MINUTES of the MEETING of FEERING PARISH COUNCIL
held at Feering Community Centre on Tuesday 16 June 2026 at 7.30 pm

In attendance:	Cllr P Carlaw (Chair)	Cllr J Spencer	Cllr J Maddison
	Cllr I Giles	Cllr K Evans	Cllr E Mitchell
	Cllr N Warwick		
Also Present:	Lisa Collins - Clerk	Cathy Stewart – Assistant Clerk	Cllr P Thorogood – BDC and ECC
	Cllr M Finch - BDC		
	Members of the Public: 0		

136/2026 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

137/2026 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

138/2026 Declaration of Interest

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

No declarations of interest received.

139/2026 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Feering Parish Council

i Following discussion, it was **agreed** that the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 19 May 2026 were approved. Proposed Cllr Carlaw, seconded Cllr Giles.

ii Following discussion, it was **agreed** that the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 19 May 2026 were approved. Proposed Cllr Maddison, seconded Cllr Spencer.

140/2026 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 present.

141/2026 Finance

i *To approve the bank reconciliation as at 31 May 2026 and 2025/26 budget account (circulated prior to meeting).*

After discussion the bank reconciliation and budget account for May 2026 was **approved.** Proposed by Cllr Mitchell, seconded Cllr Maddison.

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

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

iii To receive internal Auditors report from Heelis & Lodge and note any recommendations

The Council noted the internal auditors report and recommendations and thanked the Clerk for her work on the accounts. It was **agreed** that the Finance Committee would meet to review earmarked reserves with a view to moving some to general reserves. It was also **agreed** that a reserve policy should be drafted. Proposed Cllr Evans, seconded Cllr Giles

iv To undertake a review of effectiveness of Internal Audit and consider Statement on Internal Controls

After discussion the Audit Plan was **approved**. It was further **agreed** that the Statement on Internal Controls, subject to the addition of the internal auditors' recommendations, be approved. Proposed Cllr Carlaw, seconded Cllr Evans.

v To agree to continued use of Heelis & Lodge as Internal Auditor for 2025/2026 financial year end

After discussion it was **agreed** that Heelis and Lodge be confirmed as internal auditors for the 2026/2027 financial year, proposed Cllr Carlaw, seconded Cllr Giles.

vi To consider, approve and sign section 1 – Annual Governance Statement of the Annual Governance Accountability Report for 2025/2026

After discussion it was **resolved** that Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Report for 2025/2026 be signed. Proposed Cllr Carlaw, seconded Cllr Maddison

vii To consider, approve and sign section 2 – Accounting Statements 2024/2025 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2025/2026

After discussion it was **resolved** that Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Report for 2025/2026 be signed. Proposed Cllr Carlaw, seconded Cllr Spencer

142/2026 Report from District / County Councillor

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

County Council ("ECC") Update – Libraries - The Reform UK administration have reversed the former Conservative group's decision to bring in charges for borrowing books. Reform have announced a pothole emergency and £7.5 million to tackle the problem. The new cabinet member has asked all members to put forward three roads in each division for repair. Councillor Thorogood has put forward Colne Road from the A120 junction to the Earls Colne parish boundary. Net Zero - Reform has scrapped all Net Zero policies at ECC. The leader said he doesn't understand climate change. Councillor Thorogood does not agree with this new direction.

Braintree District Council ("BDC") Update –Local Plan Sub-Committee 15 June – There are no decisions proposed at the meeting for Kings Dene, Monks Farm or Crown Estates or Coggeshall Allocations. The report provides an update on responses received during the Regulation 18 Consultation. The officers are proposing to extend the plan period from 2026 to 2041 to 2028-2043, which reflects the anticipated adoption of the local plan in

2027. There is confirmation that updated infrastructure and viability studies are being prepared, including:

- an updated infrastructure delivery plan
- a viability assessment

Both of which are expected to be reported to the Local Plan Sub-Committee in September 2026, before the Regulation 19 consultation begins in October.

143/2026 Clerks Report

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted following discussion. The handyman has been asked to make repairs to the benches that have been noted on their report. It was agreed that they would be asked to maintain the benches at The Street and Long Acres. A meeting will be undertaken shortly. Discussion was also held around the residents' correspondence received. It was agreed that the school should be asked to deal with the trees that are overhanging footpath 16. Councillor Evans also raised the leaflet that had been received with regard to Essex Highways footway works commencing from the 29th of June until the 19th of October in Feering (Feering Hill) and in Kelvedon (High Street & London Road) , which she will circulate to councillors and for wider dissemination.

144/2026 Housing Needs Survey

Discussion was held around the information received from RCCE regarding the residents requiring community housing. The clerk to chase Crown Estate for a response regarding rural housing exception land.

145/2026 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 21 May 2026

The following applications were discussed: 21/03579/OUT - land south-west of Coggeshall Road, Kelvedon; 26/00840/TPO – Rivers House, Threshelfords Business Park, Inworth Road, ESS/23/25/BTE - land at Rivenhall Airfield, Coggeshall Road, Braintree; ESS/24/25/BTE - Land at Rivenhall Airfield, Coggeshall Road, Braintree; 26/00727/HH1 Jubilee Cottages, Coggeshall Road; 26/00894/TPOCON - The Sun Inn, Feering Hill; BDC Supplementary Planning Documents - Waste Collection and Storage and Affordable Housing SPD/ 26/00916/ELD – Land off London Road, Feering; 26/00880/HH – Wood Cottage, Rye Mill Lane.

Cllr Carlaw attended the Planning Members Forum relating to the Care home on the Land North of London Road, Kelvedon. The report was circulated before the meeting and noted.

ii To receive update on Kings Dene / BDC Local Plan

Nothing to update. Local Plan currently being reviewed ready for Regulation 19 in the summer.

146/2026 Highways & Transport

i *A12 VTAG*

To consider and agree request from VTAG to donate funds to KAUS

Discussion was held around the request from the A12 VTAG committee to close the group and donate the funds to KAUS. This has now been superseded because the Treasurer will remain in post. Although it was discussed that the Parish Council would not agree to the funds being donated to KAUS as a pressure group. It was **agreed** to continue to support VTAG and continue the group. It was also **agreed** that they could book the Acorn Room in August for their next meeting.

Cllr Evans suggested communicating with Priti Patel to find out the cost of the junctions on the A12 and possibly get some money from Highways and developers. It was proposed Cllr Evans would draft an email, seconded Cllr Carlaw.

Cllr Finch left the meeting at 20.31

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

Nothing to update.

iii *Village Speeding Issues and Cycle routes for the village*

Discussion was held around the SID, which is currently under reading. The clerk is to contact the manufacturer to find out if this can be adjusted. The speed watch team are still not active although some training has been completed

147/2026 Feering Crown Master Planning

To update on planning application number 26/00119/OUT received from Braintree District Council for outline planning permission of 835 homes in Feering.

Nothing to update

148/2026 Essex Devolution

Nothing to update.

149/2026 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.

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

Report was circulated before the meeting and noted. Discussion was held around the representatives being invited to the grand opening by Indaver.

iii *Playing Field Working Group – Cllr J Spencer*

Report was circulated before the meeting and noted. Discussion was held around the residents' email concerning the skate park. The email had been responded to but there is currently no evidence received by the Council that injury has occurred. The equipment has no serious risk from our last independent inspection and no further action is to be taken.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would have a stand at the FCC AGM to inform the community of potential proposals for playground equipment. It was also discussed that Councillor Thorogood would check when CIF funds are open for applications and when it closes. Further discussion around the Section 106 money for rabbit fencing was held and it was agreed to speak to Sarah Ashton regarding this and also Councillor Thorogood to inquire as to how this could be refused as it is agreed in the POSI by BDC.

iv *BALC – Cllr Carlaw*

No report received. Requested that Councillor Evans provides a report from the last meeting attended.

v Feering Community Centre Report

No report received.

150/2026 Action Plan / 5 Year Plan

Discussion was held around the action plan for 2026/2027. Cllr Carlaw proposed the action plan be agreed, seconded Cllr Spencer

151/2026 Packhorse Bridge Weir

Discussion was held around this. It was noted that the chair of Kelvedon Parish Council lives at the mill and has a pecuniary interest and therefore Richard Mimms is the nominated Councillor at Kelvedon Parish Council

152/2026 Grant Applications

Update on grant applications

Nothing to update

i To update on funding for Rabbit Fencing

It was discussed that we would seek advice from the EALC and Clerks Forum.

153/2026 Allotments S106 Contribution

Nothing to update.

154/2026 Tree Works

i To update on Tree Works / Survey

Nothing to update on tree works / survey.

ii To retrospectively consider and agree the emergency tree work undertaken to the oak tree on Taylors following the tree being damaged by a lorry

It was **agreed** that the emergency works to the tree should be undertaken. Proposed Cllr Carlaw, seconded Cllr Warwick.

iii To consider and agree the quote for work to be undertaken to trees at Bridge Meadow

After discussion it was agreed the work to be undertaken to the trees at Bridge Meadows, by the road bridge, should go ahead. Proposed, Cllr Carlaw, seconded Cllr Maddison.

155/2026 Village Green

i *To update on the installation of posts on Village Green*

Nothing to update. Still waiting to hear from Danbury Fencing on installation date and quote for Bridge Meadows.

156/2026 Policy Review

i To consider, review and agree the Website Accessibility Statement

After discussion it was **agreed** that the website accessibility statement be approved. Proposed Cllr Carlaw, seconded Cllr Giles. It was also agreed that a progress update on the website be kept on the agenda.

ii To consider, review and agree the Members Code of Conduct

After discussion it was **agreed** that the Code of Conduct be approved, subject to the minor amendments. Proposed Cllr Warwick, seconded Cllr Mitchell.

157/2026 Items for the Next Agenda

i Litter picking group

ii Website Accessibility statement

158/2026 Close of Meeting

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.15 and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed .... 28 July 2026

Pam Carlaw