

FELSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Highways and Road Safety Committee Meeting held on 13 March 2024 at 5:00 pm using the Zoom online platform

Present: Councillors Frances Marshall (Chairman), Richard Freeman, Alec Fox and Penny Learmonth.
In attendance: Clare Schorah.

H24/01 **ITEM 1. Public Forum**

There were no members of the public present.

H24/02 **ITEM 2. Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

H24/03 **ITEM 3. Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

H24/04 **ITEM 4. Minutes of meeting held on 8 November 2023**

The Minutes were approved and would be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting held in person.

H24/05 **ITEM 5. Matters arising from the November meeting**

1 Mobile VAS sign (H23/30.1) The PC considered the recommendation of the Highways Committee to purchase a VAS and noted that it may be possible to apply for funding to help to purchase a VAS sign later in the year (23/89). The Clerk and Assistant Clerk will continue to investigate funding for this.

2 Overgrown and uneven footpath surface in Chelmsford Road (H23/30.2) The Assistant Clerk reported this through the Essex Highways 'report a Problem' webpage. After investigation Essex Highways will not take any further action on it. The Assistant Clerk has reported to the County Councillor and the Highways Liaison Officer who has re-reported it. The footpath looks like it requires siding which will be costly and difficult to carry out safely. The Assistant Clerk contacted the Highways Liaison Officer about this problem to find out whether making an application under the ULHP to make the pavement accessible would be feasible, but it would not qualify for this due to the fact that it would be a repair to an existing footpath and not a new initiative. The problem has been reported again and the issue is on the repair programme.

3 JollyBoys Lane North Potholes (H23/39) – The Assistant Clerk has investigated responsibility for this and it has been discussed at a Full Parish Council Meeting (24/36) The Assistant Clerk will ask for an update from Uttlesford District Council.

4 Cross Field Footpaths in Bannister Green (H23/39) – A resident was concerned about the cross field footpaths in Bannister Green. The Assistant Clerk contacted the resident and the Highways Liaison Officer who gave advice on how to report any issues and background information about the condition of the footpaths.

5 Speed Surveys (H23/35) – The Assistant Clerk has contacted the Highways Liaison Officer about how speed surveys are interpreted and how good compliance with speed limits is decided with them.

The response from the Highways Liaison Officer indicated that speeding is considered to be a problem if the average speed (7-day average) is 10% + 2mph over the posted limit, so in a 30mph limit this would be 35mph or above. Geographical and environmental factors are also taken into consideration when vehicles are travelling slightly over posted limits, things like approaching faster limit proximity and even things like hills or a road widening can make a difference to the traffic speeds.

The Highways Liaison Officer sent a link to the [Essex Speed Management Strategy](#) for background information.

H24/06 **ITEM 6. Uttlesford Local Highway Panel applications**

[This report was circulated](#) and the Assistant Clerk will chase up any outstanding issues.

H24/07 **ITEM 7. Highway maintenance work**

[This report was circulated.](#)

H24/08 **ITEM 8 a) Parish Paths Partnership Update**

A new member of staff has been appointed to oversee matters at Essex Highways with regard to the local path network. This has meant that the P3 Group have a point of communication which is proving to be very positive for the group.

The group will be installing three new waymarks (the request for these was submitted back in October) on 14th March. There are six volunteers scheduled to do this work. A fallen fingerpost at North End was reported, and has been replaced by a new wooden one within a couple of weeks.

Many of the cross field paths which have been reported as not having been marked out by the farmers, have now been done, which makes it so much easier to walk. This includes several which have not been marked out before, which is a positive development and welcomed by the group.

They continue to cut back around fingerposts and replace the discs as necessary where they have faded on waymark posts. The group's regular Monday walks in the Parish enable them to keep a close eye on any defects and are now regularly attracting 10 walkers.

ITEM 8 b) Community SpeedWatch

The Number of sessions has been lower in the last three months, a lot due to the cold and wet weather and just after Christmas, new rules came out that there needs to be a minimum of three volunteers each session which means that they are managing one session a week.

They have managed a couple of Saturday sessions and PCSO Natalie and a PC are planning to join the group on a future session with a Trucam which means that speeding motorists can be fined.

Since the last Highways Committee Meeting they have undertaken sessions on Chelmsford Road, Braintree Road/Garnetts Road, Willows Green, Watch House Green and Station Road. The group is still noticing high speeds in Chelmsford Road – in December the highest was 52mph and in February it was as high as 53 mph.

After the last Highways Committee Meeting the Assistant Clerk requested a speed survey at the Chelmsford Road location due to high speeds being observed during SpeedWatch sessions. There is a delay on undertaking speed surveys at the moment but it will be added to the list and the Parish Council will be informed when it has taken place.

The Assistant Clerk will contact Essex Highways to request a Speed Order at the Chelmsford Road location.

H24/09 **ITEM 9. 20's Plenty Update**

December's Essex County Council's full meeting voted against a motion to reduce speeds to 20mph in residential areas. The Assistant Clerk will monitor developments in this area.

H24/10 **ITEM 10. Road condition on Braintree Road in Watch House Green**

The Assistant Clerk was contacted by a resident about the poor condition of the road in Watch House Green. She will report this issue to Essex Highways.

H24/11 **ITEM 11. Other urgent matters and items for the next Agenda**

A resident is concerned about the closure of Mill Road after recent flooding. The Assistant Clerk will report these concerns to Essex Highways and find out about the reopening of the road.

A resident is concerned about a pothole on Chelmsford Road which is damaging the outside of their house. The Assistant Clerk will report this to the Highways Liaison Officer.

The Assistant Clerk will report some flooding near to the URC Burial Ground on Chelmsford Road and will monitor the flooding which has been recently reported at Stevens Lane.

H24/12

ITEM 12. Next Meeting

Meeting closed at 5.41 Next meeting to be held on 10th July 2024

..... Committee Chairman 10th July 2024