



**Minutes of the Feering Parish Council Environmental Working Group  
held on Monday 24 February 2020 at 8.00 pm  
in the Acorn Room of Feering Community Centre**

- Present:** Cllr C Dobson [CD] (Chairman) Suzy Shand [SS] (Acting as Working Group Secretary)
- Cllr S Reed [SR]
- Members of the Working Group: 6
- 18/2020 Welcome and Apologies**
- Apologies: Joanna Brown [JB], Jenny Sandum [JS], Yvonne Abrams [YA].
- 19/2020 Declarations of Interest**
- To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the Agenda.
- No pecuniary interests were declared.
- 20/2020 Agree Minutes from Previous Meeting**
- Previous minutes from 24 February 2020 agreed. Proposed by Cllr, Reed. Seconded by member S. Falco.
- 21/2020 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 public present.
- 22/2020 Guest Speaker James Abbott**
- Cllr. Abbott gave a talk about how to get community woodlands and orchards underway and the challenges currently faced within the district including loss of hedgerows due to development, plastic shrouds used to protect young saplings, maintenance costs and sight lines for new developments. He also discussed using the right trees in the right place, adding trees to urban landscapes, using native species, successional planting, how and when to plant and how to nurture young tree saplings, including mulching and watering. He also spoke about the decline in animal species such as the Tawny Owl and Dormice.
- 23/2020 Biodiversity Net Gain**
- CD: Updates from the Feering & Kelvedon Wildlife Group (FKWG);
- Tree Preservation Orders had been added to Glebe Gardens and Inworth Road by Braintree District Council (BDC) on the request of the FKWG. TPO applications 22/2019/TPO and 23/2019/TPO.
- FKWG had been asked to comment on the Feering Neighbourhood Plan as a Statutory Consultee.
- Wildlife ambles poorly attended and Public Rights of Way (PRoW) an issue in some areas such as Lady Meadow by the River.
- The group is looking at land that can be enhanced for biodiversity net gain such as Feering Park, Taylors Land – Coggeshall Road, Watermill Road, Lady Meadow and the Packhorse Bridge.
- The group helped a local resident find a home for his oak tree saplings at Prested Hall.
- 24/2020 Plastic Waste: Reduction and Recycle**
- Discussion around the percentage of green waste recycled by Green Recycle in Maldon (79% currently) and the amount that goes to RDF/landfill and what the BDC figures are. JS had been unable to get figures although Cherry McKean (CM) from Eco Colnes and Halstead had.
- Action:** [CM] to share Viridor presentation.

Action: Group to concentrate on how we produce less waste in the first place.

**25/2020**

### **Litter**

The group agreed to take part in the Parish Council's Litter Pick as part of Keep Britain Tidy - Great British Spring Clean campaign.

Action: Agree a date with the Parish Council.

Surfers for Sewage – Plastic Free Community

Action: [DL] to look into how the group signs up to Surfers for Sewage.

**26/2020**

### **St Mary's Church Christmas Tree Fair 2020**

Feering Parish Council has asked this group to come up with ideas for a tree that will represent this groups work, highlighting environmental issues. Ideas such as renting a real tree or making a tree out of recycled materials.

Action: [SF] of REco to contact Marks Hall Estate to see if they are going to proceed with their Christmas Tree Rental idea.

**27/2020**

### **Carbon Footprint**

The group discussed having a pitch at the May Fayre to promote the group and find out what residents want to see in terms of sustainability.

An electric car charging point at the Community Centre was discussed. [SS] said companies like Instavolt were worth contacting and finding out prices and how the points are maintained.

[SR] Discussed Hook Norton Parish who received a £400k grant from the Community Energy Fund 2020 for sustainable green development. How the community was consulted including veggie lunch, village open day.

Group discussed discount energy deals for the Parish and it's residents

Action: [CD] to request pitch at May Fayre and then group to get a questionnaire or something together to discuss with residents.

**28/2020**

### **Make Do & Mend**

Subject Deferred. Motioned by [CD] and seconded by [SS]

**29/2020**

### **Food Waste**

Subject Deferred. Motioned by [CD] and seconded by [SS]

**30/2020**

### **Community Projects & Funding Platforms**

Funding options discussed.

Action: [CD] to go on councillor funding course.

Action: Woodland Trust funding to be prioritised.

**31/2020**

### **Neighbourhood Plan – Regulation 14**

[CD] explained that Feering Parish Council's draft Neighbourhood Plan was out for public consultation and that completing it via survey monkey was the best thing to do.

Action: Members of the group to submit their comments on Feering Parish Council's neighbourhood Plan and for [CD] and [SR] to complete the Sustainability Assessment sent via RCCE as an independent review of the policies.

**32/2020**

### **Items for the next agenda**

Terra cycle points in the village.

Food waste.

Green Energy.

**33/2020**

### **To agree the date of the next meeting**

Next informal meeting: 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Next formal meeting to be agreed at a later stage when an action from the Parish Council is to be

required.

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

Signed

.....

**Christa-Marie Dobson**

30<sup>th</sup> June 2020