



**Minutes of the Feering Parish Council Environmental Working Group
held on Monday 13 January 2020 at 8.00 pm
in the Acorn Room of Feering Community Centre**

Present: Cllr C Dobson (Chairman)

Yvonne Abrams (Working Group Secretary)

Members of the Working Group: 11

Members of the Public: 1

1/2020 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies: Joanna Brown [JB], Maureen Browning [MB] of the WI, and Jane Palmer [JP].

2/2020 To elect a Chairman

Cllr Dobson nominated as Chairperson by KE and ML.

3/2020 To elect a Secretary

Yvonne Abrams nominated as Secretary by CD and KE.

4/2020 & 5/2020 Introductions & Declarations of Interest

Introductions were made of all people attending the meeting. Representatives from the Feering School PTA, REco Store, Ramblers Association, Feering Community Association and residents were in attendance.

6/2020 Public Participation Session

A discussion took place around the shared concern for the environment, a need for knowledge-sharing and taking small yet achievable steps.

7/2020 Agree Terms of Reference

Agreed by CD and JS

8/2020 Eco Colnes & Halstead

CM and VW gave an insight into Eco Colnes and Halstead which they initiated. This is a group open to the General Public for information sharing and event organizing, both online (Facebook) and in person. They meet on the first Saturday of the month from 10am – 12pm at Earls Colne Recreation Club [Halstead Road CO6 2NG]. Eco Colnes and Halstead covers Halstead, Colne Engaine and Earls Colne, however is also available to people living outside of the area.

Eco Colnes and Halstead outlined some of the group's practical achievements, including - but not limited to!

- Tree planting alongside the Women's Institution
- TerraCycle (raising money for the Scout Hut).
- Attended village events to promote the group and educate people on what can and can't recycle.
- Asking parish and town councils to declare a "Climate Emergency" and look at changing the street lights to LED.

The group is looking to explore ;

- Fabric re-use
- Up-cycling
- Swap Shop and
- Facilitate the borrowing of clothes/toys/repairs/toiletries (unused and unopened)

CD: Braintree District has declared a "Climate Emergency".

VW put forward the idea of setting up a local Carbon-offset group.

SS raised the idea of a Christmas tree hiring scheme. (There are 900 trees available from Eco Colchester and/ Eco Essex Facebook groups and the Woodland Trust is giving away free trees).

9/2020 Biodiversity Net Gain

CD: The Feering & Kelvedon Wildlife Group have been carrying out Wildlife Ambles and have acquired some historic Habitat Assessments. A hedgerow survey is to be repeated. Knowledge and expertise is required! The next meeting is to be held on 11th February for those that are interested.

CD: Essex Wildlife Trust is available to run a Forest School. CD will email Emma Ormond regarding running a Forest School at Feering Primary School again.

EC put forward the idea of Summer workshops to help with knowledge-sharing with the help of REco.

KL raised environmentally-unfriendly Glow Sticks, a children's party favourite which Feering Primary School PTA would like to indefinitely drop from events.

JS: Tree Protection Orders (TPOs) have recently been put on some trees in Feering. Trees must first be assessed and, if they qualify, will be issued with a temporary TPO. Kieran McGrath at Braintree District Council can be contacted about any potential TPO.

CD: Essex County Council's Green Energy Strategy is to be taken to cabinet for approval in March 2020. This has been produced on the back of a public survey taking into account people's perspectives on "blue" (i.e. water) and "green" spaces. (150+ pages!)

Action: CD will circulate the web-link to the draft strategy.

10/2020 Plastic Waste: Reduction and Recycle

EC and SF gave an insight into the new REco store based in Tiptree, a one-stop reference shop for information sharing as well as a convenience store for dry foods and environmentally-friendly household goods.

REco would like to arrange a viewing of the private Recycling plant (big bins).

Action: EC and SF to arrange.

REco plan to supply a washing up tent at Kelvedon's upcoming free music festival in order to avoid unnecessary plastic-cup waste, potentially something Feering May Fair could also adopt.

VW informed the group that no general waste Braintree District Council collects is shipped Offshore; it now goes into UK landfill.

SS raised the idea of the Coffee Mug Wall: loan one, give it back, and bring a mug that becomes someone else's favourite.

JS: A 35 metre stack has been given draft approval by the Environmental Agency for the Rivenhall Incinerator. It is estimated that 200 lorries a day will distribute loads to and/or from the incinerator. A consultation is currently being held and to comment please visit <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/co5-9df-gent-fairhead-co-limited2/>. The deadline is the 6th February 2020.

11/2020 Make Do and Mend

KE put forward the idea of running a workshop with someone who can sew.

Action: SF and EC was going to post a request on their facebook page for a volunteer.

SS put forward Men In Sheds, based in Maldon.

CD: Feering Community Centre may be hired to run these workshops, possibly alongside other events.

12/2020 Food

CD suggested sharing recipes through a specific local online group.

DR/ VW informed the group of the OLIO App used for sharing and reducing food waste locally, however there are currently not enough users of this App locally for it to be of use.

Foodhub, an App for pre-ordering, eating and saving food was mentioned.

VW /CM: Incredible Edible has arrived in Earls Colne, a group used for growing and sharing food in the community. Their first meeting is 22nd January and is open to the General Public.

KE spoke about Kelvedon in Bloom and links to funding (they have received funding in the past from Rivenhall quarry).

13/2020 Litter

CD/ KE: Braintree District Council sponsored a litter pick event in Spring 2019. There is no insurance if litter picking along a road without a pavement. There has been a nationwide event known as "the Great British Spring clean".

JS: The Green Heart Scheme from Braintree District Council can also provide litter picking essentials for free.

Action: JS to look into local scheme's

CD: McDonalds wrappers can be checked for receipts and if found the Unique # can be reported and used to trace the McDonalds branch issuing the food and may be used to identify the purchaser. Fines of up to £1000 have been issued.

JS: Online forms for reporting discarded litter are available through Braintree District Council's website.

14/2020 Carbon Footprint

SS requested an electric car recharging point for Feering Community Centre to service electric cars but also to increase visibility of local environmental engagement.

Action SS to look into costings and potential funding opportunities.

CR talked about a bike rack at Feering Community Centre.

Action: CR to look into prices and grants/funding.

CD: There are trees in Feering to be replaced. Tree planting beside the bridge by the Community Centre and/or planted in the playing field are options being looked into by the Parish Council

KE: There are ongoing costs regarding the maintenance of new trees.

SF & EC: REco are currently working with Perrywood Garden Centre and Mark's Hall to look at tree planting initiatives. They may be able to look at helping Feering Parish Council with this.

Action: GD: To discuss this with Feering Parish Council along with Woodland Trust Grants.

15/2020 Community Projects and Funding Platforms

KE: No budget for the Environmental Working Group, however, initiatives can be put forward to the Parish Council for consideration and various grants are available, e.g. The Landfill Communities Fund (LCF).

JS: Annual Village of the Year award is open for village's who have proven to bring communities & businesses together.

JS: District Councillor's are able to provide grants under the Braintree District Council scheme.

Set up of a Feering & Kelvedon Facebook group similar to that of Eco Colnes and Halstead was suggested and get members to join, post and share.

16/2020 Items for the next agenda

Environmental Policy

17/2020 To agree the date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be held on Monday 24th February 2020 at 20:00 at Feering Community Centre.

Action: CD to book the Acom Room.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10:00pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed  24th February 2020
Christa-Marie Dobson