



MINUTES of the MEETING of FEERING PARISH COUNCIL
held at Feering Community Centre on Tuesday 21 January 2025 at 7.30 pm

In attendance:	Cllr P Lees (Chair)	Cllr P Carlaw	Cllr S Taylor (arrived at 19.31)
	Cllr E Mitchell	Cllr B Palmer	Cllr J Spencer
	Cllr I Giles	Cllr K Evans	Cllr N Warwick (arrived at 19.31)
Also Present:	Lisa Collins –Clerk	Cllr P Thorogood (ECC and BDC Councillor)	Cllr M Finch (BDC Councillor)

Members of the Public: 0

001/2025 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

002/2025 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

003/2025 Declaration of Interest

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

Cllr Mitchell declared a pecuniary interest relating to item number 006/2025(iii) as treasurer of Good Companions. Cllr Lees declared a pecuniary interest relating to item number 006/2025(i) as one payee is a relative.

004/2025 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Feering Parish Council

After discussion, the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 10 December 2024 were **agreed**. Proposed by Cllr Mitchell, seconded by Cllr Spencer.

005/2025 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.

006/2025 Finance

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

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

- ii *To agree payments for January 2025 (circulated before the meeting)*

After discussion it was **agreed** that all January payments be made. Proposed by Cllr Palmer, seconded by Cllr Carlaw. Cllr Lees abstained from the vote.

- iii *To consider and agree the grant applications for 2025-2026*

After discussion it was **agreed** the following grants should be given for 2025-2026:

- Feering Good Companions - £300. Proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Carlaw, Cllr Mitchell abstained from the vote.
 - Feering Baby & Toddler Group - £400. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Taylor.
 - Feering & Kelvedon Garden Club – £100. Proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Mitchell
 - Feering & Kelvedon Local History Museum -£225. Proposed by Cllr Warwick, seconded by Cllr Spencer.
- iv To consider and agree the budget and precept request for 2025-2026 and to agree the Chairman to sign the precept request.

Cllr Lees left the meeting at 20.01. Cllr Carlaw (vice-chairman) chaired the meeting from this point.

A robust discussion took place around the budget and reserves. After discussion it was **agreed** that the budget and precept request of £120,521 be accepted. The figure proposed gives an increase of £2.13 for a band D property for the year, which equates to a 4 pence increase per week. Proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Mitchell.

It was then **agreed** that the precept request should be signed. Proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Carlaw. The precept request form was signed by Cllr Carlaw.

007/2025 Report from District / County Councillor

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

Essex County Council (“ECC”) Update – Devolution on local government reorganisation – ECC have expressed an interest for the Devolution priority programme to the government. This will mean that local elections in May will be postponed. The government wants all English county and district councils to be replaced by mayors and unitary authorities by 2029. An announcement whether Essex will be fast tracked and elections postponed is expected by the end of January; IWMF Environmental Permit Variation Consultation – started just before Christmas and runs until 28 January. Since this involves changes to the site covering the phased construction of facilities in addition to the waste incinerator, the air pollution risks will be different from the original proposal; London Road Feering VAS – Cllr Thorogood asked at the Local Highway Panel meeting whether a Visually Activated Sign (VAS) could be located in lieu of gates at the entrance to Feering from the A12. A request for a speed survey has been put in to see what the threshold is for speeding.

Braintree District Council (“BDC”) Update – Proposed Changes to Waste Collection – the consultation is open until 2 March 2025. Will cost around £4m to set up. Residents are invited to share their views. The changes are proposed to improve recycling rates, reduce waste to landfill, ensure financial sustainability and comply with the Environment Act 2021s simpler recycling policy; Crown Estates – Planning forum meeting held on 14 January. Looking to submit outline planning permission in March 2025 with a decision hopefully within 4—5 months. A12 widening decision is expected from the Government in May 2025; BDC Local Plan Update – BDC will consult on its review of the district Local Plan and will run from 20 January to 7 March. Sites submitted last summer will be considered by BDC and those deemed acceptable will be subject to a further consultation in the autumn.

Discussion was held that it is not good value for money to be undertaking the proposed Waste collection changes and the Local Plan review given the uncertainty of the devolution scheme.

Cllr Finch left the meeting at 20.26.

008/2025 Clerks Report

The report had been circulated previously and was noted.

After discussion it was **agreed** that the clerk would respond to the Parish Police Meeting and request further information and ask whether it could be bi-monthly. Cllr Carlaw said that they could attend.

After discussion it was **agreed** that the P3 Service Level Agreement be signed on behalf of the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Palmer, seconded by Cllr Carlaw.

It was also **agreed** that a grant application should be submitted to Cllr Finch for the replacement of the hall fire doors.

009/2025 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 16 January 2025.

At the meeting the following applications were discussed: 24/02658/FUL – Proposed solar Farm Land East of Littlebury, Coggeshall Road; 24/02676/HH – 5 Greenways; 24/02590/FUL – Prested Hall, Prested Hall Chase; ESS/39/23/BTE/NMA11 – Land at Rivenhall Airfield, Coggeshall Road, Braintree; 24/02652/FUL – Land adjoining and to the rear of Barnfield House, Old Road, Coggeshall; EPR/CP3906LP/V0003 – Environmental Permit Consultation – Indaver Rivenhall Ltd.

010/2025 Highways & Transport

- i *VTAG report*

No report received.

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

Nothing to report. It was noted that a decision regarding funding by the Government on the A12 Widening scheme is expected in May 2025.

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

Nothing to report.

- iv *Update on Feering Litter Pickers*

Discussion was held around the work undertaken by the Litter Pickers.

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

After discussion it was **agreed** that the clerk should look into the purchase of a new SID for the next meeting.

011/2025 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*
The report was circulated before the meeting and noted. It was proposed by Cllr Evans that Indaver be contacted regarding a grant for the doors to the Community Centre.
- v *Playing Field Committee – to consider and discuss request from Feering Falcons*
The report was circulated before the meeting and noted. It was **agreed** that we would go back to Coggeshall Town to firm up their schedule for the weekends before any agreement is made with Feering Falcons.
- vi *Blackwater / Pant Fluvial Workshop – update from Essex Wildlife Trust*
The report was circulated before the meeting and noted.
Cllr Thorogood left the meeting at 21.13.

012/2025 Committee / Working Group Memberships

After discussion it was **agreed** that Cllr Taylor should be added to the Finance Committee. Cllr Giles should be added to the ProW and Cycleway Working Party and the Planning Working Party.

013/2025 Health & Safety Audit

It was noted that the caretakers have been given access to training, however the training available does not fit the community centre. A ladder risk assessment is to be undertaken. Discussion has been had with the Health & Safety company in respect of having a fire risks assessment carried out. The directional sticker has been replaced, and the Display Screen Equipment training has been undertaken by the Clerk and Assistant Clerk.

014/2025 Braintree District Council – Potential Open Space Improvements

After discussion it was **agreed** that the amendments and additions made by Cllr Evans be accepted and this should be submitted to Braintree District Council. Proposed by Cllr Carlaw, seconded Cllr Palmer. Thanks was given to Cllr Evans for her work on this.

015/2025 Braintree District Council – Waste Services Consultation

After discussion it was **agreed** that a response to the survey should be submitted as per the discussion. Proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Carlaw.

016/2025 VE Day 80th Anniversary – Thursday 8 May 2025

After discussion it was **agreed** that we would support celebration events, we will speak to the Royal British Legion and Kelvedon & Feering Museum to find out what their plans are for the event. It was discussed that we would ask the Royal British Legion whether they wanted to have a stall at the May Fayre again this year.

017/2025 Grant Applications

i Update on Grant Applications

Nothing to update.

018/2025 Handyman / Grass Cutting Contract

This has been discussed under the Clerk's report. It was requested that the hedges should be cut narrow at the top and wide at the bottom and they should also be cut down to allow visibility over the top. We would also like the cotoneaster to be cut back along Coggeshall Road. There are some seats and bins which need to be moved. They should also be maintaining the seats in the village during the winter months

019/2025 Feering Master Planning

- i *To update on meeting with Crown Estates re Master Planning*

Slides and minutes for the meeting has been circulated.

- ii *To update on members forum meeting with BDC re master planning*

A report was circulated before the meeting and was noted. It was discussed that a further meeting should be held with Crown Estate once answers to the questions posed by Cllr Evans are received.

- iii *Bloor Homes – Attenuation Basin*

Nothing to update.

- iv *Bloor Homes – Hemlock Issue*

Nothing to update.

020/2025 Tree Works

Nothing to update.

021/2025 Items for Next Agenda in January

- i SID purchase
- ii VE Day celebration

022/2025 Close of Meeting

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 22.26 and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

Pam Carlaw

18 February 2025