

FELSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Highways and Road Safety Committee Meeting held on 11 November 2020 at 5:00 pm using the Zoom online platform

- Present:** Councillors Richard Freeman, Andy Bennett, Alec Fox and Frances Marshall.
In attendance: Diane Smith and Clare Schorah. No members of the public were present.
- H20/12 **Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**
Apologies had been received from Cllr Peter Rose. There were no Declarations of Interest.
- H20/13 **Public Forum**
No members of the public were present.
- H20/14 **Minutes of meeting held on 8 July 2020**
The Minutes were approved and would be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting held in person.
- H20/15 **Matters arising from the July meeting**
15.1 New vehicle access created opposite The Bungalow, Causeway End Road (Item H20/04.1) – The Chairman reminded Members that ECC Highways had given permission for the temporary vehicular access to remain until January 2021. The planning application to build residential dwellings on the site had been refused by UDC and refused on appeal. It was agreed, after the expiry date, to ask UDC to take enforcement action to remove the temporary access.
15.2 Faulty mobile VAS sign in Station Road (Item H20/05) – The ULHP had indicated that they would be willing to replace the faulty sign but because of financial constraints this would not be in the near future. Members noted that the PC could purchase a replacement sign at a cost of £2775.00 plus VAT and the Finance Committee had considered the matter but agreed to defer purchase until the 2021-22 financial year. The matter would be considered again at the next meeting.
15.3 Refurbishment of the Village Crest (Item H20/06) – Members noted that Cllr Roy Ramm had repainted the Crest and a replacement wooden frame had been commissioned. The Crest should be re-erected by the end of the year.
15.4 Cutting hedge alongside footpath to playing field (Item H20/10.1) – This hedge, adjacent to Felsted Memorial Hall, had been cut back by the Village Attendant and would in future be trimmed by him twice a year.
15.5 Grass verge outside The Old Telephone Exchange in Chelmsford Road (Item H20/10.2) – Members noted that, to date, infrequent light use of this verge by construction workers had not created any problems.
- H20/16 **Uttlesford Local Highway Panel applications**
The Clerk provided an update as follows:
16.1 Outstanding application for 2015-16 – Second VAS sign at Main Road, Willows Green – The ULHP had agreed earlier in the year to undertake a new traffic survey but this had been delayed because of budget constrictions resulting from the Coronavirus situation.
16.2 Applications for 2016-17 – Two of the applications originally submitted for the 2016-17 financial year (Double yellow lines in Stebbing Road and school zig zags outside Prep School) had not yet been fully considered by the ULHP.
a) Stebbing Road-Braintree Road junction Keep Clear – This had been assessed by a validating engineer and ECC Highways had concluded that “it would not resolve the issues and not therefore be an effective use of budget”. It was agreed to respond to the ULHP saying that the PC and Felsted School had already worked together over several years to improve the traffic congestion and this project was considered to be the next step. The ULHP would be asked to reconsider their decision.
b) 20mph zone at Primary School) – The ULHP had been asked to replace the existing flashing warning signs with a School 20 mph zone which Members considered would be more effective at slowing traffic.
16.3 Applications for 2017-18 and 2018-19
a) HGV restriction on Molehill Green Road – This was being considered by the ULHP
b) Gated signage at Hartford End (formerly discussed under ‘Reduction of speed limit at Hartford End to 30 mph heading’) - ULHP had requested up to date photos of the approach to Hartford End on the B1417 to enable them to design a ‘gated entrance’. The Clerk hoped to provide these photos within the next 7-10 days.

c) Installation of second and third posts, at Watch House Green, for the mobile VAS sign

– The PC were including funds for a replacement mobile VAS in their 2021-22 budget (see Item H20/15.2 above) so it was important to have these additional posts erected as soon as possible. It was agreed to inform the ULHP accordingly.

16.5 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.

H20/17

Highway Ranger work

Members noted that the Highway Rangers team were now willing to meet on site to discuss projects. The Chairman offered to meet the team to look at the overgrown pavement in Chelmsford Road (see Item H20/21 below) in the hope of expediting the project. The Clerk would make the necessary arrangements.

H20/18

Potholes and Highway maintenance work

The Clerk provided an update on Highway works:

18.1 Leez Priory direction sign in Chelmsford Road – The Village Attendant had turned the sign so it was pointing in the correct direction. The Clerk would report that the base of one of the poles had deteriorated further and was now completely rotten.

18.2 Highway 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) – 40mph sign knocked over
- f) Near Bridgehouse Farm, Hollow Road - Road name sign bent
- g) UDC had been informed that the ‘gateway sign’ in Stebbing Road (near the A120 bridge) had been knocked over.

Members noted that items a) to f) had all been assessed as ‘routine maintenance’ by ECC.

H20/19

Community Speedwatch

All Speedwatch activity had been suspended by Essex Police in March 2020 because of the Coronavirus situation. A few trial sessions, for selected groups, had started in August/September as restrictions were lifted but all activity was currently suspended again during Lockdown 2.

H20/20

Parish Paths Partnership (P3)

Members noted that P3 works had generally been suspended because of the Coronavirus situation.

H20/21

Residents requests for highway safety improvements

21.1 Overgrown and uneven footpath surface in Chelmsford Road – This problem, affecting the pavement south of the Bakers Lane junction, had previously been reported to the ULHP but see Item H20/17 above.

21.2 Watch House Green additional speed control measures - A resident had highlighted the particular problem of traffic speed and parked cars on the B1417 between the Green and Clifford Smith Drive during school peak times. Members were aware of the danger of vehicles overtaking parked cars on this blind bend and were concerned that the building of another 80 new houses in the immediate vicinity would make the problem worse. The area was already within a 30mph limit and a VAS sign or Speedwatch site were unlikely to be effective because of the bend and lack of sight lines. It was agreed to request that ECC Highways undertake an assessment to identify a solution.

21.3 Station Road, Flitch Green – Members noted that Flitch Green Parish Council were considering the suggestion that the 40mph speed limit on Station Road be reduced to 30mph.

H20/22

Other Urgent matters and items for the next Agenda

22.1 Players Court and Stebbing Road - Members noted that some carriageway flooding problems had been experienced in the area. Investigations had indicated that a blocked ditch could be the cause and discussions were underway to resolve the issue.

22.2 Passing place in Jollyboys Lane North – Members noted that a second quote for the work was awaited from a local company. The Clerk would chase the quote and if necessary invite alternative companies to submit quotes for the work.

22.3 Deer crossing the road between Crix Green and Bartholomew Green – A herd of 30 deer frequently crossed this stretch of road which posed a threat to vehicle drivers. It was

agreed to ask the ULHP to erect 2 deer warning signs at Pyes Bridge and Bartholomew Green (near former telephone box).

H20/23

Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 6.00 pm.

Next meeting to be held on 10 March 2021 at 5pm.

..... Committee Chairman

10 March 2021