

FELSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Highways and Road Safety Committee Meeting held on 9 September 2015 at 5:00 pm in the URC Committee Room.

- Present:** Councillors Nicholas Hinde (Chairman), Andy Bennett (entered during Item H15/20), Frances Marshall and Peter Rose.
- H15/17 **Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**
Apologies had been received from Councillor Richard Freeman and from Bill Miller from the Felsted NP Group. There were no Declarations of Interest.
- H15/18 **Minutes of meeting held on 27 May 2015**
The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- H15/19 **Matters Arising from the May meeting**
19.1 Parking on the pavement (Item H15/15.2) – Members noted that the problem of vehicles parking on the pavement at Rayne Road, Watch House Green had improved but it was still occurring on the stretch of pavement from Felmoor Farm to the Primary School.
- H15/20 **Village Centre Traffic/Parking Problems (formerly known as the ‘Cones Trial’)**
Applications had been submitted to NEPP for
a) Double yellow lines in Stebbing Road – On both sides of the road from its junction with Braintree Road to the URC car park entrance and the splay to Chantry Court respectively.
b) Zig Zag lines outside the Prep school and
c) “Keep Clear” markings over the junction of Braintree Road and Stebbing Road.
No response had yet been received.
- H15/21 **Primary School Traffic/Parking problems**
An application had been submitted to NEPP to mark the bus stop outside the Primary School to prevent cars parking there. No response had yet been received.
- H15/22 **Community Speed Watch**
Members noted that the Clerk had now received the speed device from Essex Police but was still awaiting the mobile Speedwatch signs. She hoped to arrange a meeting for all the volunteers shortly to make the practical arrangements for the commencement of the Speedwatch. Clerk
- H15/23 **Potholes and Highways maintenance work**
Members noted that the VAS sign in Chelmsford Road had been repaired. The Clerk had obtained updates on other long outstanding repair work as follows:
- Broken signpost at Leighs Lodge – “Does not meet ECC criteria for immediate repair so the situation will be monitored/reviewed for inclusion in future repair schedule”
- Missing fingerpost at Molehill Green Road, Willows Green – “Scheduled for replacement”. [CLERK’S NOTE: This work was completed on 10 September 2015]
- Chelmsford Road flooding (near Bakers Lane junction) – The pothole had been repaired and the drainage problem investigated but it “did not meet ECC criteria” for further work to be undertaken. ECC will accordingly “monitor” the problem “and assess any deterioration”.
- Crix Green/Main Road corner flooding – “Defect raised – standing water”
- 3 broken/faulty street lights at Priory Bridge – 2 have been repaired and the third is awaiting a replacement part.
- Damaged triangular ‘pedestrians on carriageway’ sign opposite Silverleys, Gransmore Green – “Inspected. Repair scheduled”
- Footpath 8 blocked by nettles/undergrowth – “Inspected. Repair scheduled”
Members noted that the Clerk had also recently re-reported the flood outside the

	<p>URC Hall, Stebbing Road and this had since been inspected. The Clerk agreed to check the position regarding the damaged '40 mph' signs at the Crix Green/ Main Road corner.</p>	Clerk
	<p>It was agreed that the Clerk would ask the Village Attendant to cut a groove across the verge outside Thorpes at Frenches Green to allow any standing water to drain away. She would also report the damaged road surface in Station Road (at the 30mph limit markings) to ECC Highways.</p>	Clerk
H15/24	<p>Uttlesford Local Highway Panel (ULHP) projects County Cllr Simon Walsh, a member of the ULHP, had reported that the application to place a barrier along the top of the embankment above Bannister Green Halt is being validated and that speed surveys have been authorised regarding the second VAS sign at Main Road, Willows Green. Neither project appeared to have funding allocated from this year's budget at this stage. The ULHP had taken no action to date on the application to extend the 40mph speed limit from Crix Green westwards towards Frenches Green.</p>	
	<p>It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain an update from Rissa Long regarding the 3 applications.</p>	Clerk
H15/25	<p>Highway Ranger work It was not clear whether the Highway Rangers had cleaned certain fingerpost signs in the village but it was noted that no repainting had been undertaken. The Clerk would chase this work and also ask them to clear undergrowth and cut back hedges along the line of the footpath in Station Road (from Flitch Green to the sharp bends). If the Highway Rangers were unable to complete this work in the near future the Clerk would ask the Village Attendant to undertake it instead.</p>	Clerk
	<p>The Clerk would ask the Village Attendant to clear undergrowth from around the bases of village name signs and road signs as required.</p>	Clerk
H15/26	<p>Mobile VAS Sign The Clerk would ask UDC to locate the mobile VAS sign on the existing post in Station Road without further delay. The second location between Watch House Green and Bannister Green would be developed in due course.</p>	Clerk
H15/27	<p>New Street Light opposite the Water Tower Having agreed to the installation of the new street light at the September Council meeting, the Clerk had spoken to the Planning Help Desk and to Barbara Bosworth to establish if any planning permission was required for the light. Neither had been able to provide an answer and her enquiries were continuing. It was agreed to go ahead with the project if no answer was forthcoming in the next few weeks as members felt that it was important to install the light before the dark winter nights.</p>	Clerk
H15/28	<p>New ECC Quiet Lanes Scheme There had been no further developments so it was agreed to consider the matter again at the next meeting.</p>	
H15/29	<p>Closure of FKS Schools Members discussed the impact of the closure of FKS Schools and it was agreed to ask NEPP to remove the zig zag lines in front of both Andrews House and Edwards House and investigate the possibility of moving the bus stop in front of the church archway further along Braintree Road. Members noted that since the schools returned for the Autumn Term a couple of days ago initial impressions were that the volume of cars entering the village had reduced and traffic flow improved but this would need to be properly monitored before any long term conclusions could be drawn.</p>	Clerk
H15/30	<p>Felsted Neighbourhood Plan Members noted that the NP Group would be undertaking a new traffic survey in the village. The last survey had been completed about 6 years ago and it was agreed that the Clerk would endeavour to supply a copy to Bill Miller. Further well attended Workshops had been held and the Group had also met Catesby Property Group who were in the process of submitting an application for 70+ houses to the south of Braintree Road.</p>	

H15/31

Review of Parish Plan Actions (Roads Section)

Members studied Page 16 of the Felsted Parish Plan and discussed progress since the last meeting as follows:

“Aim to Reduce Speeding”

- Community Speed Watch: Speed device had been received and meeting of volunteers being arranged (see Item H15/22).

- VAS Signs: The Clerk to chase UDC to erect the mobile VAS sign in Station Road (see Item H15/26)

“Aim to Reduce Congestion and improve parking”

- More no parking signs: Application submitted to NEPP for double yellow lines in Stebbing Road, zig zag lines in front of the Prep School and ‘Keep Clear’ markings on the Braintree/Stebbing Road junction (see Item H15/20). Also applied to NEPP to mark out bus stop outside Primary School to improve traffic flow (see Item H15/21)

“Aim to Promote safe and courteous behaviour by all road users”

- Quiet Lanes: New scheme being set up by ECC (see Item H15/28).

H15/32

Other Urgent matters and items for the next Agenda

32.1 Parking Enforcement visits update – Members noted that 17 notices had been issued since May compared to NIL during the same period of 2014.

32.2 Extension of 30mph limit at Watch House Green – It was agreed to consider the suggestion to extend the current 30mph limit past the entrance to the Taylor Wimpey site, at the next meeting.

32.3 Installation of a kerb in Garnetts Lane – It was agreed to consider the installation of a kerb along the Felsted School side of Garnetts Lane at the next meeting.

32.4 Calibration of Willows Green VAS sign – The sign currently flashed on if cars were exceeding about 35 mph. The Clerk would investigate if this could be re-set to around 32 mph.

Clerk

H15/33

Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 6.10 pm

Next meeting to be held on 9 December.

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Committee Chairman 9 December 2015