



MINUTES of the VIRTUAL MEETING of FEERING PARISH COUNCIL
held virtually on Tuesday 16 March 2021 at 7.30 pm
via Zoom (Meeting ID 813 9470 2629)

In attendance: Cllr P Lees (Chair) Cllr C Dobson Cllr S Reed
Cllr L Blackburn Cllr K Evans Cllr R Carpenter
Also Present: Lisa Collins – Clerk Cllr R Mitchell (ECC) Cllr P Thorogood (BDC)
Members of the Public: 3

049/2021 Chairman Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

050/2021 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Miedziedz. It was **resolved** to accept the apologies. Proposed by Cllr Dobson, seconded by Cllr Reed.

051/2021 Declaration of Interest

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

Cllr Dobson declared a non-pecuniary interest on item 054/2021 as a neighbour to the playing field. Cllr Evans declared an interest in item 055/2021(iii).

052/2021 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Feering Parish Council

After discussion, it was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on 19 January 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Dobson, seconded by Cllr Blackburn. It was further **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on 16 February 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Dobson, seconded by Cllr Carpenter. A further **resolution** was passed that the minutes of the meeting of the extraordinary meeting held on 27 January 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Dobson, seconded by Cllr Carpenter.

053/2021 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.

054/2021 Kelvedon and Feering Rugby Club

Discussion was held with members of the rugby club committee around the rules of the game, whether other venues had been contacted, insurance of the club and ball arrest netting and mitigation of balls being kicked into properties or road. After discussion it was **proposed** by Cllr Lees that the proposal submitted by the Rugby Club be accepted for Merit League rugby for the first season with regular feedback with the Rugby Club to the Clerk with a council review in January 2022 as to whether to continue the fixtures for the following season. Seconded by Cllr Carpenter. Motion **agreed**.

- i *To approve the bank reconciliation as at 28 February 2021 and 2020/21 budget account (circulated before the meeting)*

After discussion the bank reconciliation was **approved**. Proposed by Cllr Carpenter, seconded by Cllr Reed.

- ii *To agree to pay the subscription for Essex Playing Fields yearly subscription and the best kept playing field competition entry fee*

After discussion it was **agreed** that the subscription fee and the competition fee should be paid. Proposed Cllr Lees, seconded Cllr Blackburn.

- iii *To discuss and agree whether membership fees for Friends of Historic Essex should be paid*

After discussion it was **agreed** that the membership fee should be paid. Proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Carpenter.

- iv *Councillors to agree payments for March 2021 (circulated to Councillors before the meeting)*

After discussion it was **agreed** that all March payments be made, including the unlisted payment for BHIB Mower Insurance for £168. Proposed by Cllr Carpenter, seconded by Cllr Dobson.

- v *To review Standing Orders and Direct Debit Payments*

After discussion, the standing orders and direct debit payments for the next financial year were **agreed**. Proposed by Cllr Dobson, seconded by Cllr Carpenter

- vi *Review and agreement of Asset Register*

After discussion it was **agreed** that the Asset Register be approved, subject to the agreed amendments. Proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Dobson.

- vii *To agree point increase in Clerk's Salary and to agree to holiday carry over for Clerk*

After discussion it was **agreed** that the Clerk's salary point increase be implemented and to the carry over the Clerk's holiday accrued during this financial year. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Reed.

Report from District / County Councillor

Cllr Mitchell gave an update on County Council issues as following: £200k has been granted to the Local Highways Panel; EC2K+ has been looked at further. The plus relates to movement towards Halstead from Earls Colne and a larger network; Essex Climate Action – looking at putting forward the first set of proposals from the group to come out later this year; Environment Agency Flood Scheme - working with them to see if there are any other proposals which can be improved on rather than the quarry proposed; Winter programme.- this is still being undertaken and it is hoped that the Kelvedon High Street potholes will be fixed by the end of this month; Parking review of Kelvedon High Street – this is out for consultation at the moment dealing with the impact of development at the post office, parking at Heron Road, exiting the car park and Kelvedon house; Bus stops – Cllr Mitchell updated on the bus stops which have been changed at Ridgeon; Emergency Active Travel Fund; IWMF – the building is not getting what was expected and it is looking to be more of a Combined Heat and Power plant; Solar Together Essex – over 4000 people have registered which has doubled the amount of people who registered in 2018. Auction starts in a weeks' time.

Cllr Carpenter asked whether the discussions with the Environment Agency will result in

a delay in the proposals being submitted to ECC - Cllr Mitchell did not know the answer. Cllr Lees raised the issue that Essex is one of the worst in the country for incineration of rubbish. The Clerk raised the parking partnership issue of tickets being issued during the 1-hour restriction despite being in a lockdown with the government message of stay at home.

Cllr Thorogood gave an update on Braintree District Council issues as follows: BDC Climate change emergency – a strategy has been drafted and is a good starting point but no mitigation for the incinerator offset, promotion of new roads. Will be going out to consultation together with the draft cycle strategy but this focusses more on towns than rural areas; Litter on the A12 – this has got bad during the lockdown and there is fly tipping in one of the laybys which will be reported; Discussions with Paul Partridge regarding litter cams to catch people littering, dash cam footage can be used to report littering and prosecute; Local Plan Watchdog meeting – it was decided to be more proactive and Kelvedon Against Urban Sprawl (KAUS) has been formed. The group will focus on Parker Strategic Land who are in pre-app talks with BDC. Local plan will not be adopted until end of the year so PSL looking to put the application in around May time.

057/2021

Clerks Report

The report had been circulated previously and was noted. The Clerk raised the issue of the container being used to store football equipment. It was **agreed** that this could be used subject to appropriate insurance. Thanks for the work was being undertaken by G G Adams regarding the clematis was noted.

058/2021

Planning Matters

Cllr Carpenter gave an update on the meeting held on 18 February where 4 applications were discussed including Alderbrook, Worlds End Lane; 37 Feering Hill; Bridge Meadow and 31 Watermill Road. Cllr Carpenter also gave an update on the meeting held on 11 March 2021 where 7 applications were discussed relating to Feering Place, Coggeshall Road; Marks Tey Neighbourhood Plan consultation; Langley Farm, Langley Green Road; two applications for End Cottage, The Street; 20 Packe Close and 50 Feering Hill.

059/2021

Highways & Transport

i VTAG report

No report given.

ii A12 to A120 widening – A120 Routes – A120 Community Forum meeting update

A forum was attended on 16 March and the benefits of the scheme appear to be dwindling for Feering. Formal consultation will be in June when the Parish Council can submit their response.

A120 meeting – was an update by Highways England and Arup was the consultants. Undertaking Environmental Impact work update.

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

Nothing to update.

iv Village Speeding Issues and Cycle routes for the village

No update received.

060/2021

Manned Refuse Collection

The Clerk informed the council that the cost of the service had increased by 1% but the BDC were looking for an appointment system to be implemented for 30 residents per hour. After discussion it was **agreed** that the Parish Council would not implement an appointment system and the May service should be cancelled until we know whether the appointment system is going to be removed after the covid-19 restrictions are lifted in June. Proposed by Katherine Evans.

061/2021

Committee and Representatives Report

To receive a report, consider and agree any actions arising from the report on the following:

i FCC Trustees Meeting from Cllr L Blackburn

The report was circulated before the meeting and noted. It was noted that the councillors would like to receive the minutes of the trustee meetings circulated when received.

ii Neighbourhood Plan Committee from Cllr L Blackburn

The report was circulated before the meeting and noted.

iii PRow & Cycleway Committee

No report received.

iv Feering Environmental Working Party from Cllr C Dobson

No report received.

v Employment Committee

No update.

062/2021

Braintree Association of Local Councils

The update was circulated before the meeting and noted.

063/2021

Emergency Powers Policy

After discussion it was **agreed** that the Emergency Powers Policy be implemented and only activated if the issue of virtual meetings being extended does not come into force. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Carpenter; 4 Cllrs in favour 2 Cllr abstentions.

064/2021

Meeting Dates

After discussion, it was **agreed** that the Annual Parish Assembly meeting should be cancelled; Change of date for the annual Council Meeting to 5 May was agreed; cancellation of the May Meeting was **agreed**. It was further **agreed** that a decision on the June meeting would be taken at the April meeting. The December meeting will also be changed to 21 December.

065/2021

Bloor Homes – S106 Agreement

After discussion it was **agreed** that the Clerk should write to BDC to confirm that the Parish Council wanted the open space management transferred to the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Dobson.

066/2021

Bloor Homes – Site Wide Strategy Response

Cllr Evans informed the Council that there was nothing to report.

067/2021

Environment Agency Flood Alleviation Consultation

After discussion it was **agreed** that this item be deferred until next month

Cllr Mitchell left the meeting at 21.34.

068/2021

Christmas Tree for 2021

Cllr Dobson informed the Council that a lease agreement has been agreed for a 5 year period. After discussion it was **agreed** that a 10 year lease would be preferred and if we can get 10 years we should try, but accept the 5 year lease if we cannot extend the period. Proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Lees.

069/2021

Training

After discussion, it was **agreed** that the Clerk should attend the SLCC Regional Training Event on 21 April at a cost of £45 plus VAT. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Dobson. After discussion it was felt that while the EALC village halls training run by RCCE would be an appropriate exercise gathering event, there was not enough interest to send an attendee at the moment but we can revisit this at a later date.

070/2021

Community Centre Energy Efficiency

Cllr Evans gave an update on the grant application status. After discussion it was **agreed** that Cllr Evans should apply for the loft insulation and cavity wall insulation grant and then look into windows and doors at a later date. It was also **agreed** that the Parish Council would pay the Third Party Contribution which would be approximately £350. Proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Carpenter.

071/2021

Tree Works

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the work at Bridge Meadows would be undertaken shortly now that the planning application has been approved. The contractor is waiting for dryer days that they can get their equipment onto the playing field and Taylors without causing damage. The Clerk also informed the Council that a further quote was being obtained with regard to the re-pollarding of the willows in the Community Centre car park.

072/2021

Items for Next Agenda

- i Bus Shelter Licences
- ii Emergency Powers Policy activation
- iii Bloor S106 Agreement
- iv FCC Management Agreement
- v Neighbourhood Plan Document agreement

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 21.53 pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

Paul Lees

20 April 2021