



**MINUTES of the VIRTUAL MEETING of FEERING PARISH COUNCIL
held virtually on Tuesday 17 November 2020 at 7.30 pm
via Zoom (Meeting ID 852 3730 8158)**

Present: Cllr P Lees (Chair) Cllr C Dobson Cllr S Reed
Cllr L Blackburn Cllr K Evans Cllr R Carpenter
Cllr Onno (after co-option) Cllr Miedziedz (after co-option)
Lisa Collins – Clerk Cllr R Mitchell (ECC) Cllr P Thorogood(BDC)
Members of the Public: 0

177/2020 Chairman Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed the Council of Cllr Bonner's resignation.

178/2020 Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

179/2020 Declaration of Interest

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

Cllr Carpenter declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 183/2020 due to one candidate being a neighbour. Cllr Lees declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 192/2020 due to one quotation being received from a neighbour.

180/2020 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Feering Parish Council

After discussion, it was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on 20 October 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Dobson, seconded by Cllr Blackburn.

181/2020 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 comments from the members of the public.

182/2020 Finance

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

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

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

After discussion it was **agreed** that all November payments be made. Proposed by Cllr Carpenter, seconded by Cllr Dobson.

- iii *To receive update on the External Audit of the Accounts for 2019/2020*

The Clerk informed the Council that the External Auditors had returned their report and that there were no matters raised. The Clerk also informed the Council that the Notice of Conclusion of Audit had been uploaded to the website.

- iv To consider and agree the grant applications which have been received for payment in 2021-2022

After discussion it was **agreed** that a grant request received from Age Concern Colchester and North East Essex of £100 plus the cost of advertising in the Parish Magazine to promote their activities would be approved – Proposed Cllr Blackburn, seconded Cllr Blackburn, approved unanimously. It was further **agreed** that the amount of £200 requested from Feering & Kelvedon History Museum be approved – proposed Cllr Dobson, seconded Cllr Blackburn, approved unanimously. It was further **agreed** that the amount of £200 requested from Feering Good Companions be approved – proposed Cllr Reed, seconded Cllr Dobson, approved unanimously.

- v *To discuss and agree the budget and precept request for 2021-2022 (previously circulated to Councillors)*

After discussion it was **resolved** to accept the budget as presented, proposed by Cllr Carpenter, seconded by Cllr Reed, agreed unanimously. It was further **resolved** that a precept amount of £64,947 be requested by Braintree District Council with an approximate increase of 2.01% on last year's request. Proposed by Cllr Lees seconded by Cllr Blackburn, approved unanimously.

183/2020 Councillors

- i To consider any application for co-option

Two applications had been received to be considered for co-option onto the Parish Council. Cllr Lees proposed the co-option, seconded by Cllr Carpenter, approved unanimously. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by both candidates and Philippa Onno and Rebecca Miedziedz joined the meeting as Parish Councillors. Following their appointment Cllr Onno and Cllr Miedziedz were allocated onto committees.

184/2020 Report from District / County Councillor

Cllr Mitchell gave an update relating to the Essex County Council ("ECC") Planning response to the Government planning consultation. A meeting is to be held with Parker Strategic regarding their proposal for 5000 homes in Kelvedon. An update on the A12 roadworks was given with regard to the changes in timing for the weekend closures. Little Braxted Lane is closed for 5 weeks due to HGV damage during the A12 closures. A12 and A120 widening is progressing. Extra funding has been given from Government of £7.8 million for new infrastructure across 5 schemes throughout Essex. Parking survey – this is still not ready to be sent out. It was discussed that this would not be a village wide roll-out, it will be starting with small enclaves to consider whether their parking is currently fit for their purpose. Cllr Evans raised a question of the ECC Locality Fund which Cllr Mitchell is allocated and whether it has all been spent. Cllr Mitchell confirmed that it had been spent on the Earls Colne to Kelvedon ("EC2K") Cycle way and other funding was earmarked for 2 of the 5 parishes in the Braintree division.

Cllr Mitchell left the meeting at 20.15

Cllr Thorogood gave an update relating to the Coronavirus Support Group which is still available and up and running. Numbers of cases in Kelvedon, Feering and Coggeshall are still relatively low and Braintree is still a low area but the numbers are rising; Verges - one cut scheme will probably be rolled out next year which will include Kelvedon & Feering. Cllr Lees asked whether the grant for the verge cutting will be reduced, Cllr Thorogood thought

that there was still a consultation ongoing about this but he would look into this; Scheme of Delegation –will be going before Full Council at BDC on 7 December. The Green and Independent (“G&I”) Group are concerned that under 10 houses will not automatically go to full planning committee or if the ward councillor calls it in, this will be at the discretion of the Chairman. The forum could be good. Developers come along at an early stage to give sight of plans where questions can be asked. However, assumption of approval could be construed; BDC Local plan inspectors report expected to come back soon on housing numbers; Parker Strategic Land have been in contact with officers pushing the Kings Dene application for Kelvedon. Looking at either two smaller housing estates or one big estate. A site meeting is being held with a member of the developers team. Presentation will be given to Kelvedon PC. Cllr Thorogood asked whether FPC would like to be included in a presentation. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would like to be included; Bloor Homes – previously promised environmental off-set measures which will no longer be undertaken. Cllr Thorogood has written to Bloor Homes to find out what is be happening. He will send a copy of the letter he has sent to the Clerk; Cllr Thorogood also raised the issue of the Site Wide Strategy plan response from Cllr Spray in response to his previous question at the Full Council BDC Meeting. This will be discussed at the next Planning Committee Meeting. Cllr Reed informed the Council that the rate of Covid infections for Kelvedon, Feering and Coggeshall is 141 cases per 100,000 which is a significant number above the Braintree level. Cllr Thorogood said that he would put a post on social media setting out the figures and reminding about social distancing and working from home.

Cllr Thorogood left the meeting at 20.38.

185/2020 Clerks Report

The report had been circulated previously and was noted.

186/2020 Planning Matters

Cllr Carpenter gave an update on the meeting held on 21 October 2020 where 2 applications were discussed relating to 37 Feering Hill and Land North of Colchester Road, Coggeshall. The Parish Council responses to the Government Consultation on Planning for the Future and The Sailings Neighbourhood Plan Consultation were agreed. Cllr Carpenter thanked Cllr Evans for chairing the meeting at short notice.

Cllr Carpenter gave an update on the meeting held on 11 November where the Braintree District Council (BDC) Scheme of Delegation Consultation was discussed and agreed and 7 applications were discussed relating to New Lane, The Bell Inn, Walberwick House, Barnfield, London Road, Sherwood Way and Feering Vicarage were considered. The Proposed A12 to A120 Widening Scheme EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation was deferred until the next meeting. Thanks was noted to Jane Palmer for her responses to the Tree preservation applications.

187/2020 Highways & Transport

i VTAG report

No report received. Cllr Evans informed the Council that she is happy to join the VTAG Group as a Parish Council representative.

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

Information has been received from Highways England. A meeting was arranged but Feering Parish Council were not invited so we are waiting for the minutes and slides to be circulated. Meeting with Crown Estates and Highways will take place on 25 November for the A12 Parish Forum.

- iii Councillors to discuss any issues to report regarding Transport / Refuse to BDC and/or ECC
The Manned Refuse will not be operating during lockdown but should operate for our next scheduled slot which is 12th December so long as the National Lockdown ends. Cllr Evans raised the fly tipping camera results and whether we would be able to receive these and also the cost of a camera purchased by the Parish Council but monitored by BDC.
- iv Village Speeding Issues and Cycle routes for the village
Cllr Mitchell gave an update on the cycle routes during his earlier report. No update on the speed watch training.

188/2020 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
No items to report, but a reminder that the Feering Community Association AGM will be held on Monday 23 November at 7.00 pm.
- ii Neighbourhood Plan Committee from Cllr L Blackburn
The report was noted. Thanks was noted for Katherine Evans, Christa Dobson and Laura Atkinson for their hard work on the consultee responses.
- iii PRoW & Cycleway Committee
No report received.
- iv Feering Environmental Working Party from Cllr C Dobson
The report was noted. Thanks were noted to Perrywoods for supplying the trees for the playing field, the REco store are supplying the water Irrigation system and protection wire, and also Simon Gibbs for offering his watering services.
- v Employment Committee
Cllr Lees gave an update on the Sub-Committee meeting which was held. It has been agreed that the Clerk is on track to meet her targets and a point increase should be awarded upon successful completion of targets in the budget for the next financial year.

189/2020 Tree Survey Work

- i To discuss the remaining tree work to be carried out following the survey undertaken
After discussion it was proposed to undertake the 6 month works for Taylors Field and Feering Park and Feering Hill (after clarification of the work to be undertaken). Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Dobson, 6 in favour, 1 against.
Cllr Miedziedz left the meeting at 21.54.
- ii To consider and agree the quotation received for pollarding of Willows in Community Centre Car Park
After discussion it was **agreed** that further quotes be obtained if not already included in the tree survey work.

190/2020 Water Refill Point

After discussion it was **agreed** that in principle we would accept the quotation from WaterLogic, subject to it being insurable. A cost of £75 would be payable by the Parish Council.

- 191/2020 Feering Community Centre**
To revisit the approval of the payment of the replacement of the Electric Board, following receipt of the quotations
 After discussion it was proposed that the BKL quote be accepted for renewal of the distribution board. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Reed, 4 in favour, 3 abstentions.
- 192/2020 Website Compliance WCAG 2.1**
 After discussion it was proposed that the quotation from Compudoug Services Limited be accepted and work undertaken as soon as possible. Proposed by Cllr Dobson, seconded by Cllr Reed. All in favour. We would ask that the website is guaranteed to be compliant once this work has been undertaken.
- 193/2020 Christmas Tree and Lighting**
 The licence has been received but given the timing it is now too late to obtain a tree. We are looking to put lights into the trees on the green and are waiting for confirmation that this is acceptable. The Best Feering Street has started to be publicised. We will be deciding a winner before the next meeting.
- 194/2020 Training**
- i *To agree the Clerk and Chairman attending the EALC Health and Wellbeing Conference on 26 November at a cost of £30 each*
 After discussion it was **agreed** that both the Clerk and the Chairman should attend this Conference.
 - ii *To agree any councillor training required*
 After discussion it was **agreed** that new Councillor Training should be undertaken by Cllr Onno and Cllr Miedziedz as soon as possible at a cost of £180 per Councillor for the 2-day course.
It was agreed to suspend the Standing Orders to continue the meeting past the 3 hours limit.
- 195/2020 Councillor Surgeries**
 After discussion it was **agreed** that the Councillor Surgeries should recommence via Zoom with the first surgery to take place on Saturday 5th December at 10.30 am. Cllr Lees and Cllr Carpenter agreed to take the first session. An appointment system would need to be implemented for residents to join a virtual meeting.
- 196/2020 Support for the Plastic Free Community**
 After discussion it was **agreed** that the Parish Council would support the Feering Plastic Free Community Status.
- 197/2020 Funding to make the Public Buildings more energy efficient**
 After discussion it was **agreed** to pursue the application subject to being able to get the information available and bring this to the next meeting.
- 198/2020 Items for Next Agenda**
- i Best Feering Christmas Street results
 - ii Funding to make the Public Buildings More Energy Efficient

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 22.56 pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

8 December 2020

Paul Lees