#### **FELSTED PARISH COUNCIL**

# Minutes of the 1074th meeting held on 8 January 2020 at 7:00 pm in the URC Hall.

Present: Councillors Graham Harvey (Chairman), Andy Bennett, Alec Fox (entered during Item 20/02), Richard Freeman, Penny Learmonth, Frances Marshall, John Moore, Roy Ramm and Peter Rose. District Councillors John Evans and Sandi Merifield were also present along with 12 members of the public.

## 20/01 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies had been received from Councillors Alan Mackrill and Joyce Stoddart, County Councillor Simon Walsh and Youth Representative Elliott Smith. Cllr Roy Ramm declared a prejudicial interest in planning application UTT/19/3148/AG (Land west of Mill Road, Felsted) and took no part in the discussion of Item 20/18.4. Members noted the resignation letter from Cllr Alan Mackrill which had been received vesterday (see Item 20/20.1 below).

## 20/02 **Public Forum**

02.1 County Broadband works in Felsted - Many residents had complained about the erection of a network of new poles by County Broadband in Bannister Green and the other Greens in the west of the Parish. The poles had been erected with no prior notice or consultation and whilst most were on highway verges a significant number were on privately owned land. Residents questioned the need for the new network as, in Bannister Green, BT Fibre to Cabinet broadband already provided an acceptable fast broadband service, and there seemed to be little or no interest in transferring to County Broadband which was more expensive. The District Councillors had already taken the matter up direct with County Broadband and with UDC and as a result one pole in Rayne Road, Bannister Green (which had been erected on private garden land, through the branches of a TPO protected tree) had been removed. It was noted that the County Broadband installation was a commercial undertaking, and they were not receiving any Government funding towards the project, so they were looking to complete the infrastructure as cheaply as possible. Any broadband provider could erect infrastructure on private land but must negotiate a wayleave agreement with the landowner. If it was felt that County Broadband were not adhering to the industry Code of Conduct a complaint could be made to Ofcom.

- **02.2 Pothole in the Road with No Name, Bannister Green –** The Clerk confirmed that this had been reported to ECC Highways (Ref: 2646251)
- **02.3 Tidying up Bannister Green outside the Mission Hall** The Clerk had contacted the owners of the Mission Hall to confirm that they would be tidying up the area used for storage during the building works, as agreed by them when works commenced in November 2017. A skip was currently on site and some clearing up had already taken place.
- **02.4 Replacing damaged litter bin under church archway –** Whilst the insurance claim was progressing (see Item 20/05.5 below) it was suggested and agreed that a new larger litter bin should be purchased immediately for this prominent location in the centre of the village.
- 20/03 Minutes of Meeting 1073 held on 4 December 2019

The Minutes were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

# 20/04 Minutes of the Highways Committee meeting on 13 November and the Planning Committee meeting on 17 December 2019

These Minutes were noted and would be formally approved at the next meeting of the respective Committees.

## 20/05 Matters arising from the December Council meeting

**05.1 Review of UDC Members Grant for 2018-19 (Item 19/224.5)** – Members noted that the printer and printer inks for the Asst Clerk had been purchased and the remaining items would be purchased shortly.

**05.2** Donation to Joint Council's campaign against West of Braintree (WoB) Garden Community (Item 19/224.7) – Members noted that a cheque to Shalford Parish Council for £750 would be signed later in the meeting as part payment of an invoice from Understanding Data Ltd who had provided data to the Joint Council's to support their objections to WoB at the

January Inspector's Hearings.

**05.3 EALC Planning course on 1 February (Item 19/224.8)** – Cllr Penny Learmonth would attend this course.

**05.4 Metro Bank signatories (Item 19/227.6)** – The Clerk had resent a signed copy of the October PC Minutes to Metro Bank by e-mail as requested but it was apparent that this had not been received either. She had, after discussion with the Chairman, recently sent the information to Metro Bank again by post as e-mails were clearly not getting through.

**05.5 Car crash under church archway (Item 19/239.3)** – Members noted that the Clerk had now obtained the police Incident Number for this crash and would be reporting the matter to the Council's insurers. (See Item 20/02.4 above regarding purchasing a replacement litter bin).

**05.6 New BT Contract for telephone and broadband** – The Council's current BT Agreement was about to expire. The Clerk had contacted BT and negotiated a new agreement which would produce significant savings for the Council.

### 20/06 Parish magazine

Following a request, the Chairman agreed to consider this Agenda item earlier in the meeting. Janice Ratcliffe reported that she had met with many of the volunteers who had produced Interface and had agreed to become Editor of the new magazine which would be a Parish magazine rather than a church based one. Many of the previous volunteers had offered to continue to assist with the production of the magazine. She outlined likely income from the Trade Directory and advertising and possible printing costs which showed that the magazine should be self-supporting in the longer term. However, funds were needed to meet the initial costs until the magazine became established. It was proposed by Cllr Roy Ramm, seconded by Cllr Richard Freeman and unanimously agreed to make a grant of £1000 towards the initial set-up costs including the cost of printing the first issue.

It was also agreed to form a Magazine Working Group whose members would include Cllrs Roy Ramm and Richard Freeman, Janice Ratcliffe and, subject to their agreement, David Learmonth and Margaret Howett. The WG would meet on Monday 13 January in the URC Hall at 5pm to discuss how the magazine project should proceed.

## 20/07 County and District Councillor Reports

**07.1 County Councillor's Report** – Members noted the January Report from County Cllr Simon Walsh which included items on the recent exceptional rainfall and flooding problems, the ECC Livewell campaign and the opportunity to volunteer via the Volunteer Essex website. **07.2 District Councillor's Report** – The District Councillor's written report included items on the continuing delay in receiving the Inspectors Report on the LP, dates for the further consideration by UDC of the Stansted Airport planning application to increase passenger numbers, an update on the NEGC Inspector's hearings re West of Braintree, details of the Essex Coast RAMS consultation and an expected second survey of PC's regarding Open Spaces and developers contributions.

Members noted that Cllr Andy Bennett was not available to attend the UDC Planning meetings discussing the Stansted Airport expansion application, however he was willing to draft a submission which could be read out by another Councillor. Any Councillor available to attend the meeting should contact the Clerk.

Cllr Andy Bennett asked the District Councillors why the application to construct a very large agricultural storage building west of Mill Road, Felsted was on the UDC website inviting public comments but it had not been sent to the PC for them to submit comments as a consultee. In this case, the building was huge and the site visually very important so the PC would be submitting an objection but the system appeared inconsistent. The District Councillors agreed to look into the procedure followed in applications for agricultural buildings.

## 20/08 Correspondence

Members noted the Correspondence received (see page 7) including the following: **08.1 Temporary road closures** – Members noted a resident's exasperation with the plethora of local road closures and expressed their own frustration with the apparent inconsistency of operation.

**08.2** Government consultation on strengthening powers to tackle unauthorised encampments - Members agreed that powers should be significantly strengthened.

## 20/09 Approval of Financial Regulations and Standing Orders

**09.1 Standing Orders –** The revised Standing Orders had been circulated to Councillors. It was proposed by Cllr John Moore, seconded by Cllr Frances Marshall and unanimously agreed to approve the Standing Orders. Following on from the review of the Standing Orders it was agreed that policies would be drafted on Retention of documents, Data Management, Equal Opportunities and Press and Media. Cllr Andy Bennett offered to draft a Press and Media Policy and the Clerk/Asst Clerk would draft and circulate the remaining policies.

**09.2 Financial Regulations** – The revised Financial Regulations had been circulated to Councillors. It was proposed by Cllr John Moore, seconded by Cllr Frances Marshall and unanimously agreed to approve the Financial Regulations.

Final copies of both documents would be sent to all Councillors for their retention.

#### 20/10 Finance

- **10.1 Payments –** The list of payments on page 8 were approved.
- **10.2 Receipts** Members noted the following receipt Allotment rent £27.00
- **10.3 Setting up Felsted Community Trust** The Clerk had received an e-mail from Holmes and Hills earlier today suggesting that the FCT would need to open a bank account before it could apply for registration with the Charity Commission. The Clerk would look into this further.
- **10.4 Funding request for Crix Green Mission Hall extension works -** Cllr Graham Harvey confirmed that this would be considered further at the next Finance Committee meeting.
- **10.5 Approval of Precept for 2020-21** Having formally agreed a Precept of £77,000 for 2020-21 at the last meeting (Item 19/227.5) the necessary paperwork was completed and signed. Members noted that the increase of 10.48% would result in the owner of a Band D property paying an additional £5.46 in Council Tax per year.
- **10.6 Review of Council Bank Accounts** Cllr John Moore agreed to look into the level of interest that could be achievable on PC account balances and report back to the Council in due course. Interest rates were currently very low and Members were aware that the additional interest received may not justify the extra time involved in transferring funds between accounts and increased internal audit time to check them.

#### 20/11 Highway matters

- **11.1 Clifford Smith Drive verge on Braintree Road** The Clerk had studied maps submitted as part of the planning application for this site which appeared to show the highway verge extending to the top of the western bank of the ditch. The original hedge behind the ditch had been removed during the building works. The contractors cutting the grassed open spaces within the site did not cut up to the line of the ditch which had resulted in the overgrown area. It was agreed to approach the contractor's and establish if they would be willing to extend their cutting area to keep the site tidy.
- **11.2 Road with no name** The Clerk reported that she had submitted an application to UDC to name the road but was awaiting confirmation of the fee involved. Once the fee was paid the application would be progressed.
- 11.3 Causeway End flooding Members noted that the flooding problems this year had been much worse than in previous years. Although local residents believed that the construction of the unauthorised access had made the flooding situation worse, ECC did not share this opinion. District Cllr John Evans had already sent details of the problem to County Cllr Simon Walsh. It was agreed that the Clerk should request that County Cllr Walsh attend the next PC meeting so that the flooding, which was causing a serious safety hazard at Causeway End, could be discussed face to face. Updates on the previously reported flooding problems at Milch Hill corner and Hollow Road would also be requested as it was the responsibility of ECC and the landowner to resolve such flooding issues, but no action had yet been taken.
- **11.4 Repainting yellow lines in village centre** Members were pleased to note that the request to remark the faded yellow lines in the centre of the village had been passed to the Technical Team to be included in their work schedule.

### 20/12 Playing Fields

**12.1 Playbark edging** – Members considered 2 quotations to replace the wooden edging around the playbark section of the children's play area. It was proposed by Cllr Richard

Freeman, seconded by Cllr Roy Ramm and unanimously agreed to accept the quotation from a local builder, Glen Mixture, to replace the rotten wooden edging with a more durable rubber equivalent at a cost of £4050.

- **12.2** Installation of integral goals and basketball hoops within the MUGA Members were pleased to note that the Community Project Grant from UDC had been approved. The Asst Clerk had accordingly instructed Creative Play to undertake the works and they were scheduled to commence on 24 February.
- **12.3 Willows Green playing field boundary line** No response had yet been received from the developers but because of the Christmas and New Year holiday period it was agreed to consider this further at the next meeting.

#### 20/13 Felsted Nature Area

JCM Services had been unable to flail the 'paddock area' before Christmas because of the very wet weather but they hoped for drier weather soon to complete the task. Members wished to record their thanks to JCM Services for providing 2 rustic seats at the Nature Area free of charge. J S Wright would be visiting the site shortly to replace any dead saplings planted last Spring but the work was weather dependent and required drier conditions. Motorbikes had been seen driving round the Nature Area and this activity would be monitored.

## 20/14 Felsted Neighbourhood Plan

UDC had recently sent out Polling Cards to all voters notifying them of the NP Referendum on 30 January. The NPSG had sent out a leaflet to every house in the Parish earlier today explaining the advantages of having a NP and encouraging everyone to vote at the Referendum. The Referendum had also been advertised on both the NP and PC websites and notice boards. Posters and banners would soon be placed at prominent locations around the village.

## 20/15 Chairman's Matters

**15.01 Meeting with Felsted School Bursar -** It was suggested that the meeting take place at the start of the Summer Term. The Clerk would make the necessary arrangements.

#### 20/16 Youth Representative Matters - None

#### 20/17 Clerk's Matters

- **17.1 Emergency Planning** A list of venues and keyholders had been prepared but there was still a shortage of recorded volunteers. A number of Councillors volunteered to be included in the emergency list and it was suggested that an article be placed in the new Parish magazine for further volunteers. Members noted that all volunteers would be covered by the PC insurance whilst undertaking voluntary activities.
- **17.2 RFO Vacancy** The vacancy had been advertised by EALC and would appear in the Dunmow Broadcast and Braintree and Witham Times newspapers at the end of the week. The deadline for the receipt of applications was 31 January.
- **17.3 HR Working Group** It was agreed that Cllr John Moore would join Cllrs Frances Marshall and Richard Freeman on the HR Working Group. The HRWG would consider the applications for the RFO position and carry out the interviews. The Chairman would also attend the interviews if available.
- **17.4 Churchyard works** The Clerk had met one local builder on site and would be meeting a second local builder next week. Both builders had the necessary Street Works license. She had also confirmed with UDC Planning Department that permission would need to be obtained for the works as they were within the curtilage of a Listed Building (Holy Cross Church). Members therefore agreed that detailed plans would need to be commissioned to accompany the application and simplify the tendering process.

Members noted that the 2 large bags of rubbish from the grass heap had now been removed and the Village Attendant would be tidying up the remainder of the grass heap.

**17.5 75**<sup>th</sup> **Anniversary of VE Day -** Cllr Frances Marshall had approached a number of local people to organise a Tea Party as part of these celebrations. Unfortunately this had not proved viable because of commitments to other events that weekend combined with bank holidays and exams for the youngsters who it had been hoped would take part.

### 20/18 Planning Applications and Decisions

## 18.1 DECISIONS SINCE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

UTT/19/2489/HHF Holly House, Causeway End Road, Felsted

Demolition of garage, utility, wc, front porch & rear room. Erection of two storey rear extension and two storey front extension.

#### Permission Granted 10 December 2019

UTT/18/3238/FUL / UTT/18/3239/LB Graunt Courts, Felsted

Reinstatement of historic and original driveway to Graunt Courts. Erection of detached garaging. Conversion of barns one and two into a single dwelling, including the partial removal of later addition to barn two and erection of single storey extensions. Conversion of barns three and four into a separate dwelling, including small link extension uniting buildings. Associated landscaping works and alterations.

Permission Granted 13 December 2019

#### 18.2 APPEAL DECISIONS SINCE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

UTT/19/0827/FUL South Of Oaklea House, School Road, Rayne

Erection of 2 no. Semi Detached Dwellings.

**Appeal Dismissed 16 December 2019** "Excursion into open countryside.....adverse effect on lane's green and semi-rural character"

UTT/19/1038/FUL Moorlea, Bartholomew Green

Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a pair of semi detached dwellings with new vehicular access.

**Appeal Dismissed 16 December 2019** "Excursion into open countryside....would cause harm to the character and appearance of the rural area"

UTT/18/3408/FUL Brook Cottage, Gransmore Green

Construction of 4 new dwellings and associated works including access

**Appeal Allowed 20 December 2019** 

#### 18.3 APPLICATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED AT 14 JANUARY PLANNING MEETING

UTT/19/3148/AG Land West of Mill Road, Felsted

Proposed agricultural storage building.

<u>UTT/19/3101/HHF</u> Richmond Lodge, Chelmsford Road, Felsted

Proposed boundary fencing/hedging with installation of electric five barred field gate and manual pedestrian field gate.

UTT/19/3089/LB Garnetts Cottage, Braintree Road, Felsted

Replacement of front door

<u>UTT/19/2965/LB</u> **The Taverners, Crix Green** 

Demolition of existing cartlodge, proposed Garage Conversion, erection of new car port and link extension between garage and cartlodge

UTT/19/3120/OP Cobblington and Concord Farm, School Road, Rayne

Outline application with all matters reserved, except for access, for demolition of existing dwelling and out buildings and for the erection of one replacement dwelling and erection of two detached and two semi-detached dwellings.

**18.4 PC response to UTT/19/3148/AG – Land west of Mill Road, Felsted –** Cllr Roy Ramm declared a prejudicial interest in this application and took no part in the discussion. Cllrs Andy Bennett and Richard Freeman agreed to draft comments on the application and circulate them to members of the Planning Committee for their urgent consideration and approval. The response to UDC needed to be sent off within the next 2 days.

## 20/19 Local Plan updates

**19.1 Uttlesford** – The Examiner's response was still awaited.

**19.2 Braintree** – The Inspector's Hearings would recommence on 16 January 2020. Cllr Penny Learmonth would be attending the Hearing on 23 January on behalf of the PC.

**19.3 Chelmsford** – No further updates had been received.

## 20/20 Urgent Matters and items for the next Agenda

- **20.1 Resignation of Clir Alan Mackrill –** Clir Alan Mackrill had submitted a letter of resignation on 6 January. The Clerk would inform UDC and notices would be produced advertising the vacancy and giving residents the opportunity to request an election to fill the vacant seat. If no election is requested UDC will give the PC permission to fill the vacancy by co-option. Members agreed to thank Clir Mackrill for his significant contribution to Council matters during his term of office and wish him well for the future.
- **20.2 Slamseys Farm new access –** The Clerk agreed to check with BDC if permission had been sought for a new access to Slamsey's Farm from the minor road which runs under the A131 dual carriageway.
- **20.3 Repairs to pavilion/public toilet –** Members noted that a new water heater was required in the public toilets and the door to the pavilion storage area required replacement as it had delaminated and swelled beyond repair during the very wet weather. The emergency exit door at the pavilion had also swelled but to a lesser extent and repairs should be possible.
- **20.4 Chelmsford City Racecourse** The Clerk would make contact with the racecourse manager and chase a response to the Council's queries and concerns.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm

<b>Next Planning Committee meet</b>	ing: Tuesday	14 January in the URC Hall at 7.30 pm			
Next Council meeting:	Wednesday	5 February in the URC Hall at 7.00 pm			
	(Chairman)	5 February 2020			

## Correspondence List – January 2020

- UDC Planning Committee meeting on 24 January to consider outstanding matters on Stansted Airport application to increase flight numbers
- ECC Transport meeting on 19 March at Saffron Walden (Transport Representative Bryan Grimshaw attending)
  - Temporary road closure of Chelmsford Road on 5 January for 1 day (plus Resident's letter expressing their exasperation with continual road closures)
  - Completion of Thistley Bridge strengthening works on 16 December
  - Highways Highlights December 2019
- EALC Legal Update December 2019 (including Government consultation on strengthening powers to tackle unauthorised encampments) Deadline 5 March
  - County Update November 2019
- 4. Stopping up application by Felsted School for small section of verge in Stebbing Road Permission granted by the Secretary of State for Transport
- Essex Police Fire and Crime Commissioner Survey re police funding for 2020-21
   Deadline 12 January
- 6. Google contract renewal due on 11 January Price change notified to £4.14 (2 x e-mail)
- 7. Essex Playing Fields Association 0 The Playing Field magazine Winter 2019-20
- 8. SSE Parish Liaison meeting on 8 January at 8pm at Little Easton (apologies submitted)
- 9. Superfast Essex December update
- 10 Stansted Airport scoops top environmental award (Green Apple Awards)
- 11 SLCC The Clerk magazine January 2020
- 12 NHS 'Your Voice' Dementia Services event at Epping on 20 January at 10.30am

Unpaid List – January 2020

Archant Herts and Cambs	Date	Num	Memo	Open Balance	Cheque number	
Archant Herts and Cambs	02/01/2020		Recruitment advert for RFO (Dunmow Broadcas	402.00		
Total Archant Herts and Cambs	02/01/2020		(Q payable to DMB Smith)	402.00	Part 102866	*
Total / II Shahi   Total and Gange			(a payable to BND small)	102.00	1 411 102000	
вт						
	16/12/2019	Q052P&	Telephone and Broadband	276.40		
Total BT				276.40	DD	
Currye ple						
Currys plc	02/01/2020		Printer and inks for Asst Clerk	309.98		
Total Currys plc	02/01/2020		(Q payable to H Read)	309.98	Part 102867	**
D M B Smith						
	02/01/2020		Clerk's salary - December 2019	1,164.07		
	02/01/2020		Clerk's mileage (£9.00) & expenses (£56.99) - [	65.99		
Total D M B Smith				1,230.06	Part 102866	*
EON	04/40/2040	11475250004	Charach limbiling a plantainin.	270.04		
	01/12/2019 16/12/2019	H17E35082A H105F0DF39	Street lighting electricity	270.94 19.03		
	16/12/2019	H17F159C4F	Pavilion electricity  MUGA electricity	31.66		
	01/01/2020	H17FDF940C	Street light electricity	279.97		
Total E.ON		1	,	601.60	DD	
Heather Read						
	02/01/2020		Asst Clerk's salary - December 2019	366.43		
	02/01/2020		Asst Clerk mileage (£4.50) and expenses (£0.5	5.01		
Total Heather Read				371.44	Part 102867	**
HM Revenue & Customs	00/04/0000		D11/5 11/1 0 1 1 D 1 20/0	0.40.00		
T-1-1184D	02/01/2020		PAYE and NI - October - December 2019	849.26	102050	
Total HM Revenue & Customs				849.26	102868	
JCM Services						
USIN COLVICOS	17/12/2019	INV-0213	Remove waste from churchyard	360.00		
Total JCM Services				360.00	102869	
Newsquest Media Group						
	02/01/2020		Recruitment advert for RFO (B&W Times)	540.00		
Total New squest Media Group			(Q payable to DMB Smith)	540.00	Part 102866	*
North End Nurseries						
	03/12/2019	AC084.00005	Replacement tree (Prunus Padus) for playing fie			
Total North End Nurseries				106.68	102870	
R Chapman						
Konapinan	02/01/2020		Unlocking toilets etc 2 - 29 December 2019 (4 w	100.00		
Total R Chapman			5 2 2550.185. 25.10 (4 1)	100.00	102871	
					,	
S P Barnard						
	02/01/2020		Village attendant - December 2019	500.00		
Total S P Barnard				500.00	102872	
Shalford Parish Council (WoB)	16/40/0040	0242/000NELES	Contribution to I be described in a Data 144 in a	750.00		
Total Shalford Parish Council (Map)	16/12/2019	0212/SPCNELP19	Contribution to Understanding Data Ltd invoice (	750.00 750.00	102873	
Total Shalford Parish Council (WoB)				150.00	1028/3	
Felsted Friendship Club	06/01/2020		Donation for 2019-20	300.00	102874	
			25	200.00	102074	
Herts and Essex Air Ambulance	06/01/2020		Donation for 2019-20	225.00	102875	
Uttlesford Citizens Advice Bureau	06/01/2020		Donation for 2019-20	200.00	102876	
East Anglian Childrens Hospices	06/01/2020		Donation for 2019-20	200.00	102877	
a and this between Calcutions	08/01/2020	1	Repair street light at 28 Evelyn Road	162.42	102878	
A and J Lighting Solutions	00/01/2020					