



MINUTES of the VIRTUAL MEETING of FEERING PARISH COUNCIL  
held virtually on Tuesday 16 February 2021 at 7.30 pm  
via Zoom (Meeting ID 850 8533 7039)

- Present:** Cllr P Lees (Chair) Cllr C Dobson Cllr S Reed  
Cllr L Blackburn Cllr K Evans Cllr R Carpenter  
Cllr R Miedziedz
- Also Present:** Lisa Collins – Clerk Cllr R Mitchell (ECC) Cllr P Thorogood (BDC)  
Members of the Public: 0
- 025/2021 Chairman Welcome**  
The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 026/2021 Apologies for Absence**  
No apologies were received.
- 027/2021 Declaration of Interest**  
To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the Agenda.  
No Declarations of Interest were disclosed.
- 028/2021 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 19 January 2021 be approved at the next meeting due to some issues of fact which were raised. The minutes will be published as draft until approved.
- 029/2021 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 members of the public present.
- 030/2021 Finance**
- i *To approve the bank reconciliation as at 31 January 2021 and 2020/21 budget account (circulated before the meeting)*  
After discussion the bank reconciliation was **approved**. Proposed by Cllr Dobson, seconded by Cllr Carpenter.
- ii *Councillors to agree payments for February 2021 (circulated to Councillors before the meeting)*  
After discussion it was **agreed** that all February payments be made. Proposed by Cllr Dobson, seconded by Cllr Carpenter.
- 031/2021 Report from District / County Councillor**  
Cllr Thorogood gave an update on Braintree District Council issues as follows: Budget/Council Tax – Braintree District Council will be agreeing at the next full Council meeting for a zero rise on Council Tax, however there will be a small raise on Essex County Council adult Social Care which will impact Band D by £19 per year; Resident’s complaints regarding traffic diversion through the village during A12 closures – Cllr

Thorogood contacted Jacobs who stated there was an error that caused the issue as the A12 should not have been closed at the same time as the A120. Highways England have apologised and hope that this will not happen again; Local Plan meeting- garden villages will be dropped and formally adopted at Full Council meeting. Section 2 of the Local Plan will not be examined until July and BDC are looking to get this done earlier. BDC planning officers are hopeful that the Local Plan can be adopted by the end of the year;

Cllr Dobson asked the question of whether 716 dwellings would include the buffer. Cllr Thorogood confirmed that it would be 716 per year plus a 5% buffer plus the 1000 over the period of the plan.

Cllr Lees raised the EALC Climate Crisis Conference he attended and the fact that BDC was absent from any targets which had been set. Cllr Thorogood stated there is a climate change committee which is limited in detail at the moment. Cllr Lees asked that this be raised again at BDC Council meeting.

Cllr Mitchell gave an update on County Council issues as following: Climate Action Commission – speaking to various people about the flood alleviation scheme in Coggeshall to see whether there is anything else which can be considered which would be less evasive for Coggeshall, Kelvedon and Feering. Council tax – there is a rise from Police, Fire and Crime commissioner, there is no rise from the County Council, there is a 1.5% rise for adult social care; Quiet lanes – wanting to bring these forward more including the proposed Earls Colne to the airfield to accommodate walking and cycling and to include the EC2K+; SUDs – discussions with ECC around why better SUDs are not being used as the ones being agreed at the moment are not sustainable. Further information being sought; Bloor Homes – still no response to the email previously sent regarding the sustainable renewable energies on the development; Highways – salting across the county has been heavily undertaken during the recent weather; E-Scooters trial has been postponed in Colchester and on hold in Braintree – this will be back up and running when Lockdown is eased; Waste Management Facility – discussions have been held around how this is going to be taken forward; EV Charging strategy – County are looking to put together a strategy for charging points; Solar Together Essex – this initiative was started this week to help source better deals for residents.

Cllr Evans questioned whether feasibility study for the EC2K+ which is being conducted covers the Earls Colne to Kelvedon and Feering Route which Cllr Mitchell confirmed.

Cllr Mitchell left the meeting at 20.09

032/2021

### **Clerks Report**

The report had been circulated previously and was noted. The Clerk also updated on the replacement bus shelters which are being installed outside Ridgeons which are part of the S278 Agreement with Bloor. The Clerk has contacted Essex County Council to find out the implications on this as to whether the Parish Council will retain ownership.

033/2021

### **Planning Matters**

Cllr Carpenter gave an update on the meeting held on 27 January where 1 application was discussed relating to the Watering Farm development in Kelvedon. A letter of objection was submitted on behalf of the Parish Council.

034/2021

### **Highways & Transport**

i VTAG report

No report given.

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

The clerk has circulated an email regarding the A120-A12 improvements and a meeting to be held on 2 March as an introduction. The clerk also informed the council that the A12 next round of meetings will be held in March.

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

Nothing to update.

- iv Village Speeding Issues and Cycle routes for the village

SID pole at Bloor still needs to be looked into.

035/2021

### **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 circulated before the meeting and noted. A discussion was held around the Management Agreement re-negotiation. It was proposed by Cllr Evans that the Parish Council meet with the FCC to go back to first principles to move this issue forward, seconded by Cllr Dobson, all agreed.

- ii Neighbourhood Plan Committee from Cllr L Blackburn

The report was circulated before the meeting and noted. Discussion was held around the publicity for Regulation 16 to get the information to residents to get the NP through the referendum. Basic condition statement is a further amount to be paid of £1,451 which has previously been budgeted for.

- iii PRoW & Cycleway Committee

Cllr Dobson gave an update on the meeting held on 9 February 2021.

- iv Feering Environmental Working Party from Cllr C Dobson

The report was circulated before the meeting and noted.

- v Employment Committee

No update.

036/2021

### **Braintree Association of Local Councils**

Cllr Lees gave an update on the meeting of chairmen of Braintree Parish and Town Councils and the letter which had been sent out by EALC. After discussion, it was **proposed by Cllr Lees** that the Parish Council should support the reformation of the Association. Seconded by Cllr Evans. Motion approved.

037/2021

### **Kings Dene Pressure Group**

Cllr Thorogood has been thinking about setting up a group to be ready to oppose large applications that come forward within the two villages. After discussion, it was **agreed** that the Parish Council should have an observer in the group to be kept informed of the large applications which come forward.

- 038/2021 PRow Committee Request for Dog Waste Bin**
- After discussion, it was **agreed** that a bin should be purchased around £110 proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Blackburn. All agreed. Clerk agreed to speak to Braintree about collection of waste and installation site.
- 039/2021 Health and Wellbeing Working Group Formation**
- The Clerk informed councillors that she had not received any expression of interest from councillors in joining the working group. Cllr Miedziedz and Cllr Lees agreed to join the working group. It was agreed that a member of the Environmental Working Group should also join the group. A discussion was held around the Active Essex Holiday club expression of interest and whether this would be something that could be run at the Community Centre. It was agreed that the Clerk would forward the email to the FCC to ask them whether they would want to run this scheme during the holidays.
- 040/2021 EALC Climate Crisis Conference**
- Cllr Lees gave an update on the conference attended on 28 January 2021. It was discussed that there were no bike stands at the Community Centre and this should be looked into.
- 041/2021 Meeting with Crown Estates**
- Councillors discussed the outcome of the meeting with Crown Estates. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to Braintree Planning Department to organise a meeting to discuss with them further the LPP22 policy as Crown were under the impression that BDC had been in contact with us to discuss this.
- 042/2021 Christmas Tree for 2021**
- Cllr Lees said that there was a company that rent out trees on a yearly basis. Cllr Dobson gave an update on the agreement to plant a permanent tree on the Village Green.
- 043/2021 Training**
- After discussion, it was **agreed** that the Clerk should attend the Youth Engagement Conference on 28 April and also the Financial Regulations Course on 20 May 2021. Proposed by Cllr Lees, seconded by Cllr Carpenter.
- 044/2021 Emergency Powers Policy**
- After discussion it was **agreed** that this policy should be deferred to the next meeting for further information to be obtained. Proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Dobson.
- 045/2021 Community Centre Energy Efficiency**
- Cllr Evans updated the Council that she is looking into loft and cavity wall insulation grants and also the Solar Together Essex initiative. Cllr Evans asked whether the Council agreed to a borescope being undertaken to find out what the wall cavity insulation currently is. It was **agreed** that the council should undertake this.
- 046/2021 Kelvedon & Feering Rugby Club**
- The clerk informed the Council that the proposal from the Rugby Club had been delayed and should be deferred to the next meeting.
- 047/2021 Tree Works**
- The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the planning application in relation to the work to be carried out at Bridge Meadows has been submitted. Further work has been delayed because of the wet weather and snow.

048/2021

**Items for Next Agenda**

- i Approval of Minutes of extraordinary meeting from 27 January and Full Council meeting of 19 January.
- ii Bus Shelter Licences
- iii Rugby Club
- iv Emergency Powers Policy
- v Bloor Homes – Site Wide Strategy Response
- vi Christmas Tree for 2021
- vii Tree Works
- viii Community Centre Energy Efficiency
- ix BALC update
- x Environment Agency Flood Alleviation Consultation

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 22.05 pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

16 March 2021

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**Paul Lees**