

FELSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Highways and Road Safety Committee Meeting held on 10 December 2014 at 5:00 pm in the URC Committee Room.

- Present:** Councillors Nicholas Hinde (Chairman), Andy Bennett, Richard Freeman and Peter Rose.
- H14/29 **Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**
Apologies had been received from Councillor Caroline Scott-Bowden. There were no declarations of interest.
- H14/30 **Minutes of meeting held on 10 September 2014**
The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- H14/31 **Matters Arising from the September meeting**
31.1 Signage for Playing Field Car Park (Item H14/27.1) – The Clerk confirmed that she had ordered the 3 directional signs for the car park.
31.2 Flooding on Willows Green bends and at Chelmsford road/Bakers Lane junction (Item H14/27.2) – The Clerk confirmed that she had re-reported these problems but that to date no further action was apparent.
- H14/32 **School Traffic Report (formerly known as the ‘Cones Trial’)**
Because of problems with the e-mail address for Rissa Long (ECC Highways - Uttlesford Local Highways Panel) the Clerk had not yet been able to arrange the proposed meeting. However it was hoped that this would take place early in the New Year. Clerk
- H14/33 **Traffic and Parking problems at the Primary School**
Members had carried out a survey of the traffic situation outside the Primary School during the week commencing 29 September. The survey had highlighted the following issues:
- The congestion peaks for a period of approximately 15-20 minutes morning and afternoon
- The school coach parks on the zig-zag lines in Braintree Road to drop off/pick up pupils adding to the congestion problems
- The main bus stop at Watch House Green requires yellow lines to stop parents parking on it at peak times and forcing service buses to stop in the centre of the roadway causing temporary gridlock
- A second ‘refuge bay’ (yellow lines) is required in Braintree Road to help traffic pass the long line of parked vehicles
- School deliveries should be scheduled to avoid peak times
It was agreed that the Clerk and the Chairman would discuss these problems with the Headmaster and prioritise the above suggestions. Cllr Hinde / Clerk
- H14/34 **Chelmsford Road – ‘Residents Only’ parking scheme**
Members discussed this idea at length and concluded that any action would need to be taken as part of a larger scale project because of the knock-on effects of such a scheme. It was suggested that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group should be made aware of the problem. Clerk
- H14/35 **Disabled Parking Bay outside Doctor’s Surgery**
Members noted that the Chairman and Clerk had identified a location for the Disabled Parking space (at the far end of the slip road beyond the staff parking). It was agreed to obtain the surgery’s agreement to this location and then mark out the space (no wheelchair logo) with an accompanying sign stating “Please leave this space for disabled and less mobile visitors to the surgery”. Clerk
- H14/36 **Parking outside The Swan**
Members discussed this problem but concluded that unless official parking restrictions were put in place covering these parking spaces there were no powers to control the length of time that vehicles parked in them. It was agreed to raise this problem at the ‘School Traffic Report’ meeting with NEPP/ULHP.

- H14/37 **Community Speed Watch**
Members noted that following the departure of PCSO Rose Williams the promised training sessions had been delayed. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask the newly appointed replacement PCSO, Kirsty Smith, if she would make the necessary arrangements. Clerk
- H14/38 **Potholes and Highways maintenance work**
The Clerk confirmed that she had reported the potholes near the entrance to Pond Park and at Pyes Green to ECC Highways (reported at the last meeting) and chased the other outstanding repairs namely Leighs Lodge junction signpost demolished / 'Molehill Green' fingerpost at Willows Green missing and the missing 'Felsted' signpost on the B1256/B1417 junction. Members noted that it appeared that Causeway End Road was due to be resurfaced shortly and it was hoped that the pothole at Cobblers Green would be repaired at the same time.
It was agreed that the Village Attendant would be asked to trim back the hedge at the junction of Molehill Green Road and Main Road, Willows Green which was obstructing site lines. Clerk
- H14/39 **Uttlesford Local Highway Panel (ULHP) projects**
39.1 Projects approved in 2014 - Members noted that work had not yet commenced on installing the agreed VAS signs in Chelmsford Road and Main Road, Willows Green although they were on the 'works list'.
39.2 New projects for 2015-16 - ULHP had requested that any schemes for the 2015-16 financial year be submitted to them by the end of February 2015 so that they could allocate their budget accordingly. It was agreed that the Clerk should formally apply to ULHP for 3 projects:
- The installation of a barrier along the top of the embankment above Bannister Green Halt (B1417)
- A second VAS sign at Main Road, Willows Green covering traffic from the Rayne direction and
- The extension of the 40mph speed limit from Crix Green westwards towards Frenches Green. Clerk
- H14/40 **New Street Light opposite the Water Tower**
There had been no further developments and it was agreed that the Clerk should pursue this matter and that it should be considered again at the next meeting. Clerk
- H14/41 **Raised Bus Stop in Gransmore Green**
Members were delighted to note that this work had been completed on 3 December and that compliments had been received on the quality of the work. It was agreed that the Village Attendant would keep the hedge behind the raised area trimmed on a regular basis.
- H14/42 **Review of Parish Plan Actions (Roads Section)**
Members studied Page 16 of the Felsted Parish Plan and discussed progress as follows:
"Aim to Reduce Speeding"
- Community Speed Watch: Volunteers recruited and training likely to take place shortly (see Item H14/37 above)
- VAS Signs: 2 new VAS signs have been approved by ULHP (see Item H14/39.1 above) and these should be installed shortly. A third sign was being applied for (see Item H14/39.2). The mobile VAS sign had 'gone missing' and the Clerk was liaising with Little Dunmow PC to try and establish its whereabouts.
"Aim to Reduce Congestion and improve parking"
- More no parking signs: Cones trial undertaken and also traffic survey outside Primary School. Results currently being investigated as part of the ongoing School Traffic Report (see Item H14/32 above)
- Meet with schools to promote walking buses/cycling: Not yet actioned
- More parking on school premises: Felsted School has undertaken School Traffic Report (see Item H14/32 above)
"Aim to Promote safe and courteous behaviour by all road users"
- Warn frequent offenders: FPC is paying for additional parking enforcement visits to deter parking in inappropriate locations and so improve traffic flow at

peak times. Community Speed Watch scheme also addresses this concern.
- Promote safe cycling: Not yet actioned. Bear in mind with future developments.
- Quiet Lanes: Not yet actioned.

It was agreed to have this matter on the Agenda at all future meetings.

H14/43

Other Urgent matters and items for the next Agenda

43.1 Builders parking in Chelmsford Road (new houses) – It was agreed that the parking of vans on the roadside verges adjacent to this development should be monitored and that the builders should be approached if the verges become excessively muddy/damaged.

H14/44

Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 6.15 pm

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 25 February 2015 but it was agreed that, because 2 Councillors were unable to attend on this date, the meeting would be moved into March (CLERKS NOTE: Date agreed after the meeting as 25 March at 5pm).

..... Committee Chairman 25 March 2015