

TERMS OF REFERENCE

FEERING PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Feering Parish Council agrees to appoint the “FPC Planning Committee”.

Members

- Members of the Committee are established at the Annual Parish Meeting (as per Standing Orders).
- Co-opted Councillors may join during the year if authorised by the Parish Council.
- Members from outside bodies may be invited to join the Committee, these persons do not have the right to vote or to move or second a motion.
- Three Members or one-third of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for meetings, whichever is the greater (as per Standing Orders).
- The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee shall be appointed at the first meeting of the Committee during the Municipal Year (as per Standing Orders) or as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter.

How often Meetings Held

Meetings are held monthly subject to planning applications received.

Decision / Delegated Powers

- The Committee will consider and respond to planning applications and applications for work to trees referred to it for consultation by Braintree District Council (“BDC”), Essex County Council (“ECC”) or other bodies.
- In responding to planning applications, the Committee will take into account the developing Feering Neighbourhood Plan, the emerging BDC Local Plan and other relevant statutory provisions or guidelines and will make reference to these in its responses.
- Comments on applications made by residents in writing or at a meeting or on the BDC website will be taken into account when responding to planning applications.

- Where appropriate, eg in relation to large or controversial applications the Committee may recommend that the Parish Council consults with the village by means of a public meeting or any other appropriate method.
- The Committee will monitor Tree Preservation Orders imposed by BDC, ECC and where appropriate will seek approval for new TPOs.
- The Committee will receive and monitor planning decision notices, in particular where decisions conflict with the comments made by the Parish Council.
- Where apparent breaches of planning law are identified the Committee will raise these with Planning Enforcement Officers for investigation and will monitor the outcomes.
- The Committee will endeavour to keep abreast of national and local developments in planning law and members will be encouraged to attend training sessions and forums arranged by BDC and other bodies.
- The Committee will consider consultation on planning matters received from local and national bodies and will respond as appropriate in the best interests of Feering.
- A committee has been set up to proceed with the Neighbourhood Plan. (This is made up of volunteers and four representatives of the Parish Council). The Neighbourhood Plan Committee has terms of reference. The Parish Council as the qualifying body will submit the Neighbourhood Plan for Feering when it is ready.

Reporting

The Committee shall provide an update on planning applications at each Feering Parish Council meeting.