



**MINUTES of the VIRTUAL MEETING of FEERING PARISH COUNCIL
held virtually on Tuesday 15 September 2020 at 7.30 pm
via Zoom (Meeting ID 891 7365 5460)**

Present: Cllr P Lees (Chair) Cllr C Dobson (joined at 19.32) Cllr S Reed (joined at 19.33)
Cllr L Blackburn Cllr K Evans Cllr R Carpenter
Lisa Collins – Clerk to the Council Cllr P Thorogood (BDC) Cllr R Mitchell (ECC)
Members of the Public: 0

135/2020 Chairman Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

136/2020 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Bonner. It was **resolved not** to accept the apology.

137/2020 Declaration of Interest

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

No pecuniary interests were declared.

138/2020 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 21 July 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record. It was further **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 August 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record.

139/2020 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 in attendance.

140/2020 Report from District / County Councillor

Cllr Thorogood gave an update on the Cala Homes Monks Farm submission has a revised planning application. Any submissions will need to be resubmitted on behalf of the Parish Council. Update on Local Plan consultation is underway. Inspector inviting comments on the household projections and their implications for housing requirements in the plan. Response deadline to inspector is Monday 12th October 2020. Green and Independent Group pushing for the lower figures based on need. Cllr Thorogood mentioned the A12 preferred route announcement, there is no action to take now apart from trying to get on the forums but limited his comment as he understood Cllr Mitchell would have a further update. A120 also back in the mix which will come out at Kelvedon South, which will have an impact and bring more house. Incinerator judicial review – PAIN are fundraising now to see if there is a case to answer and they are halfway to their target. If accepted that there is a case, there will be general crowdfunding to take it all the way to review.

Cllr Mitchell gave an update on the A12 preferred route announcement which has gone back to the 2017 agreed route. The proposals are slightly changed from 2017, particularly

around J23 (Kelvedon) which has caused concern for various cabinet members including Cllr Mitchell. A120 widening will come in at RIS3. Cllr Mitchell is pushing for the junction to be built in conjunction with the A120 widening to avoid the A12 being dug up 5 years later to put the junction in. The proposed Kingsdene development could be fed by J23 of the A12. The Earls Colne to Kelvedon ("EC2K") cycle routes are still being discussed to try to work out what the most sensible route will be together with a feasibility study from the Local Highways Panel. The feasibility study is for Earls Colne to Coggeshall as this is already going through planning. Cllr Mitchell also raised the issue of member-led pothole repairs which is an agenda item later. This was discussed at this point and Cllr Evans to send Cllr Mitchell an email to pass on the issues. Footways are being looked at, but footpaths will not be included unless they have potholes. Cllr Lees raised with Cllr Mitchell the number of times the road at the Bloor Homes sites has been dug up and why there has not been more co-ordination between the utility companies and ECC. Cllr Mitchell said that the lack of co-ordination was inappropriate, and he does not support it, but that the lack of understanding of the full network under the roads and pavements is the major problem. Cllr Lees also raised the issue of whether the £13m funding which ECC have to find will have an effect on the Parish Council. Cllr Dobson raised J23 at Kelvedon, and whether the 5000 homes application for Kingsdene will feed into that junction.

141/2020 Clerks Report

The Clerks report was circulated before the meeting and noted.

142/2020 Finance

- i *To approve the bank reconciliation as at 31 August 2020 and 2020/21 budget account (circulated before the meeting)*

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

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

After discussion it was **agreed** that all September payments be made.

- iii *To discuss and agree for remedial works to be undertaken for the electrics within the Community Centre which the Parish Council are responsible for.*

After discussion it was **agreed** that the issues with the entry system installer should be contacted to remedy the issue. It was proposed that the quotation received to remedy the floodlights should be accepted and the work carried out.

143/2020 Planning Matters

Cllr Carpenter gave an update on the meeting held on 22 July 2020 where 3 applications were discussed relating to Feering Hill, Cobham Oak Cottage and Threshelfords Business Park. The Parish Council responses to the Tiptree Neighbourhood Plan and Coggeshall Neighbourhood Plan Consultation was agreed.

Cllr Carpenter also gave an update on the meeting held on 5 August 2020 where 4 applications were discussed relating to Threshelfords Business Park, Land at Rear of 1 to 1D Feering Hill, Brooks Barn, Barnfield.

144/2020 Bloor Homes Development

- i Update on the Planning Application complaint to Braintree District Council and the Planning Ombudsman

Cllr Evans raised that there has been a process of inconsistency which could be complained about. Cllr Thorogood also stated that he could raise this at a Full Planning Committee

meeting to get a response to this question. After discussion it was **agreed** that we would go back to JTS following the outcome of Paul Thorogood asking the question of the BDC Planning Committee if we need to take this further. The Clerk also informed the Council that a resident had emailed regarding the management of the open space where they have been informed that a management fee will be charged for the estate.

ii Street Lighting in the Lanes Area

Cllr Evans had spoken to Essex Police regarding this. It was recommended that contact be made with the affordable housing suppliers to discuss. If the supplier agrees that streetlights should be installed, then it could have greater impact with the developer.

145/2020 Highways & Transport

i VTAG report from Cllr M Bonner

No report received.

ii A12 to A120 widening – A120 Routes – A120 Community Forum meeting update

An email has been received requesting Councillors attendance at a workshop regarding the widening. Cllr Mitchell informed the Parish Council that Cllr Bentley would like to have a meeting with Essex officers and parishes affected by this before the meeting with Highways England.

iii Councillors to discuss any issues to report regarding Transport / Refuse to BDC and/or ECC

An issue has been raised by a resident of Coggeshall regarding the issue of coming out of the Coggeshall Road Junction onto London Road and whether a mirror could be placed for a view towards the A12. Cllr Mitchell said that it was unlikely that ECC would agree to this as they did not like mirrors from a safety point of view. The Clerk informed the Council that she had spoken to ECC and a safety inspection will be undertaken, and they can then escalate the issue to the householders further.

iv Village Speeding Issues and Cycle routes for the village

The Clerk informed the Council that we have 19 volunteers and information has been received from the organisers to say that they are not yet undertaking new training due to Covid and will be back in touch once they recommence the training.

146/2020 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

The report was noted. It was **agreed** that the issue of the Electrical Board should be put onto the next agenda.

ii Neighbourhood Plan Committee from Cllr L Blackburn

The report was noted.

iii PRoW & Cycleway Committee from Cllr M Bonner

No report received. Once more clarity received around the A12 it would be useful to have a conversation with the footpath people to discuss whether any public footpaths would be affected by the A12 route and whether they want to see any footpaths retained or improved.

iv Feering Environmental Working Party from Cllr C Dobson

The report was noted. Cllr Carpenter raised the issue of whether the herb garden would be put to consultation within the parish. Cllr Dobson congratulated the Cricket Club on being

the first business in Feering to go plastic free. Litter Pick will continue take place on Sunday 20 September despite the change to Government Guidance. The herb garden was further discussed and the Parish Council's involvement in obtaining the details of the owners of the property. After discussion it was **agreed** in principal that the Parish Council should contribute the cost of obtaining the information of the owners of the homes at Bridge Meadow and sending the letters to the owners to give them the information about the herb garden once required.

147/2020 Parking Permit Zone

Discussion was held around whether parking permits should replace the current 1-hour parking restrictions. Covid-19 has highlighted the fact that the current parking restriction does not work. It was discussed that NEPP could put together a brief survey which could be sent to residents who are currently affected by the restriction to see whether they thought there was an issue with parking within the village, eg moving their car during the restriction or having visitors during the restriction and whether they would support a permit parking change. After discussion it was **agreed** that NEPP should produce a survey to be sent to residents and that the Parish Council would have input into this before it was sent out.

Cllr Mitchell left the meeting at 21.12

148/2020 Tree Survey Work

Cllr Evans raised the issues of the work to be carried out from the tree survey. The clerk informed the Council that the work which should have been carried out within 1 and 3 months have been carried out, except for the resistance drill inspection. It was agreed that Cllr Evans would put together some photos and further investigation will be undertaken about the forest area and quotations obtained for the work to be undertaken.

149/2020 Council for Protection of Rural England

After discussion it was **agreed** that the Parish Council should become a member of CPRE at a cost of £36 for the year.

150/2020 Pothole Repairs

This issue had been previously discussed during the County Councillors update.

151/2020 Wildflower Margin

After discussion it was **agreed** that the clerk would speak to the Playing Field Maintenance contractor to find out whether the margin has been fertilized in the past. It was raised that the BDC Councillors grants may be able to be used to support this initiative and fund the purchase of the seed. Issue was raised with the use of the football pitch and whether this would impact on the wildflower margin. It was discussed whether the margin could be moved by the hedge on Rye Mill Lane and alongside the railway line. It was **agreed** that subject to the BDC councillor grant being obtained the Parish Council will provide a £100 contingency fund for any additional costs if required.

Cllr Thorogood left the meeting at 21.33.

152/2020 Format of Meetings

After discussion it was **agreed** that all meetings going forward should only be held online following the guidance received from EALC and Government. The Government Guidelines allow for online meeting until May 2021.

153/2020 Village Sign Flower Bed

After discussion it was **agreed** that the planting box which was at the bottom of the Village sign should be replaced. We could speak to the handyman to build a wooden box so as not to use a plastic box given that we have declared a climate emergency and are part of the Plastic Free Feering initiative. Cllr Dobson said that she had a contact who may be able to make a box also and she would let the Clerk know once she had spoken to them before we approach the handyman. It was also noted that thanks should be given to the volunteer for their hard work over the years.

154/2020 Christmas Tree and Lighting

Discussion was held around a Christmas Tree being put up on the Village Green. Cllr Dobson said that Marks Hall are offering a rental Christmas tree and she will investigate this. After discussion it was **agreed** lights should be purchased to a maximum of £150. It was also agreed that a Christmas tree be sourced.

155/2020 Items for Next Agenda

- i FCC Electricity Board
- ii Approval of Standing Orders
- iii Tree Survey
- iv Parking Permits

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 21.51 pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

20 October 2020

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Paul Lees