



MINUTES of the MEETING of FEERING PARISH COUNCIL
held at Feering Community Centre on Tuesday 20 January 2026 at 7.30 pm

In attendance: Cllr P Carlaw (Chair) Cllr K Evans Cllr J Maddison
Cllr J Spencer

Also Present: Lisa Collins - Clerk Cllr P Thorogood (BDC and
ECC Councillor)

Members of the Public: 0

001/2026 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

002/2026 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr E Mitchell and Cllr I Giles. It was **agreed** that these apologies be accepted. Proposed Cllr Carlaw, seconded Cllr Spencer. Apologies were also noted from Cllr Finch (BDC).

003/2026 Declaration of Interest

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

Cllr Maddison declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 006/2026(iii).

004/2026 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Feering Parish Council

Following discussion, it was **agreed** that the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 9 December 2026 were agreed. Proposed by Cllr Carlaw, seconded by Cllr Maddison.

005/2026 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 members of the public in attendance

006/2026 Finance

- i *To approve the bank reconciliation as at 31 December 2025 and 2025/26 budget account (circulated prior to meeting).*

After discussion the bank reconciliation and budget account for December 2025 was **approved** Proposed by Cllr Carlaw, seconded by Cllr Maddison.

- ii *To agree Payments for January 2026 (circulated before meeting)*

After discussion it was **agreed** that all January payments be made. Proposed Cllr Carlaw, seconded Cllr Spencer.

- iii To consider and agree the grant applications for 2026-2027

After discussion it was **agreed** that the grants would be awarded as follows:

- Feering Good Companions – £300

- Feering Parish Magazine - £300
- Feering & Kelvedon Garden Club - £200
- Feering & Kelvedon Local History Museum - £225
- Feering Baby & Toddler Group - £400
- Packhorse Bridge Society - £300

Proposed by Cllr Carlaw, seconded by Cllr Evans.

- iv To consider the quotations received and agree the award of the Handyman and Grass Cutting Contract for 2026-2029

After discussion it was **agreed** that the handyman and Grass Cutting Contract would be awarded to JPB Landscapes for 2026-2029. Proposed by Cllr Carlaw, seconded by Cllr Spencer.

- v To consider and agree request to upgrade Rialtas Business Solutions software to Rialtas Web

After discussion it was **agreed** that the software would be upgraded to Rialtas Web with immediate effect. Proposed by Cllr Carlaw, seconded by Cllr Evans.

- vi To consider and agree the budget and precept request for 2026-2027 (previously circulated to Councillors) and to agree the Chairman to sign the precept request.

Thanks were given to the Clerk for the work which goes into the budget. After discussion it was **agreed** that the budget be approved as provided and that the precept request of £124,463 be accepted. The figure gives an increase of £2.42 for a band D property for the year which equates to a 5 pence increase per week. Proposed by Cllr Carlaw, seconded by Cllr Maddison.

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

007/2026 Report from District / County Councillor

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

County Council ("ECC") Update – Devolution – The Mayoral election for Essex has been postponed from May 2026 to May 2028 due to the complexity involved in the process. The Government has asked all the council authorities in Essex whether they wish to request this year's elections be postponed as they will slow the Local Government Reorganisation process by reducing capacity; Minerals Plan – Essex is expected to announce its preferred sites in the early summer and the updated draft plan will go to public consultation shortly after; Rivenhall IWMF – Updated planning application for large-scale industrial greenhouses have now been submitted to ECC. There will be a lot of jobs with use of the CO2 and heat from the incinerator, however there will be increased traffic on the A120, a potential eyesore on land that was meant to be returned to farmland or nature and whether water will need to be taken from the Blackwater; Planning applications from Indaver to remove the invisible plume condition and increase the types of waste will be decided by ECCs Development and Regulation Committee in early 2026; The EA is investigating two emission limit breaches at the site. One involved carbon monoxide and the other involved ammonia which has been deemed to be a serious level 2 breach.

Braintree District Council ("BDC") Update – Local Plan – Cllr Thorogood provided his written questions to BDC planning officers about the criteria used for the strategic

modelling to determine whether the Kings Dene and Monks Farm sites at Kelvedon are viable. These are available from the Clerk.

Cllr Thorogood left the meeting at 20.36.

008/2026 Clerks Report

The report had been circulated previously and was noted following discussion. Thanks was given to Cllr Thorogood for his grant to assist the Parish Council with the changing room project.

009/2026 Planning Matters

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 were held on 6 January and 15 January 2026.

The following applications were discussed at the 6 January meeting: Essex Devolution – to consider and propose a response to the Local Government Review Consultation; Colchester City Council – Local Plan preferred options Regulation 18 Consultation; Great Bardfield Neighbourhood Plan – Regulation 16 Consultation; ESS/39/23/BTE/LA5 – Rivenhall Airfield.

The following was discussed at the 15 January meeting: Braintree District Council Local Plan Committee Meeting – Kings Dene.

010/2026 Kings Dene

The statement from Cllr Evans for the BDC Local Plan meeting on 21 January was noted. Thanks was given to Cllr Evans for her work on this. A meeting with Parker Strategic is potentially being fixed for 2 February with Kelvedon Parish Council.

011/2026 Highways & Transport

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

Discussion was held around the Traffic Regulation Order for Willow Gardens which has been received.

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

It was discussed that the Clerk would look into the purchase of a new pole for the old SID.

012/2026 Feering Master Planning

Nothing to update.

013/2026 Essex Devolution

This was discussed under the County Councillor report.

014/2026 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. No meeting

- ii *IWMF Rivenhall Airfield Site Liaison Committee – Cllr Carlaw*

Report circulated before the meeting and was noted.

iii *Playing Field Working Group*

No report received.

iv *BALC – Cllr Carlaw*

No report received.

v *Feering Community Centre Report*

No report received. Discussion was held around the caretakers positions and the key safe.

015/2026 Annual Assembly

After discussion it was **agreed** that the grant recipients should be invited to the annual Assembly to give a talk about the benefits of the Grant. It was also **agreed** to invite BDC waste department to discuss the changes to the bins. The Community Awards will be considered at the next meeting.

016/2026 Grant Applications

Update on grant applications

- i To update on the submission of a grant application to Enovert in relation to new windows and doors in the main hall.

It was noted that the grant was submitted to Enovert but as we have had a grant within the last year we were unable to move forward with this. This can be re-submitted in February.

- ii To update on the submission of grant application in relation to curtains

It was noted that the submission to the CIF fund for the curtains was submitted. The outcome should be known in February.

- iii To update on the submission of grant application for rabbit fencing and consider quotations received.

No update on this application. It was discussed that Feering Falcons could submit a grant to the Football Foundation for the rabbit fencing.

017/2026 Handyman / Grass Cutting Contract

This was discussed under the Clerk's report. It was mentioned that Think! need to cut the hedges and finish the bridge.

018/2026 Allotments S106 Contribution

Nothing to update. Clerk to chase Braintree District Council regarding the purchase of the land.

019/2026 Housing Needs Survey

After discussion it was agreed that this item be deferred and that RCCE be invited to the next Parish Council meeting to discuss.

020/2026 Feering Community Centre Maintenance

- i To consider and agree to undertake a drain survey to find out why drains keep blocking

The Clerk updated that the Drain Doctor has been to look at the drains and had recommended works to be undertaken to prevent the drains from blocking. It was **resolved** that the Drain doctor quote be accepted and the work undertaken. Proposed by Cllr Carlaw, seconded by Cllr Maddison.

- ii To note the liquidation of MPS Doors and the loss of deposit and to consider and agree how to move forward with the new automatic doors at the Community Centre

The liquidation of MPS Doors was noted. It was **agreed** that as we still have the grant in place for the doors we would obtain another quote to get the new doors installed.

021/2026 Tree Works

- i To update on Tree Works

It was noted that the Clerk has asked the tree surgeon to look at 2 trees, one in Coggeshall Road and one in the wooded area near the MUGA. The tree surgeon has confirmed that the tree in the wooded area needs to be felled and this is urgent. It was **resolved** that this work be undertaken. Proposed by Cllr Carlaw, seconded by Cllr Evans.

- ii To update on the Packhorse Bridge Society tree works

It was noted that the work on the Packhorse Bridge had been undertaken and the invoice had been received by the Society and had been agreed to be paid by the Parish Council under item 006/2026(ii).

022/2026 Village Green

After discussion, it was **agreed** that we would look to see whether we could put some boulders along the green due to utilities cables and pipes underground at unknown depth on the edge of the green.

023/2026 Resolution to exclude public and press

After discussion it was **agreed** to exclude members of the press and public due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed. Proposed by Cllr Carlaw, seconded by Cllr Spencer.

024/2026 Employment matters

After discussion it was **agreed** that the job specification for Communications Officer be approved subject to minor amendments and the salary scale be accepted for the role. The position will be advertised immediately. Proposed Cllr Carlaw, seconded Cllr Spencer.

025/2026 Items for the Next Agenda

- i Annual Assembly
- ii Packhorse Bridge Weir
- iii Rabbit Fencing Funding
- iv Housing Needs Survey
- v Village Green

026/2026 Close of Meeting

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 22.04 and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

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Pam Carlaw

17 February 2026