

FELSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Highways and Road Safety Committee Meeting held on 25 March 2015 at 5:00 pm in the URC Committee Room.

- Present:** Councillors Nicholas Hinde (Chairman), Andy Bennett, Richard Freeman and Peter Rose.
- H14/45 **Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**
Apologies had been received from Councillor Caroline Scott-Bowden. There were no declarations of interest.
- H14/46 **Minutes of meeting held on 10 December 2014**
The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- H14/47 **Matters Arising from the September meeting**
47.1 Signage for Playing Field Car Park (Item H14/31.1) – Members noted that the three signs were now in place (2 in Jollyboys Lane North and 1 in front of Memorial Hall).
47.2 Flooding on Willows Green bends (Item H14/31.2) – The Clerk confirmed that she had re-reported this problem and that ECC highways had subsequently positioned signs warning drivers of the danger. A preliminary assessment by ECC Highways had taken place but further investigations were necessary.
- H14/48 **School Traffic Report (formerly known as the ‘Cones Trial’)**
It was agreed that the Clerk would try and set up this meeting for the last 2 weeks in April or early May. The Clerk would also ascertain if the Felsted School document detailing ‘Future Plans’, which was recently shown to the NP Steering Group, was the same document that the Committee had received entitled Traffic Report. Clerk
- H14/49 **Traffic and Parking problems at the Primary School**
The Clerk had spoken to the Primary School Bursar, Michele Layzell to ascertain her availability. It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk would meet Ms Layzell on Wednesday 22 April at 11am to discuss the traffic problems and possible solutions. Cllr Hinde / Clerk
- H14/50 **Disabled Parking Bay outside Doctor’s Surgery**
The Clerk had met Kate Williams, the surgery Practise Manager, and agreed the location and details of the disabled parking space with her. Members agreed that the necessary signage should be ordered (expected cost in the region of £30) and the Village Attendant would then mark out the space. Clerk
- H14/51 **Community Speed Watch**
Members noted that the new PCSO, Kirsty Smith, had made arrangements for training of the volunteers at Braintree Police Station on Sunday 29 March. Three volunteers were attending but unfortunately the date was not convenient for the other 2 volunteers. Only trained individuals could take part in Community Speed Watch. The Clerk would then purchase any necessary equipment (triangular signs/ high visibility vests) and make the arrangement to borrow Flich Green’s speed device. The Clerk would also investigate the cost of purchasing a speed device and would place an item in Felsted News asking for more volunteers. Clerk
[CLERK’S NOTE: Costings obtained after the meeting - an accredited speed device would cost £6-800. A laser speed device, which would enable vehicles to be targeted more accurately, would cost between £1,600- £2,500]
- H14/52 **Potholes and Highways maintenance work**
Members noted that the uneven gully outside Woodleys, Station Road had been repaired, as had the pothole on the edge of the road at Cobblers Green (roadway resurfaced) and also the hole in the pavement opposite the Memorial Hall. The Highway Rangers had cleared out the drains/culverts in Mill Road. However a number of other repairs remained outstanding including the missing signposts at Leighs Lodge and Molehill Green Road, Willows Green and potholes near the entrance to Pond Park and at Pyes Green. It was agreed that the Clerk should continue to chase these with ECC Highways.

	<p>The Clerk would also report the following new problems: Pothole in Braintree Road outside Weavers Farm, damaged/missing '40 mph' signs on the bends between Willows Green and Bartholomew Green, damaged 'pedestrians on carriageway' sign opposite Silverleys at Gransmore Green and '40 mph' sign in Mill Lane. She would also ask the owner of Weavers Farm to trim the hedge alongside Braintree Road to the south of the Bannister Green Halt bridge.</p>	Clerk
	<p>Members noted that the VAS sign near the Old Telephone Exchange in Chelmsford Road had stopped working but that repair work would not be undertaken until the new financial year because the 2014-5 'street lighting repair' budget had already been spent.</p>	Clerk
	<p>It was also agreed that the Clerk would contact ECC Highways to establish the true ownership of the tarmacked area in front of The Chequers and the 2 service roads either side of it (contact details supplied by Cllr Freeman).</p>	Clerk
	<p>It was agreed to include an item on Uttlesford Highway Rangers on all future Highway Committee Agenda's.</p>	Clerk
H14/53	<p>Uttlesford Local Highway Panel (ULHP) projects</p> <p>53.1 Projects approved in 2014 - Members were pleased to note that the two new VAS signs in Chelmsford Road and Main Road, Willows Green had been installed and were fully operational.</p>	
	<p>53.2 New projects for 2015-16 – The Clerk had applied to the ULHP for the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 Great Leighs direction and - The extension of the 40mph speed limit from Crix Green westwards towards Frenches Green. <p>Her applications had been acknowledged and would be put before the ULHP at their first meeting in the new financial year.</p>	Clerk
H14/54	<p>New Street Light opposite the Water Tower</p> <p>The Clerk had spoken to UK Power Networks and established that it would not be possible to fix the new light to an existing pole, as had happened in the past. Instead a 5m galvanised tubular steel lighting column would be required. She had subsequently received quotations from A & J Lighting Solutions (£1190 / £1250 or £1950 depending on options) and Cartledge (£540.27) to supply and fit a column and lantern. All figures plus VAT.</p> <p>The contractors had both suggested siting the new light around 1m from the existing footpath fingerpost to minimise the distance from the available power supply, avoid underground services and the branches of the many mature trees in the area. It was agreed that the Clerk should now obtain a quotation for the power connection. The Chairman would then contact nearby residents to ensure that they were agreeable to the installation.</p>	Clerk
H14/55	<p>Felsted Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Members noted that the NP Steering Group had already consulted with representatives from the schools, doctor's surgery, church and Green Leaders. On 27 April they would meet with businesses and local organisations and then on 9 May would be the first Public Consultation (URC Hall 10-3pm). The Chairman agreed to speak to Bill Miller (NP Steering Group member covering traffic matters) and invite him to attend future meetings/offer to send him Highways Committee Agenda's/Minutes.</p>	Cllr Hinde
H14/56	<p>Review of Parish Plan Actions (Roads Section)</p> <p>Members studied Page 16 of the Felsted Parish Plan and discussed progress as follows:</p> <p>"Aim to Reduce Speeding"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Speed Watch: Training taking place later this week (see Item H14/51 above) and equipment being purchased. - VAS Signs: 2 new VAS signs have been installed and are operational (see Item H14/53.1). A third sign has been applied for (see Item H14/53.2). <p>"Aim to Reduce Congestion and improve parking"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More no parking signs: Cones trial undertaken and also traffic survey outside Primary School. Meeting Primary School on 22 April (see Item H14/49) 	

- 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 H14/48) and meeting sought with NEPP/ULHP.
 - “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: New scheme being set up by ECC (see Item H14/57 below)
- It was agreed to have this matter on the Agenda at all future meetings.

H14/57

Other Urgent matters and items for the next Agenda

New Quiet Lanes project from ECC – Several years ago Felsted was one of the trial areas for this scheme. Signage was provided for many roads within the village but funding cuts stopped the scheme progressing further. Under the new scheme parishes are each being asked to put forward one or possibly two roads to be designated as ‘Quiet Lanes’. As Felsted already has many more Quiet Lanes designated it was agreed that the Clerk should contact ECC and clarify the situation with regard to the parish of Felsted.

Clerk

H14/58

Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 6.15 pm

Next meeting to be held on 27 May.

..... Committee Chairman 27 May 2015