

**MINUTES of the MEETING of FEERING PARISH COUNCIL held
on TUESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2015 @ 7.30pm in the PARISH
COUNCIL OFFICE, FEERING COMMUNITY CENTRE**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Mr P Petto (Chairman)	Mrs H Edwards
Mr M Bonner	Mr P Lees
Mrs M Eddolls	Mr J Richardson
Mrs K Evans	
Martique Freathy Parish Clerk	

ALSO ATTENDING:

Members of the public: Mr M Leslie and Mr S Prideaux

- 14//2015 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**
The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from **Cllr Lakin and District Cllr Mitchell**.
- 15/2015 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**
None were declared.
- 16/2015 AGREEMENT OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 20 01 15.**
The Minutes were **AGREED**, proposed **Cllr Lees** and seconded **Cllr Eddolls**.

The **Clerk's** report was noted.
- 17/2015 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**
Mr M Leslie and **Mr S Prideaux** expressed concern regarding the Council's decision to cease loaning the gazebos, giving the FCA sole use of them for the May Fayre. Various groups within the community use them including Kelvedon & Feering Scout Group, Kelvedon St Mary's Church, the Heritage Society and Feering Primary School PTA. Councillors confirmed that the decision was made due to the deteriorating condition of the gazebos and the on-going wear and tear sustained. Councillors suggested they negotiate with the FCA after this year's May Fayre regarding use of the gazebos, which **Mr Leslie** confirmed on behalf of the Kelvedon & Feering Scout group that he would be willing to store.

Mr M Leslie and Mr S Prideaux left the meeting.
- 18/2015 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**
District Cllr Mitchell provided comments via the Clerk that it was hoped at the BDC meeting to be held on 16 02 15 that no increase in the Council Tax for 2015/16 would be confirmed. He also requested any feedback on the rollout of the new bin collection and new routes which would be gratefully received. He confirmed that a new leisure centre at Halstead has now opened and has new photo volsaic panels. Finally, he confirmed that ECC plans to save £10m on its bill for waste collection and that it hopes to save a further £10m thereafter.

19/2015

HANDYMAN AND PROW ISSUES

A Councillor reported collecting a whole bag of litter in Worlds End Lane between the last house upwards and towards the Anglian Water Site. **ACTION: Clerk to check if Handyman carried out request to clear area and if included in work charged for.**

Handyman's Contract

Councillors considered the draft Handyman's Contract prepared by the Clerk and **AGREED** that materials charged for should be set at a maximum of £25 per month and up to £500 could be authorised by the Clerk in an emergency, as set out in the Financial Regulations. The contractor's trading style should also be included. Councillors requested that the Clerk ask the solicitor if there is a standard contract that the draft contract could be adapted to and if not how much would it cost to appraise the draft contract, proposed **Cllr Bonner** and seconded **Cllr Edwards**. **ACTION: Clerk**

P3 Budget

The prepared P3 budget of £548 was **AGREED** by the Council, proposed **Cllr Evans** and seconded **Cllr Bonner**. **ACTION: Clerk to submit to PROW Officer.**

20/2015

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Network Rail's request to pruning of trees adjacent to the Railway line

The request was **APPROVED** subject to no costs being involved for the Council, proposed **Cllr Lees** and seconded **Cllr Eddolls**. **ACTION: Clerk to inform Network Rail.**

Gazebos

Councillors **AGREED** there would be no change to the decision and suggested users contact the FCA after the May Fayre to negotiate continued use.

Street Lights

A letter received from Priti Patel confirming that she has written to ECC in support of the Council's request for the street lights to remain switched on until 1am was noted.

Following the request by the Witham & Braintree Rail Users Association to further extend the time for switching off street lights to 2am, Councillors suggested that they write to Priti Patel for her support. **ACTION: Clerk to inform Witham & Braintree Rail Users Association.**

Options for Publication/Circulation of Annual Publication

Councillors **AGREED** that they would like the leaflet to be the same as the Annual Report but with accounts included, to go out with the accounts in September and for the Annual Report to be produced for the Parish Assembly to include the accounts, proposed **Cllr Evans** and seconded **Cllr Lakin**.

21/2015

TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS

It was noted that a speed survey and junction count has been recommended for approval by the Local Highways Panel at Inworth Road.

The Council noted the Local Highways Panel has recommended that Essex Highways continues to investigate the provision of a continuous footway on the eastern side of Inworth Road with a view to compulsory purchase powers being authorised if required.

Councillors noted that the Local Highways Panel has recommended a feasibility study at London Road junction with Inworth Road.

It was noted that the Local Highways Panel has recommended for approval a speed survey at New Lane.

Councillors noted that the Local Highways Panel has recommended removing from the schedule the replacement of current shelters at Gore Pit Corner North-East Bound and South-West Bound.

Correspondence from the Highways Agency confirming installation of Average Speed Cameras on the A12 was noted.

Constitution and Aims of the Village Traffic Action Group (VTAG)

Councillors **APPROVED** the constitution and aims, proposed **Cllr Petto** and seconded **Cllr Eddolls**.

22/2015

PLANNING MATTERS

The minutes of meeting held on 15 01 15 were noted with nothing further to report.

Neighbourhood Plan Workshop held 31 01 15

It was reported that there were 45 attendees at the workshop, but only a few people who put their name forward for the Steering Group. The first meeting of the Steering Group is 23 02 15 and Councillors suggested advertising in both the Parish Magazine and the Tribune, stating that the Steering Group really does need involvement from a cross section of the whole community. Councillors **agreed** a headline of: 'Neighbourhood Plan – Your Opportunity to Shape the Future of Feering ... Or Somebody Else Will!'

Councillors **agreed** the Steering Committee should decide whether an article could be published regarding the Workshop that took place.

23/2015

REPORTS

FCA Management Meeting 05 02 15

Cllr Lakin provided a report confirming the lights in the Oak Room and Acorn room will be updated in half term. The hall lights to be replaced will be paid for by ECC. Letting rates were reviewed for 2015/16 with an increase of 50p for Feering regular users and £1 increase for one off bookings and other rates also increased. Quotes have been received for a new kitchen and Ridgeons provided a competitive quote. Costs will be met with grants received and monies set aside for special projects. The hall floor will need to be resealed in the summer at a cost of £2,068+VAT, 36% of which will be met by the school. FCA understood they are able to borrow the gazebos until they are of no further use. The web site is not working again.

VTAG (Village Traffic Action Group) Meeting 21 01 15

The minutes were circulated and **Cllr Bonner** provided an update. VTAG has been talking to Priti Patel MP re traffic concerns in the area. Five Councils are involved with the VTAG and in making a financial contribution to support it. **Cllr Mannion**, Chairman of the group, has been interviewed by BBC Essex to promote VTAG and its activities. Crown Estates showed a road running parallel from Inworth Road, which didn't take into account the A12 being increased to 3 lanes. The group is endeavouring

to establish via Priti Patel regarding what scheme has already been approved, including the design, procurement and timescales for cut off for new junctions being considered. Local hauliers and businesses have been written to for their views on current traffic problems. A website is due to be set up and the monies provided will contribute towards this.

24/2015

PARISH ASSEMBLY

Councillors **AGREED** to invite Jan Cole to attend the Parish Assembly to offer an update regarding the Neighbourhood Plan. It was also **AGREED** that a Planning Officer from BDC should be invited to attend, proposed **Cllr Petto** and seconded **Cllr Bonner**.
ACTION: Clerk.

25/2015

ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT

Cllr Richardson stepped down from the Environmental Audit Working Party. **Cllr Lees** agreed to join the working party and will arrange a mutually convenient date for the Environmental Audit to be carried out.

26/2015

FPC LETTER HEADING

It was **AGREED** that the new quality status logo should be in the middle at the bottom of letter headed paper, proposed **Cllr Petto** and seconded **Cllr Lees**.

27/2015

Invoices For Payment February 2015

3969 - RCCE - Annual Community Lead Planning Network Membership	£48.00
3970 - Dale Hire & Sales - Hire of Ditchwitch re Mole Removal	£240.00
3971 - Kier MG Ltd - Repair Street Lights	£141.04
3972 - Braintree Association of Local Councils - Subscription	£24.00
3973 - Playquip Leisure - Repairs to Play Equipment	£2,049.60
3974 - P. Gruender - Computer Repairs	£60.00
3975 - M Freathy Clerk Salary - (February)	£969.92
3976 - Graham Adams - (February)	£496.50
Sub Total (Feb)	£4,029.06

Petty Cash Transactions 01 01 15 - 28 01 15

19 01 15 Refreshments	£3.98
28 01 15 Refreshments (Neighbourhood Plan Workshop)	£5.10
Sub Total (Feb)	£9.08

DIRECT DEBITS FEBRUARY

3977 - Orange - Broadband - February 15	£18.37
3978 - E-ON Energy - February 15	£64.58
3979 - S H Gibbs - re cutting Playing Field - February 15	£100.00
3980 - D. Lovelock - Website Hosting February 2015	£15.00
3981 - BT - Phone 01 02 15- 30 04 15	£84.84
Sub Total (Feb)	£282.79
TOTAL (Feb)	£4,320.93

The Schedule of February payments was **APPROVED**, proposed **Cllr Lees**, seconded **Cllr Eddolls**. **Cllr Lees** confirmed that he would check the work carried out by Playquip in respect of repairs to the Multi Play Equipment was satisfactory before payment is submitted.

The grant application for The British Legion was approved for an amount of £75 as per the Grant Budget approved for 2014/15, proposed **Cllr Eddolls** and seconded **Cllr Richardson**. **ACTION: Clerk.**

Councillors **APPROVED** provision of a grant in principle for the Village Traffic Action Group but will require sight of a completed grant application form and would be like to know what other amounts have been agreed by other Councils supporting the group. **ACTION: Clerk to provide a grant application form.**

The meeting closed at 21:50

DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

**Tuesday 18 March 2015
@ 7.30pm**

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Minutes confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

Signed -----

Dated -----