

FELSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Highways and Road Safety Committee Meeting held on 10 July 2019 at 5:00 pm in the URC Committee Room.

- Present:** Councillors Richard Freeman, Alec Fox, Frances Marshall and Peter Rose.
Three members of the public were also present (entered during Item H19/15).
- H19/12 **Election of Chairman**
It was proposed by Cllr Frances Marshall, seconded by Cllr Alec Fox and unanimously agreed to appoint Cllr Richard Freeman as Chairman of the Highways Committee.
- H19/13 **Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**
Apologies had been received from Cllr Andy Bennett. Cllr Frances Marshall declared a prejudicial interest in Item H19/22.1. She provided information on the item to the Committee which was noted.
- H19/14 **Minutes of meeting held on 13 March 2019**
The Minutes were approved and were signed by the Chairman.
- H19/15 **Matters arising from the March meeting**
15.1 New vehicle access created opposite The Bungalow, Causeway End Road (Item H19/10.5) – The Chairman had continued to chase ECC Highways for a response on this matter. [CLERK'S NOTE: Immediately after the meeting ECC Highways responded that they had been in contact with the owner of the site and informed him that an application would need to be submitted for the unauthorised vehicular access].
15.2 Overflowing litter bin beside Telephone Box at Bartholomews Green (Item H19/10.2) – The Clerk had confirmed that it was the responsibility of UDC to empty this litter bin. Members noted that the bin had been emptied shortly after the last meeting and the problem had not recurred. Members queried whether a litter bin was still required at this location.
15.3 Road resurfacing at Bartholomews Green (Item H19/08) - The Clerk confirmed that the ECC Interactive Map did not currently show any scheduled resurfacing works at this location.
- H19/16 **Public Forum**
16.1 Community Speedwatch Group – A member of the Speedwatch Group welcomed the new Speedwatch signs at the entrances to the village and the data on the number of drivers reported to the Police (see Item H19/20 below). The need for a second site in Braintree Road, near the Garnetts Lane junction, was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would repeat her request for this site to be approved by the Police. Early morning Speedwatch sessions were also suggested but this was dependent on the availability of the volunteers.
16.2 Resident's request to improve biodiversity by encouraging wildflowers on selected verges in the Parish – Members noted that ECC Highways cut most of the verges in the Parish and that a national campaign was underway to educate Highway Authorities to agree more flexible verge cutting policies to improve biodiversity. Residents suggested that certain wider verges should have blocks left uncut to encourage wildflowers and biodiversity. These would require strimming annually. It was also suggested that the PC ask residents not to cut the verges or grass areas in front of or adjacent to their property. However, it was felt that it would be inappropriate for the Parish Council to try to impose such a policy. It was pointed out that the PC was currently developing a significant area of land, including seeding with wildflowers, at the Nature Area in Station Road.
Members discussed possible sites for wildflower blocks and the time and cost implications of cutting around and maintaining the suggested blocks which would also need to be signed. It was agreed to consider the provision of 2 such blocks on the southern verge of Braintree Road opposite East Brackendale, at the next full Council meeting.
- H19/17 **Uttlesford Local Highway Panel applications**
Members noted a revised process for making future applications to the ULHP.
The Clerk regularly follows up past ULHP applications with ECC but because of the new arrangements it was agreed that she would confirm that the schemes submitted in recent years would still be 'in the pipeline' for consideration when ULHP finances permitted. These comprised:
17.1 Outstanding application for 2015-16 – Second VAS sign at Main Road, Willows Green – This scheme had not met the speed criteria by a small margin and would be held in reserve by the ULHP in case unused funds were available at the financial year end.
17.2 Applications for 2016-17 - The applications submitted for the 2016-17 financial year (Double yellow lines in Stebbing Road / school zig zags outside Prep School / Stebbing Road-

Braintree Road junction Keep Clear / 20mph zone at Primary School) were still awaiting full assessment by the ULHP.

17.3 Applications for 2017-18 - The applications submitted for the 2017-18 financial year (HGV restriction on Molehill Green Road, reduction of speed limit at Hartford End to 30mph and installation of a second post, at Watch House Green, for the mobile VAS sign) were awaiting full assessment by the ULHP.

17.4 Application for 2018-19 - The application submitted for the 2018-19 financial year (for a third post for the mobile VAS sign to be sited facing west within the 30mph zone outside Felsted Primary School) was awaiting full assessment by the ULHP.

17.5 Application for 2019-20 – The application submitted for the 2019-20 financial year (to install double yellow lines for a distance of 10m around the corners of Watch House Green to prevent parking and ease traffic congestion) was awaiting full assessment by the ULHP.

H19/18

Highway Ranger work

Members noted that the Highway Rangers had been requested to repaint the Village Crest, cut back the grass encroaching on the pavement in Chelmsford Road south of Bakers Lane and cut back the hedges at Peaks Hall Lane at Crix Green. The application for cleaning signage around the village was expected to be submitted shortly. The Clerk would also verify that the past applications were still 'in the pipeline' for consideration.

H19/19

Potholes and Highway maintenance work

19.1 Road re-surfacing - An extensive programme of pothole repairs and resurfacing had been carried out on many roads throughout the Parish. The Clerk would ask ECC Highways to ensure that the yellow lines, bus stop box and school zig-zags were re-instated on the new surface outside Felsted Primary School at WHG before pupils return for the Autumn Term. Lack of road markings was causing chaos as parents parked in dangerous positions outside the school.

19.2 Signage problems - Members noted the following ongoing signage problems:

- a) Opposite Lower Rays Farm, Molehill Green Rd, Willows Green –30mph sign knocked over
- b) Opposite Silverleys, Rayne Road, Gransmore Green – 'Pedestrians on carriageway' sign knocked over and no longer visible because of overgrown hedge
- c) Station Road – Bends sign knocked over
- d) Gransmore Green hamlet sign - Knocked over and now missing
- e) Hartford End (far side of bridge) – 30mph sign knocked over
- f) Near Bridgehouse Farm, Hollow Road - Road name sign bent
- g) Between Swards House and A120 bridge, Stebbing Road – 'Gateway structure' knocked over on left hand side.

19.3 FP's 48 and 110 from Jollyboys Lane to Bannister Green - ECC Highways had suggested to the P3 Group that it was the responsibility of the PC to contact landowners who failed to re-instate the line of footpaths across their land. Members were clear that it was the responsibility of ECC Highways to protect public rights of way and that such matters were outside the remit of the PC. It was agreed to place an item in Interface re-iterating this fact and encouraging residents to report problems direct to ECC. The lack of ECC Highways response to reported problems would be highlighted to County Cllr Simon Walsh.

H19/20

Community Speedwatch

Members noted the installation of bespoke Community Speedwatch signs at the main entrances to the village to encourage drivers to reduce their speed. Over 1000 motorists had been reported to the Police for exceeding the speed limits up to May 2019.

H19/21

Parish Paths Partnership (P3)

Members noted that ECC had approved the initial schedule of works and working group sessions were ongoing to complete the identified works.

H19/22

Other Urgent matters and items for the next Agenda

22.1 Felsted Primary School works – Members noted that residents living adjacent to the Primary School had been informed in writing that a locked gate would be installed across the chase, to the left of the school site, to form a storage compound for builders materials/plant during the planned Primary School works. It was noted that certain residents had a vehicular right of access to their properties via the chase and that their access, through the 'compound', would need to be maintained.

H19/23

Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 5.51 pm.

Next meeting to be held on 13 November 2019 at 5pm

..... Committee Chairman

13 November 2019