

FELSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Highways and Road Safety Committee Meeting held on 14 July at 5:00 pm using the Zoom online platform

Present: Councillors Richard Freeman, Andy Bennett, Alec Fox and Frances Marshall.
In attendance: Clare Schorah. There were no members of the public present.

H21 **Public Forum**
There were no members of the public present.

H21/11 **Apologies for absence**
There were no apologies for absence

H21/12 **Declaration of Interest**
There were no declarations of interest

H21/13 **Minutes of meeting held on 10 March 2021**
The Minutes were approved and would be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting held in person.

H21/14 **Matters arising from the March meeting**

14.1 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. It was agreed at a Full Parish Council Meeting (Item 21/98) not to purchase a mobile VAS sign in the 2021-22 financial year but to keep on the agenda.

14.2 Overgrown and uneven footpath surface in Chelmsford Road (Item H20/21.1) – This problem, affecting the pavement south of the Bakers Lane junction, had previously been reported to the ULHP. The Assistant Clerk has contacted Highways Rangers to arrange to get this organised. The Assistant Clerk will find out the status of this work.

14.3 Leez Priory direction sign in Chelmsford Road (Item H20/18.1) – The Village Attendant had turned the sign so it was pointing in the correct direction. The base of one of the poles had deteriorated further and was now completely rotten. AJB Steel quoted £165 +VAT to repair the sign. Leez Priory does not want to contribute to the sign and is pursuing it with Chelmsford City Council. The sign has had a temporary repair made so it is standing upright.

14.4 Highway Maintenance Report - Councillor Freeman reported a broken gate on Stebbing Road (direction towards the A120) and the Assistant Clerk has reported this to Highways

14.5 Speed Surveys (H21/09.02) – Essex Highways undertook speed surveys in Felsted during November in the 4 locations in Felsted. It was found that there was good compliance with the speed limits in these surveys. The Assistant Clerk has contacted Speedwatch to find out whether it is possible to arrange Speedwatch sessions in those areas to assess the issue further.

The Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator communicated that it is unlikely that additional approved sites will be added to the Felsted community, due to current capacity. It was suggested that the Parish Council use the speed device at their disposal to conduct a survey in their local area themselves, and a road safety technician at Essex Highways has advised on the logistics of conducting these speed surveys. The Assistant Clerk will contact the Felsted Speedwatch Co-ordinator about undertaking this activity.

Assistant Clerks Note: The Speedwatch Co-ordinator contacted the Assistant Clerk after this meeting with the information that Community Speedwatch are able to risk assess up to two new locations for the Felsted rota. The Assistant Clerk has asked for the points at Hartford End and Rayne Road to be considered. The points at Main Road, Willows Green and Station Road were with a view to assessing for a possible VAS, as the Parish Council are now considering purchasing a VAS themselves and a UHLP application for VAS posts has been made for these locations, it is sensible to prioritise Hartford End and Rayne Road. The Assistant Clerk will not ask the Speedwatch group to undertake any further speed surveys whilst these locations are being considered.

H21/15

Uttlesford Local Highway Panel applications

The Assistant Clerk provided an update as follows:

15.1 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) This has been forwarded to Parking Partnerships who have responded that it should be dealt with soon.

15.2 2017-18 HGV restriction on Molehill Green Road – This was being considered by the ULHP and still going through the process.

15.3 2017-18 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’, which have been provided’ and the project is awaiting funding to be completed.

15.4 2019-20 –Installation of 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. The committee has been given information about an application in this vicinity, and the Assistant Clerk will clarify the status of this particular work with Parking Partnerships.

15.5 2021 – 2022 Installation of Deer Warning signs crossing the road between Crix Green and Bartholomew Green – This was submitted in May and will be considered in due course

15.6 2021-2022 Installation of mobile VAS posts in Main Road, Willows Green, Station Road, Rayne Road, Watch House Green, Braintree Road, Watch House Green – This was submitted in May and will be considered in due course

15.7 2021 -2022 Implementation of a 20’s Plenty Zone at Watch House Green around the Primary School - This was submitted in May and will be considered in due course

H21/16

Highway Ranger work

Members noted that the Highway Rangers team were now willing to meet on site to discuss projects. Assistant Clerk has contacted the team for the Chairman to meet the team to look at the overgrown pavement in Chelmsford Road (see Item above) in the hope of expediting the project.

H21/17

Highway maintenance work

17.1 Issues that have been reported

- a) **Broken gate and ‘Quiet Lane’ sign** Stebbing Road (Inspected, but won’t take any action at this point)
- b) **Broken Bridge** behind Hole Farm Cottage (Awaiting inspection)
- c) **Fly tipping** on Evelyn Road
- d) **Broken Streetlight** Station Road (Fixed)
- e) **Loose gravel on the road** Hollow Road (Resolved)
- f) **Missing Footpath sign** Mill House (Awaiting inspection)
- g) **Missing street signs** Bannister Green (UDC are arranging to fix this)
- h) **Overgrown footpaths** FP1 Felsted and FP4 Great Waltham (Item 21/07(b)) (Awaiting inspection)
- i) **Broken Footbridge** FP48 (Awaiting inspection)
- j) **Potholes** Watch House Green (Inspected – no further action will be taken at this time)
- k) **Hole left in road after tree removal** Alderton Road (Inspected – no further action will be taken at this time)
- l) **Potholes** on pavement outside Felsted School (Awaiting inspection)
- m) **Overgrown footpath** outside Causeway End (Awaiting inspection)

H21/18

a) Community Speedwatch

The Community Speedwatch group resumed their activities in April and are managing between 5 and 8 sessions a month. They are seeing a high number of vehicles exceeding the speed

limit – in April the highest speed recorded was 49mph, in May 48mph and in June 53mph.

b) Parish Paths Partnership (P3)

The Committee received a report on works undertaken by the Parish Paths Partnership, This included information about the project clearing the footpath on the far side of Felsted Mill. The group leader is thankful to all the volunteers who worked on this particularly difficult project.

The report noted that at this time of year side growth continues to be a problem, so the group try to trim back as much as possible on a regular basis. It was noted that Jollyboys Lane needs attention in particular in this area.

The report noted that several cross field paths have been beautifully cut this year and the group are very grateful to the farmers responsible for those fields.

The group always walk Felsted paths on Monday mornings, meeting at 10am in the Car Park, which enables them to identify where work needs to be done. They are always careful to check for nesting birds before undertaking remedial work.

- i. The Assistant Clerk will contact the landowner of the path behind the Memorial Hall to ask them to ensure that the path is walkable.
- ii. The Assistant Clerk will contact Essex Highways to obtain a status on the work on FP59 along the bank of the River Chelmer.

H21/19

Time limited parking in Station Road

The Parish Council has had a request from the owner of the village shop to consider time limited parking for the 4 or 5 parking spaces on Station Road outside the shop and Post Office.

The Assistant Clerk has been advised by Parking Partnerships about implementing time limited parking. It would need a local consultation to be completed that depicts that at least 75-80% of residential properties in the direct vicinity, support change, as well as the support of the Parish Council and District Councillors.

The Assistant Clerk will contact the owner of the village shop to ascertain whether time limited parking bays could be established using the parking attached to the shop or in the village car park in the first instance. If this is not a practical solution the Assistant Clerk will arrange for it to be added to the Full Parish Council meeting agenda.

H21/20

30mph signage

- a) The resident of 23 Station Road has contacted the Clerk to request a 30mph sign outside their house. The house is situated on a bend and the resident has experienced a car accident at this location in the past. The Assistant Clerk will contact the resident to inform them that the committee acknowledge the seriousness of this issue but they believe that approved developments due to take place in this area will result in significant changes to the road layout and signage.
- b) A governor at the primary school has asked whether the committee could make an application to lower the speed limit between Garnetts Lane and Alderton Close. It has been suggested by the School that if the 40mph section was changed to 30mph it might help slow the traffic near the school. The Assistant Clerk will review the Speedwatch data in this area to support an application.

H21/21

Other urgent matters and items for the next Agenda

- a) The Chairman has received an email from a resident about the safety of footpath 80 requesting a barrier between the footpath and the road. He responded to say that the Parish Council were happy to remove the bank of earth which was felt to be a hazard, but that the Parish Council do not have the authority to install a barrier because the land is the responsibility of Essex Highways.
- b) The Assistant Clerk will report the issue of water across the road at a point on Station Road to Essex Highways
- c) The Assistant Clerk will report the issue of water across the road near the brewery site at Hertford End to Essex Highways.

Assistant Clerks Note: Photographic evidence of the problems outlined in points b & c has been sent to ECC Highways.

H21/22

Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 6pm and the next meeting is to be held on 10 November at 5pm.

..... Committee Chairman

10 November 2021