



MINUTES of the MEETING of FEERING PARISH COUNCIL
held at Feering Community Centre on Tuesday 21 September 2021 at 7.30 pm

In attendance: Cllr P Lees (Chair) Cllr C Dobson Cllr S Reed
Cllr R Carpenter Cllr K Evans

Also Present: Lisa Collins – Clerk
Members of the Public: 2

144/2021 Chairman Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

145/2021 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Lee Blackburn. It was **resolved** to accept the apologies.

146/2021 Declaration of Interest

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

Cllr Reed declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 162/2021. Cllr Dobson declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 161/2021.

147/2021 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Feering Parish Council

After discussion, it was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 August 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Dobson, seconded by Cllr Evans.

148/2021 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.

A member of the public ("MOP") raised the issue of a finding of a camp on Taylors Field and he would like this looked into. The clerk informed the meeting that this had been reported to BDC as a fly tip and it was agreed that this would be looked into further.

A further member of the public raised the issue of the state of the river. The mop has spoken to the landowner, but there are trees falling into the river. A suggestion was made that a representative of the Parish Council meet with the landowner to discuss the trees. The second MOP raised the concern of natural damming possibly leading to a flooding risk.

The MOP also raised the issue of the open spaces at the moment as they are untidy, and hedges have been left uncut. Cllr Dobson explained that we are trying to improve the areas for biodiversity growth. Cllr Lees explained that the hedges are not able to be cut during the bird nesting season.

MOP asked about the salt bins and the current state of them and what can be done about it. They also raised the issue of the fence on the slip road to Prested Hall.

149/2021

Finance

- i *To approve the bank reconciliation as at 31 August 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 payments for September 2021 (to be circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting)*

After discussion it was **agreed** that all September payments be made. Proposed by Cllr Dobson, seconded by Cllr Reed.

- iii To receive update on the External Audit for the Accounts for 2020/21

The Clerk informed the Council that the External Auditors had returned their report and that there was an except for matter raised as a box had been incorrectly ticked due to not completing the review of the Risk Assessment within the financial year. This will now be posted on the website together with the notice of conclusion of audit.

150/2021

Report from District / County Councillor

Cllr Thorogood sent his apologies due to illness and will submit a written report to Councillors.

Cllr Lees informed the Council that Cllr Sandum has asked Braintree District Council ("BDC") about the Essex County Council designation of the Blackwater and Colne as a targeted environmental area. Cllr Sandum had reported that BDC were unaware of this. Cllr Sandum will be following this up.

151/2021

Clerks Report

The report had been circulated previously and was noted.

152/2021

Planning Matters

Cllr Carpenter informed the Council that all decisions have been made by Delegated Authority by the clerk in conjunction with discussions with the Planning Committee and these would be ratified at the next face to face meeting.

153/2021

Highways & Transport

- i VTAG report

Nothing to report. The secretary is due to move shortly and a new secretary needs to be appointed.

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

A meeting is to be held with Highways England and Kelvedon Parish Council week commencing 18 October.

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

BDC have informed the Parish Council that the litter picking bags are too heavy. This has been conveyed to G G Adams and the litter pickers.

- iv Village Speeding Issues and Cycle routes for the village

No further information received regarding the speed watch.

154/2021

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.
One MOP left the meeting at 20.25
- ii Neighbourhood Plan Committee from Cllr L Blackburn
No report received.
- iii PRoW & Cycleway Committee
No report received. It was discussed that a letter would be sent regarding fencing on footpath 13.
- iv Feering Environmental Working Party from Cllr S Reed
No report received before the meeting. It was discussed that quotes would be obtained for the Bridge Meadows wildflower proposal. It was also discussed that hedge planting would be taking place on Taylors, and 120 saplings would be arriving from the National Trust. A call was held with Community Energy South promoting to properties within the village that there is still funding from Green Homes for use within the village. A follow up call will take place in the next couple of weeks. They are also trying to promote the village as a community energy group.
- v Employment Committee
No meeting held.
- vi Braintree Association of Local Councils / Essex Association of Local Councils from Cllr P Lees
Cllr Lees circulated a report before the meeting.

155/2021

Emergency Powers Policy

After discussion it was **agreed** that the Emergency Powers Policy remain in place in case it is required and will be reviewed again in January. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Carpenter.

156/2021

Annual Report

A further draft has been circulated and we are waiting for the final report to be produced this will then be sent to print. It was proposed that the report was agreed in principal and the final amendments be agreed by email. Proposed by Cllr Lees seconded by Cllr Evans.
The member of the public left the meeting at 20.49

157/2021

Bloor Homes – S106 Agreement

After discussion it was **agreed** that no response would be sent until after the master planning meeting has been held.

158/2021

BDC Master Planning Meeting

The Master Planning meeting has been confirmed for Wednesday 22 September. Agenda still to be received.

- 159/2021 **Christmas Tree for 2021 / Village Green**
- Cllr Dobson had no update to give. It was discussed that a banner could be looked into with Merry Christmas from Feering Parish Council.
- 160/2021 **2021-2022 Development Plan**
- After discussion it was **agreed** that the Development Plan circulated should be adopted for 2021-2024. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Dobson.
- 161/2021 **Kelvedon and Feering Rugby Club**
- The clerk informed the Council that a request has been made for the use of portable flood lights during training. After discussion it was **agreed** that the club could use these lights and continue training during the winter months with this to be reviewed with the general review in January. Proposed by Cllr Reed, seconded by Cllr Carpenter. It was also noted that positive feedback had been received from residents regarding the rugby clubs first home friendly match.
- 162/2021 **Feering Falcon's sponsorship**
- Cllr Reed informed the Council that this was no longer requested by the club as they had obtained sponsorship elsewhere.
- 163/2021 **Handyman Contract – Maintenance Plan**
- After discussion it was **agreed** to defer this item until further information is received.
- 164/2021 **Litter Picker's Annual Thank you**
- After discussion it was **agreed** to arrange an annual workshop for the litter pickers with a budget of £15 per head up to the value of £250. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Evans.
- 165/2021 **Braintree Local Highways Panel Streets Improvement**
- After discussion it was **agreed** that the application form should be amended to include safety aspects and submitted to Cllr Thorogood for submission to the LHP
- 166/2021 **Highways Devolution Scheme**
- After discussion it was **agreed** that the Parish Council would not join the Highways Devolution Scheme. Proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Dobson.
- 167/2021 **Verge Cutting Trial Consultation**
- After discussion it was **agreed** that this item be deferred to the next meeting.
- 168/2021 **Kelvedon and Feering Environmental Working Group**
- After discussion it was **agreed** that this item be deferred to the next meeting.
- 169/2021 **Training**
- After discussion it was **agreed** that the clerk should attend the Highways Briefing training, but it should be noted that the cost of this should be mentioned as this should be a free training course. Proposed by Cllr Lees, Seconded by Cllr Dobson.
- 170/2021 **Resolution to exclude public and press**
- After discussion it was **agreed** that members of the public and press be excluded under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meeting) Act 1960 due to the sensitive and confidential nature of the business to be discussed. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Carpenter.

171/2021

Emergency Planning

After discussion it was **agreed** to adopt the documents subject to amendment made at the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Carpenter.

172/2021

Items for Next Agenda

- i Awareness of anti-social behaviour within the village
- ii Handyman Contract
- iii Verge Cutting Trial Consultation
- iv Tommy for remembrance service
- v Benches for the MUGA end of the playing field
- vi Clerks Holiday Cover Policy
- vii Recruitment of Parish Councillors

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 22.17 pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

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Paul Lees

19 October 2021