



MINUTES of the MEETING of FEERING PARISH COUNCIL
held at Feering Community Centre on Tuesday 15 July 2025 at 7.30 pm

In attendance: Cllr K Evans (Chair) Cllr J Spencer Cllr B Palmer
Cllr I Giles Cllr E Mitchell

Also Present: Lisa Collins –Clerk
Members of the Public: 1

145/2025 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

146/2025 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr P Carlaw and Cllr N Warwick. It was **agreed** that these apologies be accepted. Proposed Cllr Palmer, seconded Cllr Giles

147/2025 Declaration of Interest

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

No declarations of interest were received.

148/2025 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Feering Parish Council

After discussion, the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 17 June 2025 were **agreed** subject to a date being changed on the finance section. Proposed Cllr Spencer, seconded Cllr Mitchell.

149/2025 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.

Resident introduced themselves as a potential councillor and gave a brief update on why they would like to join.

150/2025 Finance

- i *To approve the bank reconciliation as at 30 June 2025 and 2025/26 budget account (circulated before the meeting)*

After discussion the bank reconciliation and budget account for June 2025 was **approved** subject to the pension and salary contribution being amended. Proposed by Cllr Palmer, seconded by Cllr Mitchell.

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

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

151/2025 Report from District / County Councillor

Cllr Finch and Cllr Thorogood gave apologies for the meeting. Cllr Thorogood submitted a report before the meeting which was noted and thanks given for the report.

National Update: - Local Government Reorganisation – There is a split in views of the current leaders as to what the future of Local Government should look like in Essex. Shadow elections are expected in May 2027 for the new unitary authorities to come into effect on 1 April 2028. There is a survey for residents to take regarding the reorganisation: https://yoursay.southend.gov.uk/yoursayfutureofessex?fbclid=IwY2xjawLg7rZleHRuA2FlbQlXMQBicmlkETF1dk9HeUViWlI3WlhsZzZwAR7SvucdXtzYGQFsBI2Zvho1I8417fnnm_6am1NaNxok8geioosZJjg4rfnifFA_aem_hjhoaSx4AhG8diAp1KQIVw; A12 Widening Scheme – This has now been cancelled by the Government after many years of consultations and investment. Local Councillors are representing communities along the A12 route and asking “what next”.

Essex County Council (“ECC”) Update – Local Highways Panels – This has been revived and the first one took place on 26 June. ECC have confirmed that only easily deliverable schemes will progress and schemes that had already been validated were awarded funding. No new schemes can be submitted until 2026-27; Waste Incinerator – If a permit is issued by the EA, waste burning is due to start in August to test and calibrate the plant. There are also steam blowing tests of the boiler system between 12 – 28 July, this could be noisy and last for 20 minutes at a time. BDC has received a response to the request to call-in the site from Essex County Council asking BDC to wait until further details of the application are received and if they still wish to call-in they can do so then.

152/2025 Clerks Report

The report had been circulated previously and was noted following discussion.

153/2025 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. A meeting was held on 25 June and 9 July 2025.

At the 25 June meeting the following applications were discussed: 25/00775/HH – Cherry Tree House, Coggeshall Road; 25/01060/FUL – Little Barrows, Worlds End Lane; 25/00733/REM – Land North of London Road, Kelvedon; 25/00035/REF and APP/Z1510/W/25/3365443 – Prested Hall, Prested Hall Chase.

At the 9 July meeting the following applications were discussed: 25/01383/TPOCON – 40 Feering Hill; 25/01393/TPOCON – 38 Feering Hill; 25/01447/PLD – Wood Cottage, Rye Mill Lane; . 25/00035/REF and APP/Z1510/W/25/3365443 – Prested Hall, Prested Hall Chase following additional information received from the Appellant’s agent.

154/2025 Highways & Transport

- i *VTAG report*

No report received.

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

This has now been confirmed as being cancelled. A meeting has been requested with Crown Estate to find out the impact on the village with their planning application. It was discussed that a meeting with BDC should also be arranged.

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

Nothing to report

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

It was confirmed that an existing volunteer has agreed to take on the role of co-ordinator along with the return of some of the original volunteers. No further volunteers have come

forward at this time. Thanks was given to the new co-ordinator. No new speed restrictions or other applications are being considered by the Local Highways Panel.

155/2025 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 *IWMF Rivenhall Airfield Site Liaison Committee – Cllr Evans*

No report received.

iii *Playing Field Working Group*

No report received. Discussion was held around the repairs which are due to be done and also the prospect of getting a grant to replace some equipment.

iv *RCCE Neighbourhood Plan Review – Cllr J Spencer*

A report was circulated before the meeting and noted.

156/2025 Grant Applications

i *Update on grant applications*

Nothing to update. Discussion was held around the Rural Prosperity Fund and applying for Roller Shutters for the kitchen area that are noise insulated, fire resistant and power assisted to facilitate the operation of all users. .

157/2025 Handyman / Grass Cutting Contract

This was discussed as part of the Clerk's report.

158/2025 Handyman and Grass and Verges Cutting Contract 2026-2029

After discussion it was **agreed** that all councillors would submitted their potential changes by email to the specification. The Clerk, Cllr Evans and Cllr Mitchell would then revise the specifications and email to Councillors for agreement.

159/2025 Health and Safety Audit and Fire Risk Assessment

After discussion it was **agreed** to look at a fire smoke detection system and a new door for the office and to take the report to the Sole Trustee of the Community Centre to discuss.

160/2025 Policy Reviews

i *To consider and agree the revised CCTV Policy*

After discussion it was **agreed**, subject to amendments, the policy be adopted. Proposed by Cllr Giles, seconded by Cllr Palmer.

ii *To consider and adopt the IT Policy*

After discussion it was **agreed** that this policy should be reviewed subject to amendments and brought to the next meeting for approval. Proposed by Cllr Giles, seconded by Cllr Palmer

iii *To consider and adopt the Document Management Policy*

After discussion it was **agreed**, subject to amendments the policy be adopted. Proposed by Cllr Giles, seconded by Cllr Palmer

161/2025 Feering Master Planning

- i *To update on Crown Master Planning (if available)*

A meeting has been requested from Crown Estate to update in light of the A12 and a separate meeting will be requested from Braintree District Council.

162/2025 Essex Devolution

Nothing to update.

163/2025 Housing Needs Survey

After discussion it was **agreed** subject to the amendment, that the letter be approved. Proposed by Cllr Palmer seconded by Cllr Giles.

164/2025 Tree Works

- i To update on Tree Works

The clerk informed Council that the tree work had been undertaken on Taylors, and the new trees will need to be planted in the autumn time. Whilst at Taylors they also removed some low hanging branches to the tree at the top of the bank which were a health and safety issue. They have looked at the trees on the Playing Field and have recommended removing the 2 small dead trees. The Norway Maple by the entrance to the playing field is in close proximity to neighbouring properties. They have recommended a crown reduction of 30% over the winter.

They have also noticed a few health and safety issues with the trees and have suggested a walk round and a report on the findings for works to be undertaken. It was discussed that any works to be undertaken should be shared on social media, the website and the Parish Magazine.

- ii To consider request from Packhorse Bridge Society for assistance with tree works on the island

After discussion it was **agreed** to ask the Society to secure the site to prevent any risk to users. We will also seek further information from tree surgeon and to find out whether the island is in a conservation area and if so ask the society to seek planning permission. The Packhorse Bridge Society to be requested to apply for a grant for the cost of the works.

165/2025 Village Green

Nothing to update Deferred to the next meeting.

166/2025 Meeting Schedule

After discussion it was **agreed** that the meeting in August be cancelled. Proposed by Cllr Palmer, seconded by Cllr Giles.

167/2025 Items for Next Agenda

- i Village Green
- ii Packhorse Bridge Tree Works
- iii IT Policy
- iv Handyman / Verge Cutting Specification.

168/2025 Close of Meeting

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.28 and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

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Katherine Evans

16 September 2025