



**MINUTES of the VIRTUAL MEETING of FEERING PARISH COUNCIL
held virtually on Tuesday 21 July 2020 at 7.30 pm
via Zoom (Meeting ID 848 0942 5756)**

Present: Cllr P Lees (Chair) Cllr R Carpenter Cllr C Dobson
Cllr L Blackburn Cllr K Evans (joined at 19.33) Cllr S Reed
Lisa Collins – Clerk to the Council Cllr P Thorogood (BDC)
Members of the Public: 2

097/2020 Chairman Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

098/2020 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Bonner. It was **resolved** to accept the apologies.

099/2020 Declaration of Interest

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

No pecuniary interests were declared.

100/2020 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 19 May 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record. It was further **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on 16 June 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record.

101/2020 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.

The members of public expressed their views about the woodland area at the side of the school. They are looking to revamp the area for the school to use in Forest School as well as provide an improved area for the community. A meeting has been held with the head of Feering School and the forest school teacher who are on board with the residents to provide some help to tidy the area and litter pick the area to provide an area for the school and the local community. Open the pond up for the children to undertake pond dipping. Cllr Carpenter asked how many children would use the area at any one time. 15 school children maximum at a session from the school and each class would have 2 sessions. Cllr Carpenter also asked if it would be used daily. Cllr Reed asked whether Little Peeps would also be interested in this. The members of public were not sure whether they would. Cllr Evans asked if this was undertaken already at the moment. It was confirmed that the school currently use the area. No financial implication on the Parish Council at this time. Cllr Evans mentioned the issue of insurance for the purpose of the swing which was mentioned.

102/2020 Report from District / County Councillor

No report from Cllr Mitchell.

Cllr Thorogood gave an update on the Kelvedon & Feering coronavirus support group. Fewer requests coming through. A lot of food in the foodbank and money in the kitty.

Aiming to wind down the prescription pick-ups. Braintree District Council's Local Plan committee held last week and committee accepted to abandon option 1 for West Tey and west of Braintree. A brief consultation will be put out to the public with modifications to make the plan sound. Section 2 of the Local Plan will go ahead, there are currently 15000 homes in the plan due to the cumulative planning consents and homes already built on top of the housing and land the draft allocated which is 700 homes over the allocation needed for the period 2013–2033. Cllr Butland said at the previous meeting that new housing projections show that Braintree's allocation may have halved so housing could be taken out of the local plan. Cause against Urban Expansion launched a petition to get Cllr Butland to resign which will be discussed at full council next week. IWMF which has been given a permit by the Environment Agency – there are moves for a judicial review provided funds can be raised. Cllr Carpenter raised the removal of conservation areas from Kelvedon & Feering which was approved. Cllr Thorogood said he need to look into this.

103/2020 Clerks Report

The Clerks report was circulated before the meeting and noted.

104/2020 Finance

- i *To approve the bank reconciliation as at 30 July 2020 and 2020/21 budget account (circulated before the meeting)*

After discussion the bank reconcilliation was **approved**.

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

After discussion it was agreed that all July payments be made. It was also agreed that the payment for the insurance premium be processed and approved following agreement under item 113/2020.

- iii *To approve payments of grants for 2020/21*

The payment of the Feering and Kelvedon Museum grant was **approved**. The grant for the Feering and Kelvedon Garden Club has been deferred to 2020/21 following cancellation of the Annual Show.

- iv *To receive internal auditors report from Hellis & Lodge and note recommendations*

There were 3 minor recommendations made within the report to include approval of the new Risk Assessment, include reference to GDPR in the risk assessment and add the additional bank account to the Bank Reconciliation form. These will be implemented shortly.

- v *To approve and sign section 1 – Annual Governance Statement – of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2019/20*

After discussion it was **agreed** that section 1 of the annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2019/20 be signed. Proposed by Cllr Dobson, Seconded by Cllr Carpenter

- vi *To approve and sign section 2 – Accounting Statements 2019/20 – of the Annual Governance and Accounting Return for 2019/20*

After discussion it was **agreed** that section 2 of the annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2019/20. Proposed by Cllr Dobson, Seconded by Cllr Blackburn.

105/2020 Woodland Area Proposal

To discuss proposal put forward by 2 residents to revamp the woodland area for use by the School for forest school and local residents.

After discussion, it was **agreed** that the initial proposal for making the area tidier should go ahead with in principal the intention to make the area better in the long term should be discussed further. Any work undertaken should have a risk assessment completed and supplied to the Clerk.

Members of public left the meeting at 20.41.

106/2020 **Planning Matters**

Cllr Carpenter gave an update on the meetings held on 30 June 2020 where 6 applications were discussed relating to Alverstone House, Thimbles, Lulworth, Coronation Cottages, Feeringbury Manor and Toadshole Cottage. The Parish Council response to the Tiptree Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 and Coggeshall Neighbourhood Plan Relation 15 consultations were deferred until the next planning committee meeting on 22 July.

107/2020 **Bloor Homes Development**

- i Update on the Planning Application and to agree recommendation from working party to decide whether to request a judicial review or lodge a complaint to Braintree District Council and the Planning Ombudsman

The Clerk has written to JTS requesting their opinion but no response has been received yet. It has been chased.

- ii Street Lighting in the Lanes Area

After discussion, it was **agreed** that we would wait for JTS's advice before we go any further with the issue and the lack of consistency.

- iii Street Names for the new development

The 10 street names which were voted for by residents has been forwarded to Bloor Homes and we now await the outcome of the final names agreed.

108/2020 **Highways & Transport**

- i VTAG report from Cllr M Bonner

No report was given.

- ii A12 to A120 Widening - A120 Routes – A12 Community Forum meeting update

No meetings have been held and no report given. It was agreed that we would write to Highways England to find out whether there was any update on the A12.

- iii Councillors to discuss any issues to report regarding Transport / Refuse to BDC and/or ECC Parking Partnership have been contacted about the parking issues in the village. It was **agreed** to write to Greggs on the A12 regarding litter in the car parking area.

- iv Village Speeding Issues and Cycle routes for the village

The clerk informed the council that there had been no response to the speed watch request which has been put into the Parish Magazine and social media. It was agreed that a further request would be put into the Parish Magazine with a deadline for the next meeting before the idea is taken off the table.

It was **agreed** to contact Highways England regarding the cycle route between Feering and Marks Tey as there is a lot of broken glass and over grown hedges including overhanging trees.

109/2020 **Committee and Representatives Report**

To receive a report, consider and agree any actions arising from the report on the following:

- i FCC Trustees Meeting from Cllr L Blackburn
Cllr Blackburn read a report from the FCC which was noted.
- ii Neighbourhood Plan Committee from Cllr L Blackburn
Cllr Blackburn read a report on the Neighbourhood Plan. Discussion was held around the SEA assessment being produced and that we should go ahead with this document with funding from MyLocality.
- iii PRoW & Cycleway Committee from Cllr M Bonner
No report received. Discussion was held around the rafted path.
- iv Feering Environmental Working Party from Cllr C Dobson
Cllr Dobson gave an update on the meeting held on 30 June. Spring Clean was discussed and agreed to take place at 11 am on 20 September. Discussion was held around a community herb garden at Bridge Meadow with sweet peas to grow up the structure. This would all be self-funded by the Environmental Working Party. They would like the Parish Council declare a climate emergency. They would like it to be measured for the Parish Council, ie the Council look at value for money and fit for purpose for work and we should include whether it is best for the environment.

It was **agreed** in principle that the Parish Council will declare a climate emergency and this would be done at the August meeting. It was **agreed** that the spring clean should take place on Sunday 20 September.

Paul Thorogood left at 21.30.

110/2020 **FCA Change to a CIO**

After discussion, it was **agreed** that the Novation Agreement be executed by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman before the Clerk.

111/2020 **Annual Report**

The draft annual report was circulated before the meeting. As there is still one report to be produced this will need to be approved at the next meeting.

112/2020 **Review of Policies**

- i To review and agree the Grant Awarding Policy
After discussion and amendment, it was **agreed** that the Grant Awarding Policy be adopted. Proposed Cllr Blackburn and seconded by Cllr Reed.
- ii To review and agree the Equal Opportunities Policy
After discussion and amendment, it was **agreed** that the Equal Opportunities Policy be adopted. Proposed Cllr Carpenter and seconded by Cllr Reed.
- iii To review and agree the Equality and Diversity Policy
After discussion and amendment, it was **agreed** that the Equality and Diversity Policy be adopted. Proposed Cllr Blackburn and Seconded by Cllr Dobson.

113/2020 **Council Insurance Policy**

After discussion it was **agreed** in principal that the Clerk's recommendations be accepted and that quote 2 be approved for a 3-year long term undertaking subject to confirmation of the CCTV cover and the cancellation policy.

114/2020 **Worlds End Lane – Permissive Path**

After discussion it was **agreed** that the Council would fund the waymarker posts and permissive path sign to the value of £200.

115/2020 Councillor Training

After discussion it was **agreed** that Cllr Dobson should attend the EALC webinar for Chairman training.

116/2020 Community Centre Outside Lights

After discussion it was **agreed** that the lights be replaced by BKL Security Systems.

117/2020 Defibrillator

The clerk informed the council that following lottery grant funding received in 2017 it has been agreed that a mobile defibrillator would be purchased using the remaining funds of £1,195. Cllr Lees informed the council that the cricket club had been offered a mobile defibrillator at half price and it had been agreed by the Clerk that it made sense to take this offer up and purchase the defibrillator. It was therefore retrospectively **agreed** that the defibrillator should be purchased in conjunction with the Cricket Club.

It was proposed that the council meeting be extended as the 3 hour limit was reached by Cllr Dobson and seconded by Cllr Blackburn.

118/2020 Allotments

After discussion it was **agreed** that the posts should be replaced at a cost of £150.

119/2020 August Meeting

After discussion it was **agreed** that a meeting should be held in August with a limited agenda.

120/2020 Items for Next Agenda

- i Proposal to declare a climate emergency
- ii Finances
- iii Bloor Homes
- iv Woodland Proposal

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 22.36 pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

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Paul Lees

15 September 2020