



**MINUTES of the MEETING of FEERING PARISH COUNCIL  
held virtually on Tuesday 21 April 2020 at 7.30 pm**

**Present:** Cllr P Lees (Chair) Cllr R Carpenter Cllr C Dobson  
Cllr L Blackburn Cllr Mike Bonner (joined at 19.46) Cllr S Reed  
Cllr K Evans (after co-option) Lisa Collins – Clerk to the Council Cllr P Thorogood (BDC)  
Cllr J Sandum (BDC) Cllr R Mitchell (ECC)  
Members of the Public: 0

**042/2020 Chairman Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and set out the housekeeping points for the first virtual full council meeting and Councillors introduced themselves. Cllr Thorogood had issues with his connection and we could not hear him.

**043/2020 Apologies for Absence**

No apologies were received; however, Cllr Bonner was not present.

**044/2020 Declaration of Interest**

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

No pecuniary interests were declared at the beginning of the meeting. Cllr Reed retrospectively declared an interest in item 052/2020.

**045/2020 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Feering Parish Council**

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on 18 February 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**046/2020 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.

**047/2020 Report from District / County Councillor**

Cllr Mitchell discussed the report that had previously been circulated at Easter and informed that there was not a great deal of change. County is busy trying to get everything running as business as usual. Cllr Mitchell is also looking at ways to support Katherine Evans initiative of making scrubs. Cllr Carpenter raised with Cllr Mitchell whether he had spoken to the BDC Planning officers relating to Bloor Homes. Cllr Mitchell confirmed that he had met with Bloor Homes and BDC to discuss their application. Cllr Dobson raised whether the Green Infrastructure Strategy had been postponed which Cllr Mitchell was unaware of.

Cllr Bonner joined the meeting at 19.46.

Cllr Sandum reported on the Kelvedon & Feering Coronavirus Support Group. Two rounds of letters have been sent out to every household in the village, 52 people who are having prescriptions picked up, 43 people who have a volunteer buddy with 40 more volunteers waiting to help. One resident needed help with a food package which was well received within the village. Cllr Lees mentioned that there was also a check in system in place for the

volunteers and resident requesting support. Cllr Sandum also mentioned the community grant is being discussed as to whether it should be taken away for next year in view of Coronavirus. Cllr Bonner mentioned that the local Rotary club are happy to make a donation to the Kelvedon & Feering Coronavirus Support Group.

Cllr Thorogood left the meeting at 20.17

#### 048/2020 Clerks Report

The Clerks report was circulated before the meeting and noted.

#### 049/2020 Finance

- i *To approve the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2020 and 2019/20 budget account (circulated before the meeting)*

After discussion the bank reconciliation was **approved**. Proposed Cllr Dobson, seconded Cllr Blackburn.

Cllr Thorogood rejoined the meeting at 20.21

- ii *Councillors to agree payments for April 2020 (circulated to Councillors before the meeting)*

After discussion regarding the Thompson Smith & Puxon invoices, it was **agreed** that all April payments be made. Proposed by Cllr Bonner, seconded by Cllr Carpenter with 1 member abstaining. It was also discussed that the Clerk would look to obtaining advice on instructing new solicitors.

- iii To review the Standing Orders and Direct Debits for 2020/21

After discussion Cllr Reed proposed and Cllr Lees seconded that the Standing Orders for 2020/21 continue to be paid. Cllr Carpenter proposed and Cllr Dobson seconded that the Direct Debits for 2020/21 continue to be paid.

- iv To consider payment of Handyman Contract, Verges/Grass Cutting Contract and Playing Field Contract given the restrictions from Covid-19

After discussion it was **agreed** that we would ask G G Adams to continue with the provision of the Handyman Contract and the Verges / Grass Cutting contract and Simon Gibbs to continue with the Playing Field Contract but they must ensure that social distancing is observed with barriers around to section off the working areas if possible and risk assessments carried out. The Clerk to monitor the situation.

#### 050/2020 Councillors

- i *To consider any application for co-option*

After a short presentation by a member of the public, and discussion by the Councillors, it was **agreed** to co-opt Katherine Evans to the Parish Council and after signing of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, Katherine Evans joined the meeting as a councillor. Proposed by Cllr Lees and seconded by Cllr Dobson unanimously agreed. It was also discussed that Cllr Evans would like to attend the new councillor training and she would also be interested in attending any grant funding training.

- ii *To consider and agree appointments to committees*

After discussion a new Vice-Chair and Committee appointments were **agreed**.

Cllr Mitchell Left the meeting at 20.57.

#### 051/2020 To receive update on the Regulation 14 Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

Cllr Blackburn following the end of the Regulation 14 Consultation. Cllr Blackburn confirmed that there were 80 electronic responses, 36 paper responses and 12 Consultee

responses. The next step is to analyse the responses and see if there are any evidence base minor amendments needed to the Draft Neighbourhood Plan. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would produce a document of all consultee comments in one document and circulate.

It was also discussed that we have received notification that Colchester Borough Council have progressed to Regulation 15 for Tiptree Parish Council and we have been asked to consider a response to this and that a response should also be submitted to the Marks Tey Regulation 14 Consultation.

Cllr Dobson mentioned that she had undertaken the Carbon Neutral SLCC course and would circulate the presentation to the Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Sandum left the meeting at 21.17.

#### **052/2020 FCA Change to a CIO**

It was agreed that no discussion should be held around this item at the moment. A discussion should be held with the FCA to discuss the legal advice received from our solicitors. It was agreed to ask the FCA for a meeting to finalise the information required.

Cllr Reed declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as his wife is a member of the FCA Committee.

#### **053/2020 Annual Report**

In view of the postponement of the Annual Parish Assembly, it was discussed that a report should still be produced for all residents. It was agreed that the chairs of the committees should put together a short report and get this to the Clerk by 10 May ahead of the next Council meeting.

It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate a copy of the previous Annual Parish Report to all Councillors.

#### **054/2020 Marketing / Communications / Website**

The Clerk gave an update. The EssexInfo website closed on 31 March and the new website went live, but at present when searching for the Council website the top hit is still EssexInfo. We need more clicks to get the website onto the first search engine page. It was also mentioned that it would be helpful if councillors could look at the website and let the clerk know if there were any issues they could see with the website. It was also discussed that bios and pictures should be put onto the website and councillors were asked for their bios to be sent to the Clerk as soon as possible.

#### **055/2020 Manned Refuse Collection**

After discussion it was agreed that the dates which had been scheduled for the manned refuse collections be confirmed, at the present time there was no information on the price increase and the first couple of dates on the schedule have been cancelled due to Covid 19.

It was agreed that the Clerk would look into whether any recycling companies would be willing to provide a manned Green Waste collection as the manned refuse was cancelled.

#### **056/2020 General Power of Competence**

After discussion it was **confirmed** that the Council met the criteria for the General Power of Competence and it was **agreed** that the Council would adopt the General Power of Competence. Proposed by Cllr Lees and Seconded by Cllr Dobson.

#### **057/2020 Items for Next Agenda**

- i Responses to Tiptree Regulation 15 Consultation and Marks Tey Regulation 14 Consultation

- ii Annual Report
- iii FCA / CIO
- iv Annual Reports
- v Regulation 14 Analysis presentation

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 21.49 pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed .....

19 May 2020

**Paul Lees**