



**Minutes of the Feering Parish Council Environmental Working Group
held virtually on Tuesday 1 December 2020 at 8.00 pm
via Zoom (meeting ID: 839 7352 0833)**

Present: Cllr C Dobson [CD] (Chairman)

Cllr S Reed [SR]

Cllr. K Evans [KE]

Parish Clerk [LC]

Members of the Working Group: 5

050/2020 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

051/2020 Apologies were given from Cllr. J Sandum and member [SS]

To elect a secretary for this meeting

[EC] elected as secretary for this meeting.

052/2020 Declarations of Interest

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

No pecuniary interests were declared.

053/2020 Agree minutes from the previous meeting

Cllr. Reed proposed. [EC] seconded.

054/2020 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 members of the public present.

055/2020 Plastic Waste: Reduction and Recycle

[DL] gave an update on the Plastic Free Community initiative. Prested Hall have been awarded their Plastic Free Champion status. [DL] is speaking to other community groups including Rainbows who have a 'Plastic Promise' and Feering Community Centre. With Feering Parish Council agreeing to the support the plastic free community initiative in November's meeting we are getting closer to getting our Plastic Free Community status.

Action: [DL] to carry on working with Feering Rainbows and Feering Community Centre to achieve their Plastic Free status and prepare something for the Decembers Parish Magazine.

Action: [DL] to confirm with Feering Community Centre that there is an ink cartridge recycling point on site before Cllr. Reed updates the Recycling Map.

056/2020 Carbon Footprint – Green Energy

i How we encourage – people to look at their homes and make them more efficient: Although agreed it would be great if we could get a speaker on this subject from a green energy provider it was understood that with the current Covid-19 it was virtually impossible.

ii Green energy initiatives from energy providers: Cllr. Evans explained the Governments Green Homes Grant had been extended for a year and that the Parish Council/Community Centre are looking at a similar type of grant but for the Community Centre itself.

Action: Cllr. Reed to find list of MCS or Trustmark companies to promote to community and to see if these companies have you tube videos that can be shared on social media. Cllr. Reed also to post a personal account about his own experience of having a new heat system installed and

to pass a copy of this to Cllr. Dobson who can add it to the Parish Magazine article along with the Government's Green Homes Scheme Extension.

057/2020

Green Infrastructure (Walking, Cycling & Bridleways)

i Public rights of Way (PRoW) updated map and booklet. It was discussed that to start with the current booklet needs to be promoted online in preparation for Christmas. PDF's to be put on Facebook group page as 'A Walk A Week' to promote healthy active lifestyle as well as the Feering Parish Council Website.

Action: Cllr. Dobson to get the existing Feering's Walking booklet converted from hard copy to PDF and published on the Feering Parish Council website (using the Neighbourhood Plan's map with the permissive path shown).

058/2020

Projects

i Tree Planting at Playing field: After Covid-19 restrictions and the Parish Council's position was explained it was agreed that only 6 people could participate in the tree planting if it proceeded on Sunday 6th December (masks and high vis jackets with Feering Parish council logo and own tools to be used as advised by Parish Clerk). It was decided that the tree planting would take place without any publication or publicity and that Cllr. Dobson and her family bubble and [EC] and her family bubble would plant the trees and take pictures for publicity purposes to be shared with the Parish Council. It was agreed that a Perrywood's representative would be invited to come back for a photo opportunity at a later time so Covid-19 rules could be followed.

Action: [EC] and Cllr. Dobson to pick up trees Sunday 6th December at 9am and holes dug, and trees planted the same day.

Action: Cllr. Dobson to organise an interpretation board with the sponsors, Perrywood Garden Centre and REco Store logo on it in due course to show the Parish Council's gratitude for their donations and make the community aware of their involvement.

ii Wildflower margin on Playing field update: due to football pitch run off required this will have the wildflower area needs to be re-thought. Cllr. Dobson has a meeting with the Braintree District Council's landscape architect to reach funding streams for playing field ideas.

Action: Cllr. Dobson to meet with BDC' landscape architect on 8th December.

iii Bridge meadow community herb garden: Looking to undergo this project in March 2021 when more volunteers can be enlisted, and designs and plans are finalised.

iv London Road verge by New Lane – wildflowers: There is an area of Essex County Council (ECC) verge at the entrance to New Lane where parents and their vehicles congregate at school times which is damaging the vegetation and blocking the access view from New Lane onto London Road (B1024)/A12 Slip Road. Cllr. Mitchell has provided contact details at ECC as a soft planting scheme has been set up in Wivenhoe where a similar situation had occurred. Discussions were had around the idea of neighbours 'adopted a verge' or unloved green space.

Action: Cllr Dobson to draft a publicity statement up and send it round to the group for discussion.

v St Mary's Church Christmas Tree Fair: Unfortunately, this event has been cancelled. However, Cllr. Dobson has a rooted Nordmann Fir which she is going to donate to the Parish Council after Christmas subject to finding a suitable planting location with the idea that as it grows it can be decorated with Christmas lights for the festive period in years to come.

Action: Cllr. Dobson to ask Parish Clerk to contact owners of Feering Green and request permission to plant the tree in the first instance.

059/2020

Food Waste

How to get the most out of Christmas leftovers:

Action: REco Store to promote Olio more of social media.

Action: Group members to send over leftover recipes to Cllr. Dobson so that she can add them to the Parish Magazine article and Cllr. Reed to upload some meat free alternative recipes to the Facebook page.

060/2020

Litter

Update on litter picking group. A volunteer group is currently being set-up and co-ordinated by Cllr. Dobson and there have been 12 volunteers come forward so far.

Action: Cllr. Dobson to complete co-ordination.

061/2020 Amendment of Terms & Conditions

To discuss change in T&C relating to meetings minutes and budget: It was discussed among the group that fewer minute'd meetings would be an advantage in keeping discussions fluid and as the Groups Terms of Reference would be revised anyway to reflect the groups new 2021/2022 budget. The group felt that as a budget had been agreed for the group that a minimum of 1 meeting should take place per year to agree the group's financial budget request in time for the November's Precept meeting.

Action: Cllr. Dobson to discuss with the Parish Clerk and Councillors.

062/2020 Items for the next meeting

Plastic Free Community

Electric charging points/Solar electric charging points

Group video

063/2020 To agree the date of the next meeting

Next informal meeting to take place on Tuesday 12th January 2021 by zoom.

Action: Cllr. Dobson to request Parish Clerk to set up zoom meeting.

Signed



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Christa-Marie Dobson

23rd February 2021