.

216/2024 Close of Meeting

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 21.29 and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

26 November2024

Paul Lees